



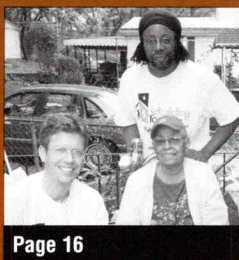
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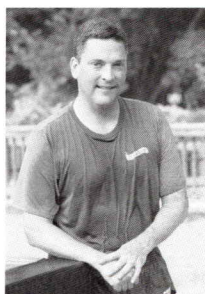
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Pushing the limits

Profile of an ultramarathoner



How does someone develop and sustain a passion for an extreme sport that involves running distances some people even balk at driving? Brian McNeill, Computer Systems Officer, TGS, talks with Staff News about his ultramarathoning hobby.

What is an ultramarathon?

An ultramarathon is any race longer than the traditional Olympic marathon distance of 26.2 miles.

Common ultramarathon distances are 50 kilometers, 100 kilometers, 50 miles, 100 miles, and also by measure of time—there are 24- and 48-hour races typically done on a track. There's also a six-day race, which grew out of the London to Brighton races in the Victorian era. They were called pedestrian races, and athletes would run from city to city for prize money. That was the birth of the modern ultra.

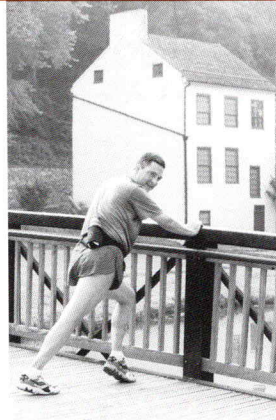
When did you start running?

I started running in 1993. I needed to get my blood pressure and my cholesterol down. I was beginning to feel slovenly and my clothes didn't fit well anymore, and I decided I needed to lose some weight. So I started running as part of an overall lifestyle change. I hated it at first, and the hardest thing I've ever done in running is getting through that first 6 months without quitting. I wanted to quit regularly, but I saw so many people doing it and liking it that I thought I should stick with it.

How did you evolve from a casual runner into an ultramarathoner?

It was gradual. Shortly after I started running, I injured my knee badly enough that I needed surgery. (My surgeon said my injury could have happened while getting up from the chair after watching television, so I could at least feel virtuous that it happened while running.) After the post-surgery rehabilitation, I came back, and the following year, I ran the Marine Corps Marathon. I continued to run road races for the next 5 years.

But age crept up on me (I'm 44 now), and in the battle between cartilage and concrete, the concrete was beginning to win. So I decided that I needed to get off it. I had a friend who ran on trails, and he suggested I try it. It was easier on my body and I really liked it. It's also cooler training in the mountains—it's an altogether more salutary place to run.



It's determined by weather conditions and the terrain. For example, this spring I ran a 50-kilometer race in beautiful rolling farmland in Harford County on the Susquehanna River in 5 hours and 38 minutes. In April, I did the Promised Land, another 50-kilometer race near Roanoke, Virginia. It had over 6,000 feet of vertical climb on the course, so that same distance took me 7 hours and 35 minutes to finish.

When did you run your first ultramarathon?

About a year after switching to trails, I decided to run the JFK 50-miler near my home in Frederick, MD. The JFK goes from Boonsboro to Williamsport, in Washington County, MD, and it's mostly trail. It starts in the hills, west of South Mountain, then goes up South Mountain, then down the Appalachian trail to Harper's Ferry. Then you run 26 miles on the C&O Canal north and west, then 8 miles to the finish at Williamsport, MD, near Hagerstown.

What's the longest ultramarathon you've ever done?

I just completed the Laurel Highland Trail 70-Miler in the mountains of western Pennsylvania. In an average year, I do seven or eight ultramarathons and one or two road marathons. I hope to run my first 100-miler in September, in Ontario, Canada.

How long does it take you to run these long distances?

It's said that there's a 20-mile threshold beyond which most people have difficulty running, regardless of how hard they train.

Your body stores energy in the form of glycogen in the muscles and in the liver. When people eat lots of pasta the night before a race, they're trying to top off their glycogen stores. It's possible to deplete those stores in two to three hours, depending on how you've trained and your body's metabolism. That's about how long it takes people to get to the 20-mile mark in a marathon. They just don't have any glycogen stores left in their muscles, and they're going too fast for their liver to adequately break down the glycogen stores and fat to release the enzymes into the blood and begin using fat as an energy source. Their bodies start running out of energy, they get really slow, and it hurts.

What's the secret to completing an ultramarathon?

Eating and drinking. In a conventional marathon, the only external energy source people take in is maybe some Gatorade, half a banana, or an orange wedge. That's just not enough energy. In a 50-mile ultra, I burn between 10,000 and 12,000 calories. If I didn't eat, I'd start going into ketosis and burning muscle, causing some serious physical problems. So in an ultra, they have all kinds of food—real food, not just banana and orange wedges but also turkey and cheese sandwiches, M&Ms, pretzels, and even chili. Things normally considered junk food—with high salt and fat content—are very important. If the runners didn't eat, they wouldn't be able to finish the race.

And this is during the race?

Yes. Because except for the elite runners, nobody runs the entire race. Even the elite runners in a 100-miler don't run the whole race. Our motto is, "Run when you can, walk when you have to." So if you hit a really steep hill, either up or down, you just walk it.

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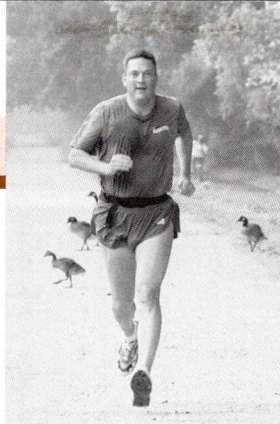
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Describe the personality of the typical ultramarathoner. Is there any character trait you all have in common?

Most ultra runners have a great sense of collegiality—they're not competitive, except for the elite runners. The rewards of winning an ultra race are nil compared to winning a marathon or a road race. The winner of the New York Marathon gets, I think, \$100,000 and a new Mercedes Benz. The winner of the Western States Ultramarathon, a prestigious ultra, gets something like a new pair of shoes and the next year's entry free of charge.

So nobody does this for monetary gain.

No, it's more for the joy of shared eccentricity. A large number of ultra runners are introverted, because if you spend that many hours out there in nature on a trail by yourself, you're not likely to be a party animal extrovert. I consider the peak ultra moment to be running on the Appalachian Trail in late autumn or early winter, with all the trees bare, the leaves kind of skittering down the trail, and the wind blowing them along. You can see the first two or three snowflakes of a storm and the big gray snow-laden clouds coming in from the west. You look down on Harper's Ferry and you're out there all by yourself, five miles from the nearest human being, just savoring that moment. That's an introvert's kind of event.

Do you think ultramarathoning gave you discipline, or did an innate sense of discipline lead you to want to do ultras?

I don't necessarily think of it as all that disciplined. I belong to the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club, one of the most active ultra clubs in the country. We go out and have a good time. Many in our group are fine runners, but we're not obsessive-compulsive about it. We don't get on a track and run ten laps, each one two seconds faster than the preceding one, nor do we calculate our pulse rates or split times with engineering-like precision. Road racers often do those things. We just put in the miles.

Despite what you say, I think most people would consider you a very disciplined person.

I guess I have to be disciplined because there are only so many hours in a day. I have a roughly four-hour round-trip commute from Frederick, Maryland. I get up at 4:00 a.m., take care of our pets, then catch the first train from Point of

Rocks and get here about 6:30 a.m. I check my e-mail, my voice mail, and confer with a colleague in TGS who also gets in early. Then I head down for a run and return to my office between 8:30–8:45, just as the rest of the Fund is arriving. I'm fortunate to have a boss who allows me the flexibility of running during the day.

What's your running schedule?

I run 7–8 miles three days during the work week. On Sunday, I run anywhere from 12–40 miles, depending on where I am in my training cycle. I take Saturday off.

If you're running up to 40 miles each weekend, does your wife support, tolerate, or oppose it?

My wife, Kathy McKenzie, tolerates it. She's glad it gives me pleasure and keeps me sane, but it doesn't take much time away from us because she works weekends. My long commute was all part of a conscious lifestyle decision we made when we purchased a home in Frederick. Kathy works two blocks from home, but I just accept the fact that I'll be coming into D.C. for the rest of my career. I accept, too, that during the work week it normally means work, home, dinner, and then bed. But we live in a historic home—a beautiful Victorian house that we couldn't have afforded in, or close to, D.C.

Were you active in sports in your youth?

No, I was more of an "intellectualoid." But I don't really think of this as a sport per se. Running is something I took up for health reasons. The only other sport I play is golf.

When you started running in 1993, did you ever imagine you'd one day be this hardcore?

No. I worked for the federal courts on Capitol Hill, and I just wanted to be able to run at lunchtime with friends to the Lincoln Memorial and back—about 5½ miles. I felt like a million bucks when I first was able to do that. That was my only expectation—I had no inkling.

What advice can you give to other staff on running?

Ultras are much easier than you'd think. The hardest thing is to get started. Any runner who can stick with 6 months of running can be a marathoner or an ultra runner. But it's those first 6 months—most people quit. I'm glad I didn't. ♦



Rescuing sun bears: all in a day's work

“This particular incident came at the end of my stay and was completely coincidental,” muses Mario de Zamaróczy, former Resident Representative in Cambodia, of his unlikely encounter with a couple of sun bears. The drama began in late 2001 during a routine visit with the Cambodian customs officials to the Cambodian/Thai border in the Cardamom Mountain region, one of the last rain forests in Southeast Asia and home to a variety of rare plant and animal species. Mario and the customs officials visited a number of border operations to see how antismuggling measures could be tightened, including in Koh Kong City, a small town just off the Cambodian coast and best reached by boat.

A Cambodian wildlife ranger holds a sun bear confiscated from an animal trafficker outside Phnom Penh. The sun bear (*Ursus malayanus*) is an endangered species.

A bear's tale

Here's the story of the capture from the bear's perspective, as told to Nicolas de Zamaróczy, Mario's son.

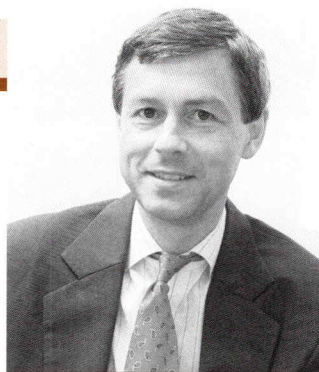
Looking back on it, I realize now that my carefree days in the jungle were the best in my life and that I probably shouldn't have taken my blithe happiness for granted. Not that I didn't have any worries, mind you. I had to keep my belly full, avoid the few predators willing to tackle my 200-pound bulk, and protect my mate and offspring. But all of these tasks were easily fulfilled and the rest of my time was spent in languorous living. I would snooze in the treetops and bathe in quiet ponds to cool off during the afternoon heat. I would feast on the multitude of insects that proliferate in tropical rain forests. My favorites were those long, plump worms found in abundance in rotting bee tree logs.

My mate was nice. Despite being half my size, she tyrannized me mercilessly (as all females do, irrespective of size, age, or species). But she was fun and loving, and curling up next to her at nights was bliss. Our cubs were OK as cubs go, small, blind, hairless, tiny blobs at first that quickly developed into little baby sun bears. My mate would mother them endlessly, and I still retain my (wisely unvoiced) opin-

ion that it was her overprotectiveness as much as any “natural instinct” that made them leave us. Every now and then, I used to run across one of them in another part of the forest, and they'd tell me how they were doing, what their mates were like, and where some good feeding spots were. All in all, life back then was as good as it gets, and I would give my paws to have it all back again.

The day when paradise ended remains engraved in my mind, each detail carved into my memory. I had just spotted a rotting limb lying temptingly on the forest floor when my nose betrayed me. Would that I had severed that fiendish traitor right then! But I didn't, I didn't, and instead, lured by the sweet, pungent smell of honey, I walked right into their devilish trap. I never saw the net they had covered with decomposing leaves until I was already ensnared in it, dangling from the tree overhead. I roared and raged, all in vain. The net was too strong, the trap too clever. After several hours of hanging in that pitiful state, listening to two monkeys mockingly discussing my state on a nearby bough, the men came. Seeing them, I renewed my efforts, but they lowered me down. As I was dragged along, I remember realizing that I hadn't even gotten any honey for all my pains. Truly the world is unjust.

The drizzle seemed to last forever. In the forest, I had been able to avoid the worst of the rainy season by weather-



Mario de Zamaróczy

As he disembarked in Koh Kong City with his travel companions, Mario caught a glimpse of a cage in the market stalls that lined the shore. Taking a closer look, he confirmed his initial suspicion that the small cage held two sun bears, an endangered species found in the Cardamom Mountains. "Wait a minute," said Mario to his hosts. "Aren't those sun bears on the protected species list, and, if so, what are they doing in a cage in the middle of this town?" It was indeed unlawful, the officials acknowledged. They had seen the bears there for three or four months, but their authority as customs officials did not extend beyond cross-border issues and, as Koh Kong City fell squarely within Cambodia, they were powerless to act.

On the same visit, while touring the Cardamom Mountain preservation project with members of Conservation International, an environmental NGO, Mario mentioned the sun bears again. The NGO representative said that they, too, knew about the captive

sun bears but that, like the customs officials, they were unable to do anything. It seemed that the trafficking of the bears—which are used for a wide range of purposes, including making traditional medicines and soup—was controlled by some important local officials.

Troubled by the whole issue, Mario contemplated possible solutions. Over the past few years, the Fund's Res. Rep. office in Phnom Penh had developed excellent relations with the NGOs and the donor community there. The Fund had first opened its Phnom Penh office in 1994 and embarked on its first ESAF program in 1995. But in 1997, the Fund closed its Res. Rep. office, among other reasons, in protest to the Cambodian government's failure to crack down on illegal logging. While for the Fund, it was mainly a governance issue—illegal logging meant the government was not collecting tax revenue from the timber, a public good—the rampant and unregulated logging was also disastrous to the environment.

ing it out in my den, but here, in the infernal cage, the pounding sheets of downpour had free rein over my helpless body. I lay there, whimpering and prostrate in a corner, my fur matted and streaked with mud. The hateful cage was made out of rusty metal and could barely accommodate the two of us. I had a partner in misery, another sun bear from a neighboring range whom I had known vaguely. He'd been there already for two moons when I arrived. We were now going into our third month together.

Three months! Can you imagine? The alternation of hammering heat and driving drizzle, the days and nights unprotected from the elements, the confined environment, the lousy and insufficient food. These combined in a nightmare of torment and anguish that is beyond my ability to convey in mere words.

On top of all that, I was expected to perform. My captors had set my cage up on the roadside and curious passersby frequently came over to inspect the wares. When my owners judged the spectator of sufficient wealth, they would haul me and my companion out and kick and prod us into moving around, pathetic parodies of our natural state. I had tried to escape on several occasions, to no avail, and now was resigned to my fate, as only two paths led out of the cage: being sold to a connoisseur of exquisite foods (bear paws are an integral part of certain soups in Southeast Asia) or being

vended to a fancier of traditional herbal therapy (bear gall bladders are used in the making of certain medicines).

Salvation often assumes unusual shapes. For me, it arrived in the form of a group of men who inspected my companion and me. But I sensed that these men were different from the other prospective buyers, that they disapproved of the sad state we were being reduced to. I was coming down with a cold, and every time I coughed the men winced. Eventually they turned their backs and left. My companion gave up on them then, but I knew that he was wrong. Those men would save us, I knew it down to the tip of my muzzle. Hope is always rewarded, faith even more so. A week later, I spotted a fellow surreptitiously snapping pictures of us. The week following that, there was a raid by officials from the Department of Wildlife, who fined my captors and escorted my companion and me to the Phnom Penh zoo, where we would stay for a short while before being released into the wild.

The door to my cage opened. Beyond, the jungle beckoned—all those sweet, familiar sounds that I hadn't realized meant so much to me until they were taken away. I cast one final, thankful glance at my caretakers and then rushed into the dense foliage, happy and hoping that my mate hadn't found somebody to replace me during my absence.

Nicolas de Zamaróczy



The sun bears languished for some time in Koh Kong City's market before their rescue.

Environmental NGOs and bilateral donors found themselves united with the Fund in their opposition to this practice.

By the time of the sun bear incident, the Fund's Res. Rep. office had resumed good relations with the Cambodian government. Following

positive political developments in 1998 and economic ones in 1999, a number of issues had been settled, the government had vowed to make reforms in the logging sector, and the Res. Rep. office was reopened in November 1999. Things were proceeding smoothly on the economic front, and with a Fund mission team scheduled to visit from headquarters, Mario saw an opportunity to mention the sun bear issue to the authorities.

"Caring for sun bears was not in my terms of reference as resident representative," says Mario, "and I didn't want this issue to interfere with program discussions." Still, the moment was opportune, so when their policy discussions were finished, Mario—aided by photos of the captive animals taken by the NGO and in agreement with the mission chief—mentioned the sun bears to the new Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Wildlife Protection. The minister agreed to investigate and take the necessary measures. About a week later, Mario received a call from the NGO representative saying that the central wildlife protection team had swooped down in a helicopter, plucked the sun bears from the market, and taken them to the safety of a zoo, where they would gradually readjust to freedom before being released into their natural habitat.

Mario returned to headquarters shortly thereafter to take up his current post as Advisor in the Office of Technical Assistance Management, but the work on preserving the Cardamom Mountain area continues. Some groups are lobbying to have the region declared a world heritage site by UNESCO, a status that would

give the government additional financial aid for the region but would also require verifiable measures on the part of the government to protect the region. As tourism is already a major resource for the country, there are efforts to develop ecotourism. This would allow people to go, in a controlled way, into this last major piece of pristine rain forest in southeast Asia. "But there are also economic problems," says Mario. "Now that peace has been restored, there is demographic pressure to go into this very rich area of natural resources, and people are chopping down trees, setting up houses, and creating villages. Given that it's a developing country, how do you go about protecting wildlife? There are difficult social and economic issues related to that." ♦

Environment



New environmental website

Check out one of the latest additions to the Intranet, FAD's environmental team's website. Recently redesigned to make it more useful for Fund staff, the site provides up-to-date information on environmental issues at the country level and includes links to critical environmental data and indicators, related policy and research, as well as to websites of relevant multilateral, bilateral, academic, and research institutions. The site also introduces "country environmental fact sheets," which have been designed for specific countries to provide a framework within which some of the linkages between the macroeconomy and the environment can be articulated.

The environmental team hopes that this will be useful in informing Fund operations. Staff can access the website at the following address: www-int.imf.org/depts/fad/environment/index.htm For questions, contact Michael Keen (ext. 34442) or Muthukumara Mani (ext. 35656).

Celebrating the beautiful game

In June, most of the world celebrated the skills of their renowned national stars such as Ronaldo, Raúl, Beckham, and Totti, and learned the names and faces of many new stars, such as Diouf and Mboma. But spare a thought for those who played the game beautifully in their youth and still love it, but now sit (too much) in the deep twilight of their playing days. I call on you to celebrate international football masters, as Barbados did, during a four-day tournament in May.

A team, aptly named the Washington Consensus, led by Dino Merotto—who formerly lived in Barbados while working for the British government—was invited for the third year running by Dino's former team, the Wanderers, to play in the 7th Annual Barbados International Masters Tournament. The tournament is for players mainly over the age of 40, and drew teams from Trinidad, Jamaica, Antigua, Guyana, St. Vincent, Canada, the U.K., the U.S. Virgin Islands, and, of course, Barbados. The Consensus included several Fund and Bank staff members and others with a good claim to international friendship, and proudly represented several nationalities. These Masters once again donned their boots, smeared their bodies with embrocation, limbered up, and then tried to play at high speed and with great touch. For the Consensus, the tournament was all about trying to reach an elusive goal—the goal, which seemed to elude every shot the team took! Yet this and every goal were missed; played 4, lost 4, scored none.

So let's celebrate some of the stars, no longer rising. David Hawley, who had a spectacular collision with a Canadian Castaway that ended with a severe gash in the Hawley pate and, sadly, a broken nose for our Canadian opponent. Kevin Barnes, who played in goal and made many spectacular saves but was no match for former Bajan national, David Best, or former Scottish professional, Andy Smith, who helped the Wanderers to a handsome win. Fritz "the Maestro" Pierre-Louis, who ran tirelessly throughout. Poised, elegant defensive play came from Francisco

De Oliveira. Others you may know and should now hold in reverence include Sascha Djumena and Kevin Richards (both World Bank staff). Other players were variously associated with the diplomatic corps, government, and international businesses. And, of course, Dino, who led with his head and his heart.

The tournament also had on display a team of mainly ex-professionals with a Welsh connection—the Faucets, named after their sponsor, who made plumbing equipment. Boasting former English Premier League stars from Chelsea, Spurs, Leeds United, QPR, and Coventry City, they put on a great display in every game, but had to give way to tired limbs and larger squads with younger bodies. They also gave the best opportunity for cheap puns, such as "Faucets have another easy tap in."

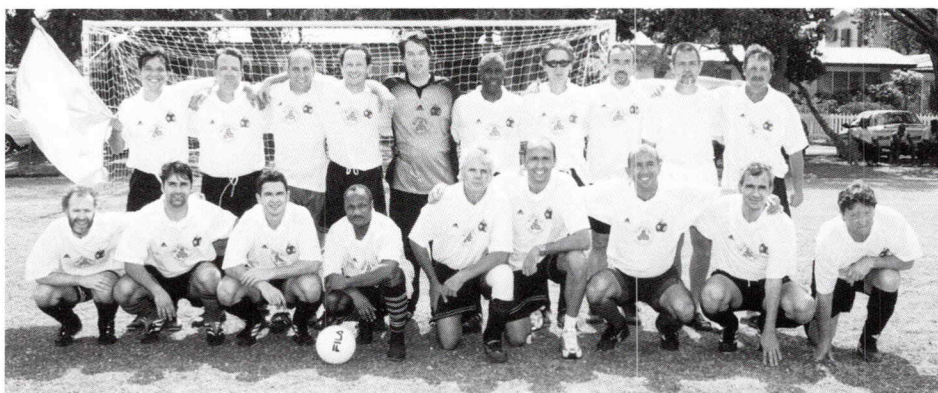
It was not all play! Chasing a ball around is thirsty work and had to give frequently to sampling large amounts of local beer and rum, an activity for which there was also a trophy. Alas, we did not win that either. We also had to endure downtime with nothing to do but eat flying fish "cutters" (sandwiches) laced with hot pepper sauce or labor against the surf at one of the nearby sandy beaches.

Oh, and the winners? Not the hosts, but one of their archrivals, a team named Black Rock, took the winner's trophy after penalty kicks from the previous year's champions, Unity, from Trinidad.

The final score? Goals nil; stress nil. ♦

Dennis Jones

The team will return to Barbados for the tournament next June. New faces are welcome—those interested should contact Dino Merotto.



The Washington Consensus football team in Barbados: all smiles, defeat notwithstanding.

Dustin designs a donkey

Walk anywhere within a two-block radius from the Fund, and you'll run into a brilliantly colored donkey or elephant—or maybe both. These strange sculptures that have popped up recently owe their existence to the "Party Animals" project sponsored by the D.C.

Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Using these emblems of the Republican and Democratic political parties to symbolize the spirit of D.C., the public art project aims to brighten up the city for summer as well as showcase the talents of participating artists.

One of these artists was Dustin Smith, a Senior Research Officer in PDR.

Dustin's party animal design was among the 200 selected from over 700 designs submitted to the commission from local and international artists. Although he has no formal art background, Dustin experiments with computer graphic design in his spare time, so upon hearing about the contest, he decided to submit an entry. "I wanted to see if I could come up with something interesting," says Dustin. "We were supposed to submit slides of our previous work, but I didn't have any slides—just a couple of concepts." The commission was apparently impressed enough with Dustin's idea to award him the \$1,000 grant and \$200 for supplies to carry it out.

Once their designs were chosen, Dustin and the other artists were given identical polyurethane donkeys and elephants to decorate. Starting from the same departure point, the artists conceived of wildly different ways to decorate their animals, as anyone wandering around D.C. these days can certify. Dustin's donkey, entitled "Amazeing," is an iridescent yellow maze against a bright red background. "I wanted the design to be aesthetically pleasing, yet technical and interactive at the same time," says Dustin. "I also had to make sure that the maze was solvable—and rela-

tively easily solvable—by kids."

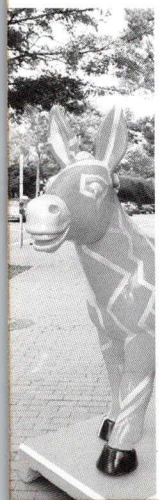
Using a more methodical approach than some of the other artists who painted freehand, Dustin started out with a base coat of white paint, then painstakingly laid out a pattern with masking tape. Painting around the lines and

curves of the masking tape, he filled in the red background. When that coat dried, he taped over the red part to fill in the yellow lines of the maze. "It's harder than you'd think to draw a straight line on a curved surface," Dustin explains.

For the most part, this project wasn't about politics (aside from the

D.C. Statehood Green Party's claim that the project should include symbols of the full range of political parties and not just the two major ones), and Dustin's choice of a donkey is not necessarily a reflection of his political views. "I actually submitted a design for an elephant initially," says Dustin, "but they asked me to change it to a donkey because they had fewer of those." It was more about having fun and using one's creative talents to benefit the community. There were fringe benefits, though. During the month of evenings and weekends spent creating the donkey in the commission's space at the former Woodward and Lothrop building, Dustin met D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and his wife as well as actor Patrick Stewart (Captain Picard of *Star Trek*)—not to mention scores of regular folks like himself with a flair for design.

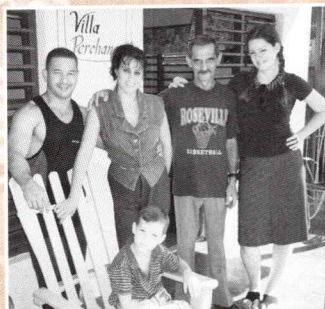
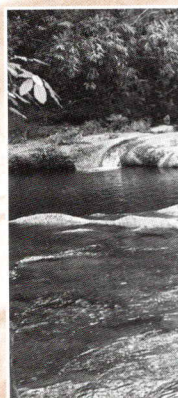
Dustin's donkey is on display in front of the Octagon Museum, just a short walk from the Fund at the corner of 18th and New York Avenue, until this fall, when the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities will hold a public auction of the party animals to benefit its grant program. Anyone in the market for a red and yellow donkey—or a bright blue elephant—should seize the chance! ♦



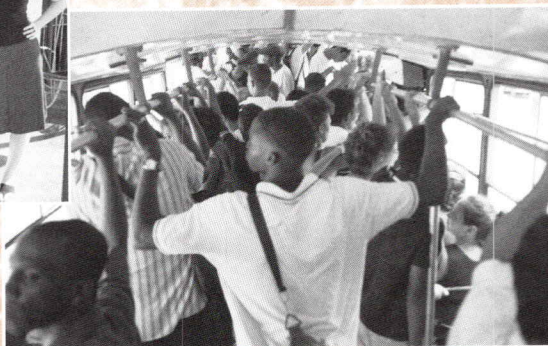
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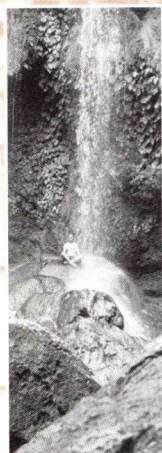
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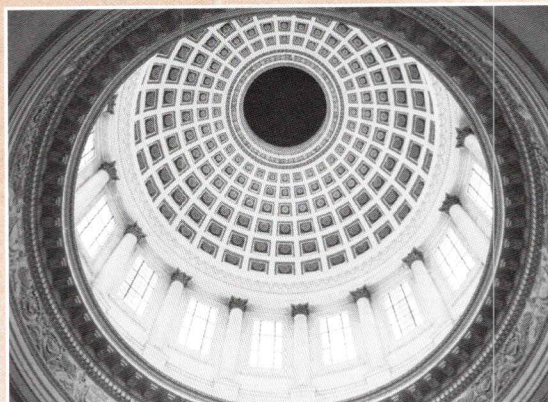
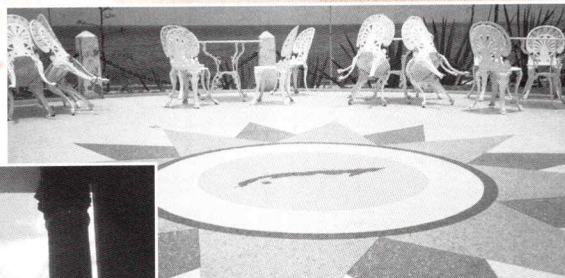
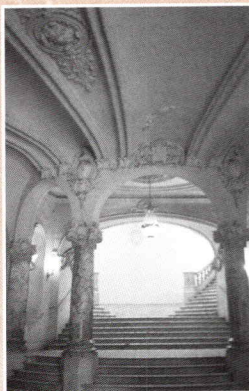
Far left: Tobacco fields in Pinar del Rio;
Left: A family in Vinales; Below: A ride on the
Camello, Havana's city bus line.



Havana



Above: River in Las Terrazas
Environmental Park;
Left: Waterfall in Soroa; Right:
Gran Teatro de la Havana;
Below: Seaside terrace of the
Hotel Nacional.



Above: El Capitolio, Havana; Below: Scene from central
Havana.



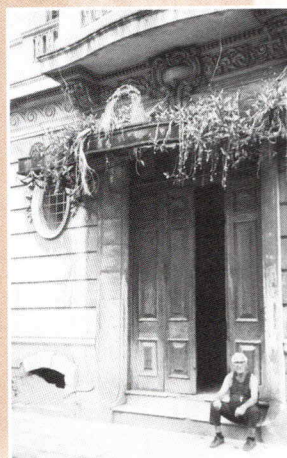
The island's
lush vegetation



Havana University

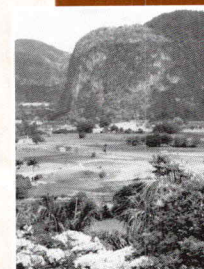


Left: Street corner in Old
Havana; Above: A well-used
typewriter.



Havana Vieja

Pedro Márquez, a Fund photographer, created this portrait of today's Cuba from his recent visit there, capturing images that reflect the diversity of the island's landscape and people.



The Mogotes of
Pinar del Rio

Guarding against anthrax

Following the discovery of anthrax in the U.S. mail last autumn, the U.S. Postal Service began irradiating all first-class mail coming to a range of zip codes that include major U.S. government agencies, the Fund, and the World Bank. The irradiation process has proven effective in killing anthrax spores. Although many organizations began accepting their mail directly from the U.S. Postal Service immediately after the irradiation process was put in place, the Fund arranged for its mail to be received and tested first at a location away from the headquarters building.

The procedure the Fund uses for receiving and testing mail is similar to that used by other organizations, such as the World Bank and the U.S. Federal Reserve. This testing involves compressing, agitating, vacuuming, and swabbing all envelopes and other materials and opening those that are tightly sealed in plastic or Kevlar. The vacuum filter samples and swabs are then tested using highly sensitive and sophisticated devices to determine the presence of anthrax DNA, even in the most minute quantities. These "spot tests," which produce results in a matter of hours, identify whether anthrax DNA may be present. Because the tests are so sensitive to all sorts of bacteria, they sometimes produce "false positives," suggesting that anthrax is present even when it isn't. If the tests are negative, the mail is released to be delivered to the Fund on the next business day. If the results are positive, the mail is further tested, using standard cell cultures to see if bacteria can be grown. These tests, which take 24 to 48 hours, are the only way to determine with absolute certainty whether the bacteria that has been found in the spot test is live anthrax.

As an added precaution, the Fund regularly tests a variety of locations where mail and packages are handled—including the loading dock, the mailroom, and the courier desk—to ensure that no traces of anthrax are present.

Using similar procedures to those of the Fund, the U.S. Federal Reserve has had two anthrax scares in the past several months. These incidents occurred when the initial spot tests at the U.S. Federal

Reserve's offsite facility were positive. However, upon further testing, the definitive cell culture tests did not show the presence of live anthrax.

On Monday, May 20, 2002, the World Bank reported a similar incident at its testing facility located inside the J building, when the spot test results on its mail came back positive.

Upon learning about the Bank's test results, the Fund decided to take the extraordinary precautionary step of not distributing the mail that had been delivered to the Fund around mid-day on Monday, even

Security Tips

Tips for travelers—detention

- All visitors are subject to the laws of the host country.
- It is important to gather information about the laws and customs of a country before your visit.
- Carry a list of key telephone numbers, including the Fund's Security Operations Center (202-623-6868), with you at all times.
- Always carry a copy of your UN Laissez-Passer and your national passport for identification purposes.

If questioned, detained, or arrested

- Listen carefully to ensure you understand local security or law enforcement officials.
- Obey all reasonable requests made by security or local law enforcement officials.
- Ask for permission to contact the Fund's Resident Representative, the Fund's Security Operations Center, the UN Designated Official (UNDO), and your national embassy: be polite but persistent if your request to contact these offices is not granted quickly.
- Do not sign any statements.

As soon as they learn of your detention, the Fund's Resident Representative, the UNDO, the Field Security Office, the Fund's Legal Department, and your embassy will make every effort to assist you.

though it had tested negative at the offsite facility. Samples from that mail were sent back to the lab for retesting on Monday afternoon. In addition, the Fund sealed off its mailroom and loading dock and shut down all the air-handling units circulating air to and from those areas, and ordered environmental testing of all mail-handling areas in the headquarters building.

The second series of spot tests conducted on both the Bank and Fund's mail showed that the Bank's mail—which had previously tested positive—was negative. However, the test results for the Fund's mail—which had tested negative—came back positive. A spot test on the mail that was delivered by the U.S. Postal Service to the Fund's offsite facility on Monday, May 20, also came back positive.

After this, all mail deliveries to the Fund were suspended and the areas of the building where mail is handled remained shut down until a definitive cell culture test could be conducted. These definitive tests showed there was no live anthrax either in the Fund's mail or in the headquarters building.

This experience illustrates the value of the Fund's prudent and well-developed procedures for safeguarding against anthrax. Although spot tests can sometimes produce false positives, leading to unnecessary alarm, the Fund's policy is to err on the side of caution where the staff's safety is concerned.

For more information about this incident or anthrax, see the section on Bio-Terrorism on the FAQs About Security Web site at <http://www-int.imf.org/depts/tgs/asg/ext/hqsec/FAQS/FundSec.htm>

Recent Field Security Incidents

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—detention. A staff member on mission was detained by local police after hotel security officials had asked him to vacate his hotel room in preparation for a visit by a head of state. He was detained for approximately two hours. The Resident Representative has filed complaints with the Ethiopian authorities. We have since received apologies from the Ethiopian authorities.

Jerusalem, Israel—detention. A local staff member for the Fund's Resident Representative in West Bank and Gaza was detained by Israeli police at an Israeli checkpoint. The staff member was released nine hours later.

Arrangements have been made to issue local staff in the West Bank and Gaza office identification documents from the UNDP in addition to their Fund identification cards.

Ibadan City, Nigeria—carjacking. A World Bank staff member's wife and the driver of her car were killed in a carjacking. This is the fourth armed carjacking of "jeep-type" diplomatic vehicles reported in Nigeria in recent months.

Lagos, Nigeria—detention. Two individuals on mission in Nigeria were picked up by police while walking near their hotel and taken to the local police station, where they were detained for two hours. One of the staff members called the Security Operations Center at Fund headquarters. They were then released. No charges were made. ♦

Security Communications Team

World Cup 2002

Top: Staff react to a narrowly missed goal in the U.S.–Germany match. **Bottom:** Italy fans watch in quiet disbelief as South Korea prevails.



Looking forward to an “Indian summer”

The joint Bank-Fund India Club, open to all Indophiles, organizes lunchtime talks, occasional dinner events, cultural shows, and events to mark Indian festivals. To get on its e-mail list of upcoming events, contact the Club’s President, Vijay Jagannathan (njagannathan@worldbank.org); its Secretary, Cherian Samuel (csamuel@ifc.org); or one of its Treasurers, Muthukumara Mani (mmani@imf.org). Prakash Loungani spoke to the three about the club’s recent activities.

Prakash: This is a joint Bank-Fund club. Cooperation between the two is good, I take it, just as during missions?

Mani: Even better.

Prakash: How many members do you have?

Mani: We have a mailing list of nearly 1,000. In principle, you have to pay the membership fee—\$20 a year—to be on the mailing list. But many, like you, haven’t paid up as yet. So our paying members are far fewer than a thousand.

Prakash: Getting Bank-Fund staff to attend events not related to their immediate work program is often difficult, yet your events are generally well attended. How do you do it?

Vijay: It’s a challenge. We try to hold most events at lunchtime—in fact, the club got its start in the 1970s as a lunchtime club—so that more people will be able to attend. And we try to find people who will speak on a topic that has not just an India angle but some Bank/Fund angle as well—some link to economics or finance or development issues. That generally works to

get anywhere between 25 and 250 people.

Cherian: To give you an example, one speaker talked about how to predict stock prices, which Bank/Fund staff—like people everywhere—are quite interested in. This guy uses Indian astrology to try to

predict the stock market. I suppose you could call him a chartist.

Prakash: A recent event featured the noted Indian film actress Sharmila Tagore, a heartthrob for men of my age. Wonderful event, well attended, but what was the Bank/Fund angle there?

Vijay: Sometimes you have to be flexible about these definitions. Sharmila was here in D.C. attending the Smithsonian’s retrospective of the films of the great Indian director, Satyajit Ray. It was too good an opportunity to pass up. And, as you said, the place was mobbed, despite the fact that she had competition that day from Jeff Sachs. Sharmila was very impressive—very articulate and knowledgeable about the movie business, which is now turning into one of India’s export industries with the success in this country of *Lagaan* and *Monsoon Wedding*. And she is active in working with Indian NGOs. She works with SEWA [Self-Employed Women’s Association], for example.

Prakash: What were some other well-attended events?

Cherian: Arun Shourie, currently India’s minister for privatization but also well known as one of India’s foremost journalists, filled the Preston auditorium. We were astounded by the level of interest in that event; you see, it’s not just film stars that bring people out. And there is always a lot of interest when we bring in Indian CEOs, such as Narayan Murthy of Infosys.

Prakash: You occasionally do dinner events?

Vijay: Yes. The last one we did was a real success. Montek Ahluwalia, the head of your new Independent Evaluation Office, gave a fascinating talk about his experience as an Indian professional who has gone back and forth between India and the United States. That raised many issues that quite a lot of us have faced or thought about. Many spouses also attended, so it was a chance to hear what these transitions involve for the family as well as for the individual.



Sharmila Tagore, actress, speaks at the Bank.



Autograph seekers mob Sharmila Tagore.

Prakash: *How do you find speakers?*

Vijay: The offices of the Executive Directors help us by passing on information of who's coming through. It often works out to be a win-win situation because we get to hear an interesting person and the speaker is able to go back home and say "I gave a *bhashan* [speech] at the IMF and the World Bank."

Prakash: *Mani, as a member of the IMF's environmental unit, have you brought in speakers on environmental issues?*

Mani: We invited a documentary filmmaker, Vasant Saberwal. He screened and talked about his film *Turf Wars*. In 1999, villagers in the Kulu valley in the state of Himachal Pradesh in northern India lost their ancestral rights to graze animals and collect medicinal plants because of the creation of the Great Himalayan National Park. However, after villagers were excluded from the park, a part of this protected area was released for the construction of a hydroelectric power project. The docu-

mentary talked about the conflicts around conservation and development from the perspectives of local villagers, Forest Department officials, biologists, and engineers.

Prakash: *Is the club intended only for staff from India or, more broadly, from the Indian subcontinent?*

Cherian: It's open to all Indophiles. We have a few Pakistani staff on our mailing list. And many Americans who have worked on India or are otherwise interested.

Prakash: *Anything else?*

Mani: If you have \$20, we can take care of your overdue membership payment. You know the IMF doesn't like arrears. ♦

Prakash Loungani

Celebrate Peruvian Independence Day...

by attending a fiesta at the Fund. The Godmothers of the Instituto Mundo Libre in Lima, Peru, announce their annual fundraiser to be held on July 26 from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. in R-700. The party will feature Peruvian cuisine (causa de atún, papa a la huancaína, seco, ají de gallina, cau cau, carapulcra; desserts: arroz con leche, crema volteada, pionono) and drinks, Latin and international dance music, and folkloric dances by the Chino Terrones Peruvian Dance School.

The fundraiser will benefit the Instituto Mundo Libre, a shelter established in 1990 to provide lodging, drug rehabilitation, and medical services for the street children of Lima. The "Godmothers" group—the party's organizer—was formed in 1997 when Marita Fuller of the World Bank visited the Institute and saw how much good it was doing in Lima and realized how people here in D.C. could lend their support to its work. The "godmothers," mainly Peruvian staff members of international organizations, provide moral support to the institute's residents by sending them regular e-mails, letters, and occasional presents in addition to organizing their annual fundraising event.

Tickets are \$15 (covers admission and one main dish) and will only be sold in advance. To purchase a ticket or for further information, please contact godmothers Julia Baca (ext. 37352), Margarita Aguilar (ext. 35367), or Miriam Camino-Wolosky (ext. 36230).

Argentine chorus

On Tuesday, May 14, the IMF auditorium threw open its doors for a rousing performance by the world-renowned Argentine vocal group, Opus Cuatro. The performance was sponsored by the IMF Spouse/Partner Organization (IMF-SPA). Josefina Bonangelino led the effort, with assistance from spouse volunteers and members of the Argentine Embassy.

This popular group was formed in 1968 in Argentina and has traveled the world presenting its style of music, which focuses mainly on folk traditions of Argentina and Latin America. The audience responded warmly to the Argentine piece "Como Pajaros en el Aire," which they dedicated to all mothers, and also the tango, "Corazon al Sur," which they dedicated to Argentine expatriates. "In spite of Argentina's difficult situation," said Argentine Executive Director Guillermo Zoccali, "the memorable performance of Opus Cuatro at the Fund attests to the talents of the

Argentine people and to their continuing ability to make world-class contributions to the performing arts."

The IMFSPA is interested in sponsoring more of these events and welcomes recommendations. Please contact them on ext. 37696 or by e-mail at hrdscint1@imf.org.

Moir Dawson

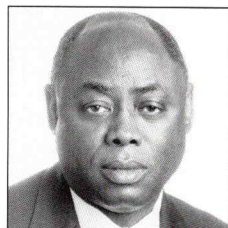


Opus Cuatro lunches with IMFSPA sponsors Josefina Bonangelino and Sarah Brau.

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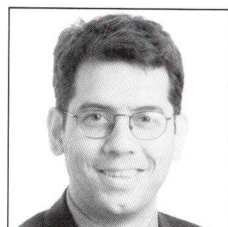
Patrick Akatu

Nigerian, is a Senior Economist, AFR. He was previously an Advisor to the Executive Director. He holds an M.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame. He is interested in reading, community development, and counseling. He is married with three children.



Francesc Balcells

Spanish, is an Economist, ICM. Formerly an Assistant Vice-President in the Equity Research Department of Merrill Lynch in New York, he holds an M.A. from SAIS, Johns Hopkins University.



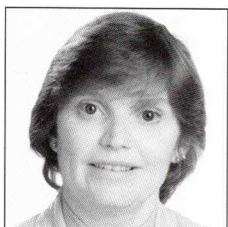
Melyssa Bridge

A U.S. national, is a Facilities Officer, TGS. Previously a contractual Facilities Officer in TGS, she holds a B.S. in architecture from Virginia Tech and is currently pursuing her M.S. in architecture at the same institution. She lists gardening, music, model making, and traveling among her interests.



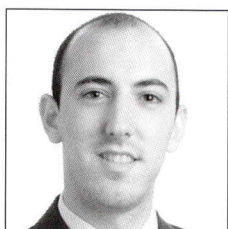
Elizabeth Caroline Cotterill

A U.K. national, is an Administrative Assistant, SEC. Formerly a contractual with HRD, she is currently pursuing her B.A. degree. She enjoys reading, traveling, and playing golf.



Adrián G. de la Garza

Mexican, is a Research Assistant, RES. Formerly an investment banking analyst, he holds a B.A. in economics and mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania. He likes movies, theater, languages, jogging, swimming, traveling, clubbing, reading, and music. He has two sisters and two brothers.



Silvia de Samayoa

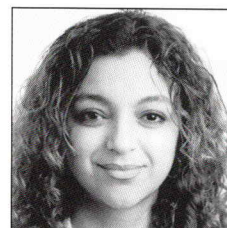
Honduran, is a Senior Facilities Officer, TGS. Previously the area training manager for La Madeleine French Bakery & Café, she holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras.



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Randa M. Elnagar

A U.S. national, is a Staff Assistant, INS. Formerly an assistant property manager at Prentiss Properties, L.L.P, she holds a B.A. in economics from The American University, Cairo. She enjoys gourmet cooking, reading, and spending time with her two boys, Ahmed and Ismael.



Natan Epstein

A U.S. national, is an Assistant to the Executive Director, OED. Previously an economist at the U.S. Treasury, he holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington. He is interested in tennis and travel.



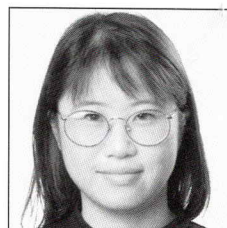
Yoshiko Kamata

Japanese, is a Press Officer/Editor, Morning Press, EXR. Formerly a correspondent for the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, she holds a B.A. in oriental history from the University of Tokyo and an M.A. in international relations from Stanford University. She enjoys skiing and traveling.



Yuko Kobayashi

Japanese, is a Staff Assistant, APD. Previously a contractual in FAD, she was educated at Seirei College in Japan and is interested in camping, traveling, reading, and cooking. She is married.



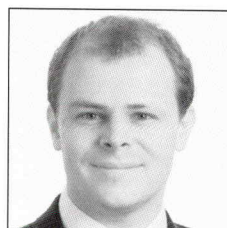
Pierre F. Laporte

Seychelles, is an Economist, AFD. He was formerly Director General at the Research and Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Seychelles. He holds a master's degree in economics from Sheffield University, United Kingdom. He enjoys reading, current affairs/politics, soccer, and traveling.



Paul Murray

A U.K. national, is a Human Resources Officer, HRD. Previously employed by Citigroup in London and Dublin, he holds an M.S. in occupational psychology from Nottingham University, England.



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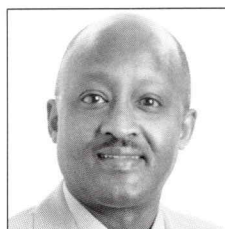
Awele Okobi

Nigerian, is a Facilities Assistant, TGS. She holds an M.A. in marketing from the American University and lists painting, cooking, shopping for antiques, and reading among her interests.



Derrick Rwetsiba

Canadian/Ugandan, is a Budget Officer, FAD. Previously a Senior Financial Analyst with the Canadian Ministry of Finance, he holds an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from McGill University in Montreal. He is interested in reading, traveling, and tennis.



Jemille Tumang

A U.S. national, is a Staff Assistant, RES. Formerly a contractual with HRD, she holds an associate degree in business administration from Northern Virginia Community College. She enjoys traveling and interior decorating.



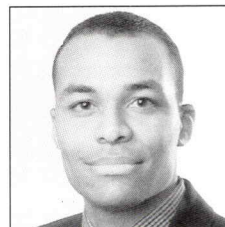
Nela Vuksa-Arboleda

Serbian, is a Text Processing Assistant, TGS. Previously a protection assistant at UNHCR in Croatia, she holds a B.A. in German language and literature from the University of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. She enjoys exploring Washington and surroundings and traveling. She is married with a 19-month-old boy.



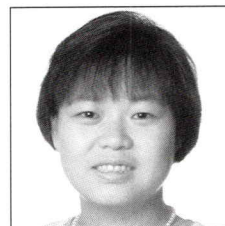
Frank Welffens

Belgian, is an Executive Board and Member Services Assistant, SEC. Formerly a contractual with INS, he holds an M.S. in applied international development from Tulane University. He enjoys cooking, Broadway shows, playing tennis and soccer, and spending time with his family.



Jiu Hong Zhou

Chinese, is an Audit Assistant, OIA. Previously an Accounting Assistant at TRE, she holds an M.S. in accounting from the American University. She enjoys reading.



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G.G. Johnson

Anthony G. Turner

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Lyndsey B. Livingstone

Françoise Straver-Postic

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Rifaat K. Basanti

Daniel A. Citrin

Pierre van den Boogaerde

Kanitta M. Meesook

Emmanuel van der Mensbrugghe

John C. Williams

Separations

Catherine Hung

Dennis P. Kelly

Rosa Maria Orpin

Lynn J. Patton

V. Hanglin Rodriguez

Alison M. Scott

Janice M. Smart

Transfers

Philippe Egoume Bossogo to EU1 from WHD

Sheila F. Kinsella to RES from ICM

Enrique A. Gelbard to EU2 from AFR

Gonzalo C. Pastor to AFR from EU2

Bankim Chadha to EU1 from ICM

Bo Jens Andreas Nystedt to DSO from ICM

M. Sahasranam to DSO from APD

Nigel Andrew Chalk to DSO from FAD

George A. Mackenzie to FAD from WHD

David T. Coe to APD from AFR

Ruby E.M. Randall to WHD from HRD

Ranjit S. Teja to DSO from DMD

Christopher J. Jarvis to APD from PDR

David J. Ordoobadi to ICM from TRE

Subir Lall to PDR from ICM

Volker Treichel to AFR from EU1

Alain Coune to TRE from OIA

Dodji Kossiwa H Dankloulou to APD from EU1

Dario Marcelo Sanchez to SEC from TGS

Helen Ann Blyth to TGS from FAD

George T. Abed to MED from FAD

Andrew J. Tweedie to DMD from APD

Mauro Mecagni to PDR from MAE

Baerbel S.M. Bernhardt to MAE from OMD

Rita Blaser to TGS from INS

Randa El Khechen Sab to WHD from MED

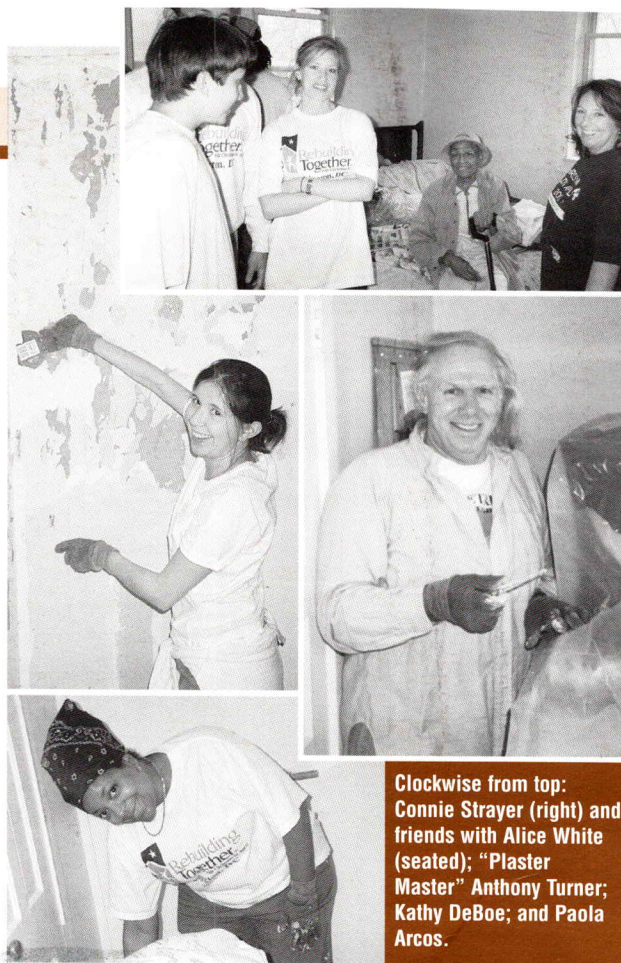
The strength of hands

Alice White's hands are strong and, at 92, she still plays the piano. "Mostly religious tunes," she told a small group of Fund staff and their friends, who came together the last two Saturdays in April to revitalize her home in southeast Washington, D.C. The history of Alice's home attests to the strength of hands in bringing the economy out of depression into the prosperity of the postwar era. Roosevelt's programs helped Alice's husband, a minister, acquire land and build their home in southeast D.C. Now, many decades later, the strong hands of INVOLVE members continue work on the home where other hands left off.

The work began with Paola Arcos (APD), her friend Steven Spitzer, Rich Kelly (PDR), and his fiancée, Theresa Bui, chipping history off the walls. The greens of the 1940s, the pinks of the 1950s—shades of vogue past—appeared. Alice recounted in detail how she chose the colors and what was happening politically during each era to me, the House Captain. Mamie Eisenhower, for example, was a big influence in her choice of pink in the 1950s.

Although she loves to work, Alice remained a spectator, allowing our team to strip the walls bare. Her spirit was inspirational. Kathy DeBoe (EXR), Nick Dopuch (RES), and Alice's son Bobby worked in the basement lifting the tile and linoleum off the floor of what was once the church hall where Alice's husband preached. Bobby was going to finish the floor at a later date for his mother. Bob Reilly, a Fund electrician, added a light switch that would be easier to turn on.

Lucia Casaravilla (EXR) diligently scraped paint and hammered loose nails in the kitchen and bathroom. Al Winter, the Fund's resident Michelangelo, began repairing water-damaged walls by cutting out the damaged sections, replacing them with sheetrock, and plastering the seams to create a



Clockwise from top: Connie Strayer (right) and friends with Alice White (seated); "Plaster Master" Anthony Turner; Kathy DeBoe; and Paola Arcos.

smooth surface on which to paint. Afterward, one would never know a gaping hole had been in the wall.

Our final day dawned with teen team André and Irina, the children of Marc and Irina Servais (TGS), painting energetically. Connie Strayer (EU2) began the transformation of Alice's bedroom by cleaning out clutter, leaving walls to be scraped and repaired. Roxana Nikdjou (MAE) and Emmanuel van der Mensbrugghe (EU1) sanded the walls of the dining room and became prematurely gray from the flying dust. The ceiling had gaping holes where squirrels could enter the interior of the home, but plaster master Anthony Turner (RES) repaired these like a regular Rodin. By the end of the day, the previously crumbling bedroom was glowing in a pale pink, delighting Alice, as it is her favorite color.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to each of the volunteers, all excellent Fund ambassadors to the local community. Giving to the community wherever there's a Fund office is imperative to the Fund's mission in the global community. I invite every staff member in the Fund to make an effort throughout his or her career to volunteer. See www.int.imf.org/depts/exr/EXRSite/Community_R.HTM or contact Kathy DeBoe. ♦

Greg Turner



Gary Turner, House Captain, Alice White, and Bobby White take a break from the action.