

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

November 2003

State

Magazine

The
USEU

Building a
United Europe

In our next issue:
Monitoring Elections
in Cambodia

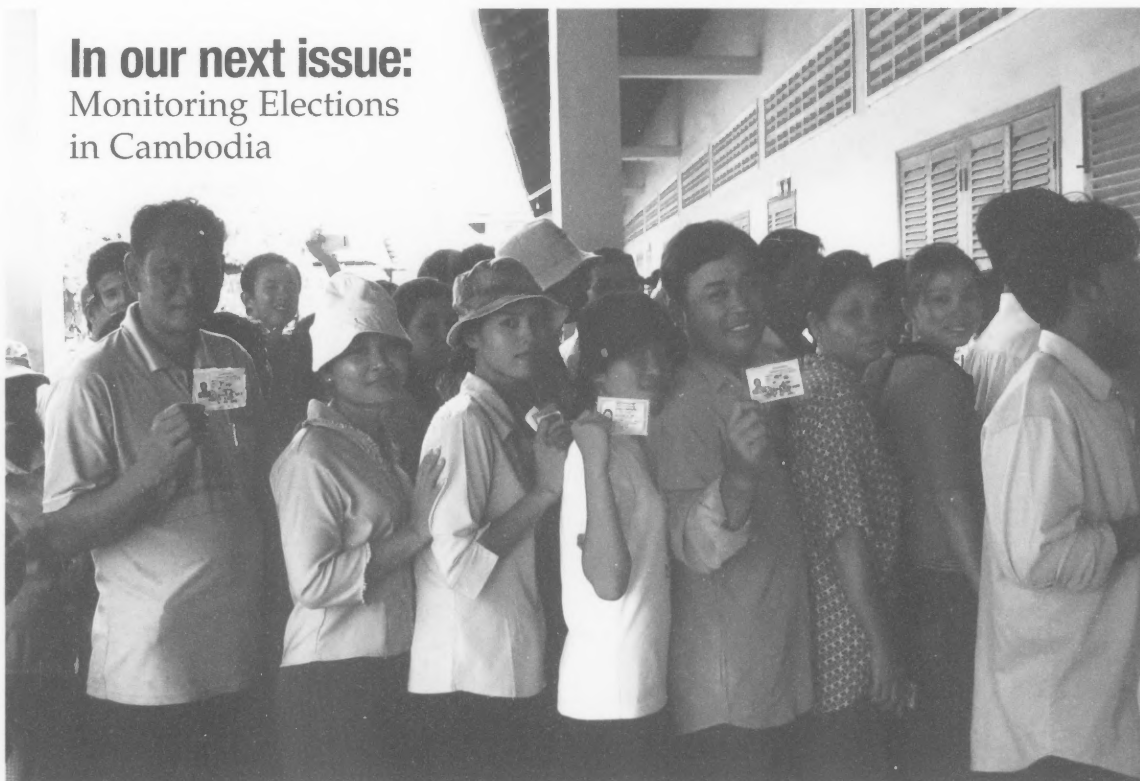


Photo courtesy of Geneve Menscher

State

Magazine

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Photo courtesy of the USEU

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On the Cover

The official flag of the European Union.

Photo by Stockbyte

FROM THE SECRETARY

SECRETARY COLIN L. POWELL



Finishing Our Work in Iraq

The men and women of the State Department are at the heart of one of the great foreign policy challenges of our times, the quest

to build a new Iraq, one that is peaceful, prosperous and free.

When I visited Iraq recently, I witnessed the remarkable progress we have made, as well as the obstacles that remain. What I saw there proved beyond all doubt that our liberation of Iraq was in the best interests of the Iraqi people, the American people, and the world.

The Iraq I saw was a society on the move, a vibrant land with a hardy people experiencing the first heady taste of freedom. The Iraq I saw has come a long way since the dark days of Saddam Hussein's rule, when the Iraqi people lived in poverty and fear.

For, thanks to the courage of our brave men and women in uniform, Saddam is gone. And, thanks to the hard work of Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, the Coalition Provisional Authority, and you—the men and women of the State Department—Iraq is being transformed.

Streets are lined with shops selling newspapers and books with opinions of every stripe. Schools and universities are open, teaching young Iraqis the skills to live in freedom and compete in our globalizing world. Parents are forming PTAs to support these schools, and to make sure that they have a voice in their children's future. Hospitals and clinics are open and providing critical medical services to Iraqis of all ages.

Most important of all, Iraqis are on the road to democratic self-government. In Baghdad, I attended a city council meeting that was remarkable for its normalcy. Its members talked about issues that preoccupy most city councils—jobs, education and the environment.

At the national level I met with the Iraqi Governing Council, a body that has appointed ministers and is taking responsibility for national policy.

We still have much to do, of course, and it will take time for the Iraqi people to rebuild lives stunted by a generation of tyranny.

When I was in Iraq, American commanders and troops told me of the threats they face from leftover loyalists who want to return Iraq to the dark days of Saddam, from criminals who were set loose on Iraqi society when Saddam emptied the jails and, increasingly, from outside terrorists who have come to Iraq to open a new front in their campaign against the civilized world.

We will not let these assassins of hope succeed. I know that our troops and the Iraqi security forces, as they are built up, will be able to deal with these enemies of peace.

We will also complete the renewal of Iraq's infrastructure—its electrical grid, its water treatment plants and the many other facilities that were run down and destroyed during the years of Saddam's misrule.

We have made progress. Electric generation has surpassed pre-war levels. Telephone service is being restored. Dilapidated water and sewage treatment facilities are being modernized. But it will take time and money to finish the job.

With the support of our Congress and the international community, we are collecting the resources that Iraq needs to complete the job. With these funds and our continued help, I know the Iraqis will succeed in rebuilding their battered country.

We will remain in Iraq until the Iraqis are able to take responsibility for their renewal. That means we will stay as long as it takes to turn full responsibility for governing Iraq over to a capable and democratically elected Iraqi administration. For only a government elected under a democratic constitution can take full responsibility, and enjoy full legitimacy in the eyes of the Iraqi people and the world.

The Iraqi people deserve no less, after all they have suffered. During my visit to Iraq, I traveled to the northern town of Halabja where, on a March morning in 1988, Saddam Hussein gassed more than 5,000 innocent men, women and children. I stood at the side of the mass grave that held the remains of Saddam Hussein's victims and saw the face of evil—an evil we must banish forever.

Saddam Hussein will invade no more neighbors, torture no more innocents and fill no more mass graves. I am very proud of the role that the State Department played in ending the horrors of Saddam Hussein. I know that we will continue to rise to the occasion until our work is done. ■

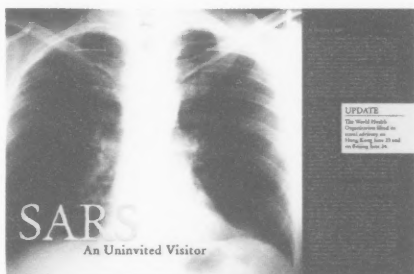
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SARS and Singapore

The September column, "Toward a Healthy Foreign Service," which discussed the response to last spring's SARS epidemic, mistakenly listed Singapore as a post subject to voluntary departure.

During the SARS epidemic, we avoided voluntary departure and restrictions on TDY visits, and we even welcomed personnel on medevac from other posts. That's because we carefully monitored the epidemic in Singapore and the response of our host authorities, using a series of concrete indicators to guide our analysis and reaction.

The disease was never widespread in Singapore. In fact, it was largely confined to health care professionals. We remained confident—even at the height of the epidemic—in the ability of Singapore's health care system to provide excellent care for our employees and families. The hospitals we use for our people took aggressive measures to



keep the virus away. And they were successful.

John Medeiros
Deputy Chief of Mission
Singapore

Intelligence Connections

Your September issue ran a historical inaccuracy. It's in the obituary for John W. Mowinkel, which contains the following language: "After serving with the Office of Strategic Services (now the Central Intelligence Agency) during World War II..."

The parenthetical is incorrect. The intelligence community, which includes the CIA and the Bureau of Intelligence and

Research in the State Department, was formed in 1947 largely on the basis of the Office of Strategic Services. The operational branch of the OSS comprised the core of the CIA's Directorate of Operations. OSS's analytical branch (along with OSS records) was transferred to the Department and became its

in-house intelligence and analysis resource—today's INR.

In other words, both INR and the CIA are descendants of the wartime OSS.

Gene Fishel
Analyst
INR

Corrections

The obituary for Terrance Leonhardy in the July/August issue said he was kidnapped while serving as consul general in Mexico City. It was in Guadalajara where he was serving and kidnapped.

Bain Cowell, author of the article "Leadership Seminar Goes Overseas" in the July/August issue, was a political officer in Rio de Janeiro, not Buenos Aires. He is currently deputy for political affairs in Santo Domingo.

Letters to the Editor

Letters should not exceed 250 words and should include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number. Letters will be edited for length and clarity. Only signed letters will be considered. Names may be withheld upon request. You can reach us at statemagazine@state.gov.

From the Editor

Reporter Paul Koscak has traveled to New York twice for the magazine. On his most recent trip, to profile the Foreign Press Office, he got more than he bargained for. His press office story and his personal account of being caught in the power blackout that darkened much of the East Coast begin on page 14.

Ambassadors are often called upon to repair things. It's what ambassadors do. The repairs are typically to frayed diplomatic relations. But that's not always the case, as you'll discover in the article from Cape Verde. Ambassador Don Johnson happens to like old clocks, and when he discovered that the town clock on one of the islands had not worked in 20 years, he went to work—literally. Call it hands-on diplomacy or what you will. Page 22.

Pittsburgh may not be Paris, but for retiree Dan Simpson and his wife Libby it has plenty to offer urban residents who prefer walking rather than driving to the nearest restaurant, theater or sports event. Turn to page 33.

According to Darryn "Dutch" Martin, a general services officer stationed in Rabat, the best cure for the blues is the harmonica. He grabs one every chance he gets and shares his love of the instrument and its rich musical legacy with all who will listen. See page 36.



Secretary of State Colin Powell and his wife Alma observe a moment of silence during the 9/11 commemoration.

Terrorist Tragedies Commemorated at Home and Overseas

Hundreds of employees packed the C Street lobby to join Secretary Colin L. Powell in marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. During the solemn ceremony the Secretary, along with Acting Director General Ruth Whiteside, acknowledged the sacrifices many State Department employees endure confronting terrorism on the front lines.

"You have helped to build an unprecedented international coalition against terror that has saved countless lives," Secretary Powell said. "Our State Department family has lost precious members to terrorism. Their loss, too, we mourn today."

Congress designated the anniversary as Patriot Day. "We will continue to bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to them," President Bush told employees in a statement read by the Secretary. "This Patriot Day, we hold steady to this task."

During the 10-minute ceremony, the Secretary's somber, scripted speech contrasted sharply to his usual animated, off-the-cuff delivery.

Referring to those who died at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field, the Secretary said, "The men and women of the Department of State can pay no

greater tribute than to work across the globe to build a world of peace, prosperity and freedom."

Those attending offered their own outlook on the changes brought about by the terrorist attacks.

"I feel slightly safer," remarked Debbie Kingsland, deputy adviser in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs, reflecting upon the security measures brought about by the attacks. "There's an awareness [about terrorism]. Everybody's outlook has changed. There's a heightened awareness where once we were complacent."

"I think we are far much safer," said Christopher Burnham, assistant secretary for Resource Management. "I had six friends die in the World Trade Towers. The President has committed our resources to fighting terrorism."

"People are paying more attention to safety and taking terrorism seriously," observed Ruth Urry, a new Foreign Service officer awaiting assignment to Manila. "It's a lifestyle change and will be with us for years to come."

"There's a lot more work to be done," said Mike Foughty, a Foreign Service officer who retired from the Air Force and now

IN THE NEWS

works in the Bureau of Nonproliferation. "There's a greater sense of mission now."

"This has heightened our awareness, particularly in government and especially at the State Department," said Linnea Bohn, a special assistant in the Bureau of Resource Management.

Overseas, the tragic event was observed through dozens of commemorations rich in sight and sound.

In Latvia, church bells tolled and fire and rescue employees observed a minute of silence in memory of the New York firefighters and rescue workers who perished during the attacks.

All major Russian television networks gave substantial news coverage to a Moscow photo exhibit entitled "Here is New York." The opening featured the mayor of Moscow and U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow.

The Romanian government, along with members of its diplomatic corps, held a commemoration that was widely aired by its television networks and reported extensively the next day in that nation's newspapers.

"Images From Ground Zero," a photo exhibit chronicling the tragedy, opened at the American Institute in Taiwan and was digitally televised to New York audiences. The exhibit also opened at Tamkang University Art Center in Taipei.

The same exhibit was also displayed at Silliman University in the Philippines and in Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province, China, drawing up to 300 people per day.

As in many other capitals, the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand, Charles Swindells, held a flag lowering ceremony at 8:46 a.m., the time of the New York attack.



New York Fire Department officer Dan Daly captures the attention of students from Gurgaon, a suburb of New Delhi, with a moving account of his personal experiences. Officer Daly's talk was part of a series of embassy-sponsored programs commemorating the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

And in Bratislava, the Slovakian prime minister addressed the embassy staff, and its president delivered a letter marking the occasion to the U.S. Ambassador for President Bush. Press reports indicated that the level of Slovak commitment to observing the attacks was remarkable, given the Pope's arrival that same day.

In Bamako, Mali, U.S. Ambassador Vicki Huddleston received a group of local citizens wishing to express their support.



3,066

Number of people killed as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Citizens from 85 foreign countries were killed in the attacks.

Going PRO

The Young Professionals Society (YPro), a new State Department employee organization, held its kickoff in the Exhibit Hall of the Harry S Truman Building on Sept. 10.

The festive event, complete with flyers, balloons and posters, boasted YPro's slogan, "Welcome to the Next Generation." Employees stopped by throughout the afternoon to learn about the organization, register for membership and meet YPro committee members.

YPro membership is open to all Department employees, regardless of age, career track or occupational series. The goal of the organization, according to co-founders Elizabeth Ash and Stephanie Hallett, is to create a sense of continuity in the Department's dynamic work force by linking tomorrow's foreign affairs leaders through professional and social networking.

YPro plans to sponsor a variety of activities directed toward persons beginning their careers or those new to the State Department. Fall activities include the 2003 AIDS Walk, an evening at the Cambodian Embassy, a mentor training session and a brown bag lunch discussion on the "Unwritten Rules" of the State Department.

For further information about Ypro, visit their web site at www.ypro.us or e-mail ypro@state.gov.

YPRO

OES Partners in Education

What issues do today's elementary and secondary students debate?

How about the use of space-based technology for environmental monitoring, water as a free resource or an economic commodity and nonpoint source pollution in local watersheds?

Public school students in the District of Columbia addressed these and other heady issues with staff from the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs during the 2002/2003 school year.

The Partners in Education program began in the spring of 2002 as a way for OES Bureau employees to celebrate Earth Day through community service. Fourteen OES staffers taught approximately 350 students during the year, emphasizing that global issues have local implications.

Bud Rock, principal deputy assistant secretary, expanded the program to reach out to more students. "Many of the issues we deal with internationally are relevant to our local communities," Mr. Rock said. "We have an opportunity to highlight these topics and help teach students something about the complexity of the world they live in." He added that OES negotiators benefit from rising to the challenge of clearly conveying their message to classroom audiences.

OES staff brought a storehouse of intellectual and material resources to classrooms of first- through 12th graders, who are constantly struggling for resources. Students and teachers from the four participating schools in the District appreciated the time and effort OES employees invested in the program.

Christopher Griffin, a student in Erin Campbell's third-grade class at Stanton Elementary School in southeast Washington, told Margaret Hayes, director of the Office of

Ocean Affairs, "We learned a lot from you. Now I know what whales eat, where they sleep, and we know their names. We really enjoyed it."

Malorie Smart, a ninth-grade teacher at the School Without Walls, said, "OES staffers brought information into my classroom that would have taken me weeks to prepare. Because they were energetic about their topics, the students were easily engaged." She said it was obvious that the students were learning by the in-depth questions they asked the instructors. "It is a blessing to any teacher to have such a knowledgeable

and dynamic addition to her classroom," Ms. Smart added.

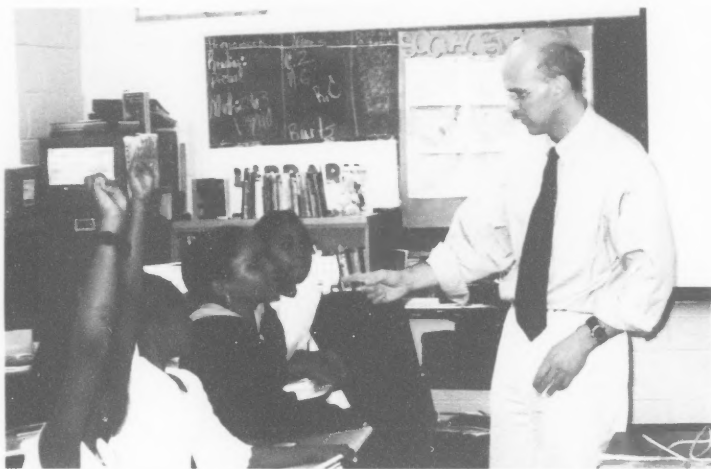
In addition to contributing their time, OES participants in the program also presented teachers and students with posters, activity books, CDs and other teaching materials for follow-up lessons.

The experience was a valuable one for the State Department participants as well. Cynthia Brady, from the Office of Global

Change, said, "The opportunity to talk with some very inquisitive fifth-graders about the basics of the climate issue was invigorating. The experience gave me the chance to provide concrete answers to some of the more fundamental but thoughtful questions raised by kids."

Christopher Ellis, from the Office of Ecology and Terrestrial Conservation, said, "The opportunity to reach out to these children and touch their minds is unparalleled. We have the chance to open the possibilities of the entire world to them."

OES plans to expand the Partners in Education program. This year, in addition to classroom speakers, there are also plans to take a group of motivated students on a field trip to an outdoor site to study the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and provide continuing classroom enrichment activities.



Fernando Echavarría, from the Office of Space and Advanced Technology, responds to questions from fourth-graders at Stanton Elementary School in southeast Washington, D.C.



Ambassador W. Robert Pearson

Meet the new Director General

Editor's Note: Ambassador W. Robert Pearson was sworn in as director general of the Foreign Service and director of Human Resources on Oct. 7. His first column will appear in the December issue.

Ambassador W. Robert Pearson of Tennessee is a Career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister Counselor. He has a broad background in European and security issues as well as wide management experience overseas and in Washington, D.C.

He was U.S. Ambassador to Turkey from September 2000 to July 2003. He managed U.S. interests in Ankara through two severe domestic economic crises, a general election, the war in Afghanistan and the liberation of Iraq.

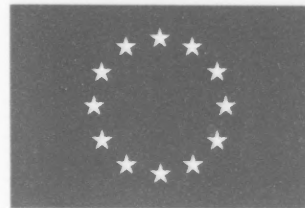
As deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Paris from July 1997 to July 2000, he closely followed the evolution of the European Union and defense and security issues within the Atlantic Alliance and the EU. He actively promoted business ties between France and the United States and helped open five new American offices in France's regions.

He served twice at NATO, from 1993 to 1997 as deputy permanent representative to the U.S. Mission during the Balkan crisis and NATO's enlargement, and from 1987 to 1990 on the international staff as chair of NATO's political committee.

From 1991 to 1993, he was the executive secretary of the Department of State. He served as deputy executive secretary of the National Security Council from 1985 to 1987. He served in Beijing as a political officer from 1981 to 1983 and was staff assistant in the East Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau. He began his Foreign Service career with a two-year assignment in Auckland, New Zealand.

Ambassador Pearson served in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1969 to 1973. He graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1968. He is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. He speaks French, Chinese and Turkish. His wife Margaret is a career diplomat in public diplomacy. They have one son, Matthew.





USEU

United States
Mission to the
European Union

By Eve Fairbanks

"I have ever deemed it fundamental," Thomas Jefferson wrote to President-elect Monroe in 1816, **"for the United States never to take active part in the quarrels of Europe.**

Their political interests are entirely distinct from ours. Their mutual jealousies...their complicated alliances, their forms and principles of government, are all foreign to us...All their energies are expended in the destruction of the labor, property and lives of their people."

Many of us haven't fallen far in opinion from Jefferson's tree. Yes, 200 years may have passed, but a lot of Americans still feel that the United States, even after a century of intimate involvement and participation in two world wars, might be best advised to keep its distance from Europe. But would Jefferson still hold to his views today? From the euro to a European Constitutional Convention modeled on the 1787

gathering in Philadelphia, Europe is uniting and changing in ways that make war again on the continent nearly unthinkable and a new partnership with the United States possible.

When the forerunner to the U.S. Mission to the European Union opened in 1953, Europe had just embarked on this process of integration, with the goal of preventing another world war and containing Soviet expansion. Now, as USEU celebrates its 50th anniversary, the European Union is gearing up for its 2004 expansion from 15 to 25 countries, including many states only 10 years away from satellite status behind the Iron Curtain. Today's EU is united more closely than ever. But, as the original threats that drove EU unification have melted away, they appear to have been replaced by new frictions across the Atlantic with the United States, raising concerns that Europe's new unity is perhaps a mixed blessing.



Photos courtesy of the USEU



Top: Ambassador Schnabel shares a quip with USEU staff gathered in the Transatlantic Room for a monthly "all hands" meeting. Above: CLO Suzanne McGuire, center, helps Monique and Willie Ross decide which of the 100 stands to visit at the annual Brussels Info Fair.

"The European Union is the only international organization with ambitions to sovereign statehood—I think it's the most fascinating geopolitical thing happening in the world today," notes U.S. Ambassador to the EU Rockwell Schnabel. "USEU is part of this dynamic. We want to ensure that a changed Europe is a Europe that proves a better partner with the United States than it ever was in Jefferson's time."

Like the EU itself, USEU, now nearly 100 employees strong and growing, has an unconventional personality. The mission has no visa lines but does have one of the largest economic and trade units in the Foreign Service. The mission has no Defense Attaché or FBI office but does have globally significant political, military and law enforcement responsibilities—from monitoring ongoing EU military operations in the Congo to implementing recently a signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and extradition agreements.

This policy focus, paired with an extraordinary reach of responsibilities—far beyond Brussels, to all the soon-to-be 25 EU member states—makes USEU's work strikingly different from that of a bilateral post. "At other posts, I was managing programs and budgets," says Patricia Lener, development counselor with the U.S. Agency for International Development. "Here, I'm elevating assistance's global profile and coordinating the work of USAID offices throughout Europe."

Public diplomacy at USEU is also unique: "Brussels has the world's largest foreign press corps," according to Anne Barbaro, public affairs officer. "We're approached every day

by international media looking for the U.S. angle on EU issues for stories published across the continent."

In Brussels, the USEU has a home as unusual and distinctly international as its work. The city's many cozy restaurants, bookstores, chocolate shops and pubs play host to one of the most vibrant international communities in the world. The dinner party at the next table may include the same Italian commission staffer, Polish mission official or British newswire editor you debated at a morning EU symposium on the Middle East or trade—and you might even meet that person later that evening at a Brussels Light Opera Company rehearsal, a Professional Women International gathering or a Basketball in Brussels pickup game. These clubs, among hundreds that boast the participation of over 30 nationalities, mirror after hours the energy and history-in-the-making buzz that makes Brussels a uniquely stimulating, cosmopolitan place to work.

Cosmopolitan, but European: the EU's draft constitution invokes Europe's "cultural, religious and humanist inheritance" to inspire its newest project. In Brussels, the glass-fronted council and commission buildings compete with ancient churches and the 13th century guildhalls. Surrealism, art nouveau and art deco have all swept through, leaving their mark on public buildings and residences alike: "Just when you think you've come to know a neighborhood," remarks Stephen Cristina, USEU's economic deputy, "you turn a corner and encounter a new strange, beautiful view right out of a Magritte painting." A \$4 train ticket delivers medieval Bruges, the "Venice of the North"—and hip Antwerp, Europe's avant-garde fashion center—and castled Tournai, seat of the Merovingian dynasty.

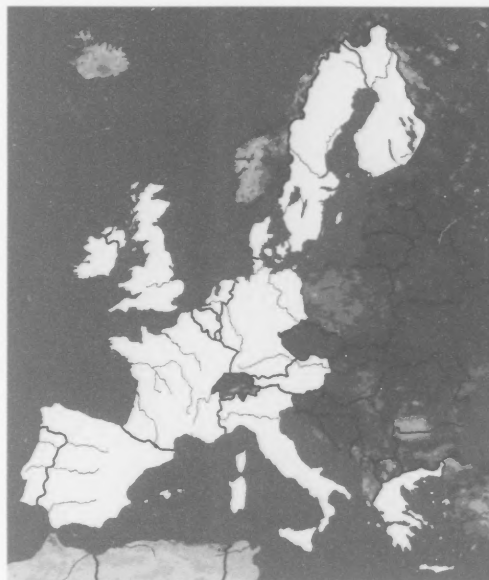
"I think it's a real 'post for everyone,'" adds Suzanne McGuire, co-director of the Tri-Mission Community Liaison Office. "Great for tandems and singles, and wonderful for families." Many USEU staff were drawn to Brussels by its renowned international schools, which offer programs in every EU language.

During the past decade, the EU has increasingly cultivated a shared sense of identity among its member states. EU stances on the Kyoto Protocol and the International Criminal Court are just a few examples of efforts to assert a distinct European voice. But does this mean that the allies that won the Cold War are inevitably drifting apart? Is the United States really from "Mars" and Europe from "Venus"?

Charles Ries, principal deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, answers: "It is time to get the transatlantic relationship up off the psychoanalyst's couch and put it back to work." Coming just after the Iraq crisis, the U.S.-EU summit in Washington this past June demonstrated the resilience and continuing relevance of the relationship—with an emphasis on practical areas where cooperation can make a difference.

"For our joint statement on the hydrogen economy, I was juggling the phones deep into the final hours before the sum-

AT A GLANCE



Member Countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom

New Members: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia will join in 2004

Applicant Countries: Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey

Population: 378 million

Founded: May 9, 1950 (Europe Day)

Land Mass: Approximately 1,249,000 square miles

Languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portugese, Spanish and Swedish are the 11 official languages.

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Unemployment Rate: 7.4 percent

SOURCE: EUROPA web site



Top: Economic Officer Jonathan Kessler compares notes with OMSers Belinda Alcantar and Keteline Clark. Above: USEU is housed in a restored historic building near the main EU institutions in Brussels.

mit," remembers Steven Hardesty, chief of the environment, science and technology unit. "But we got it negotiated, and it has really opened a lot of opportunities."

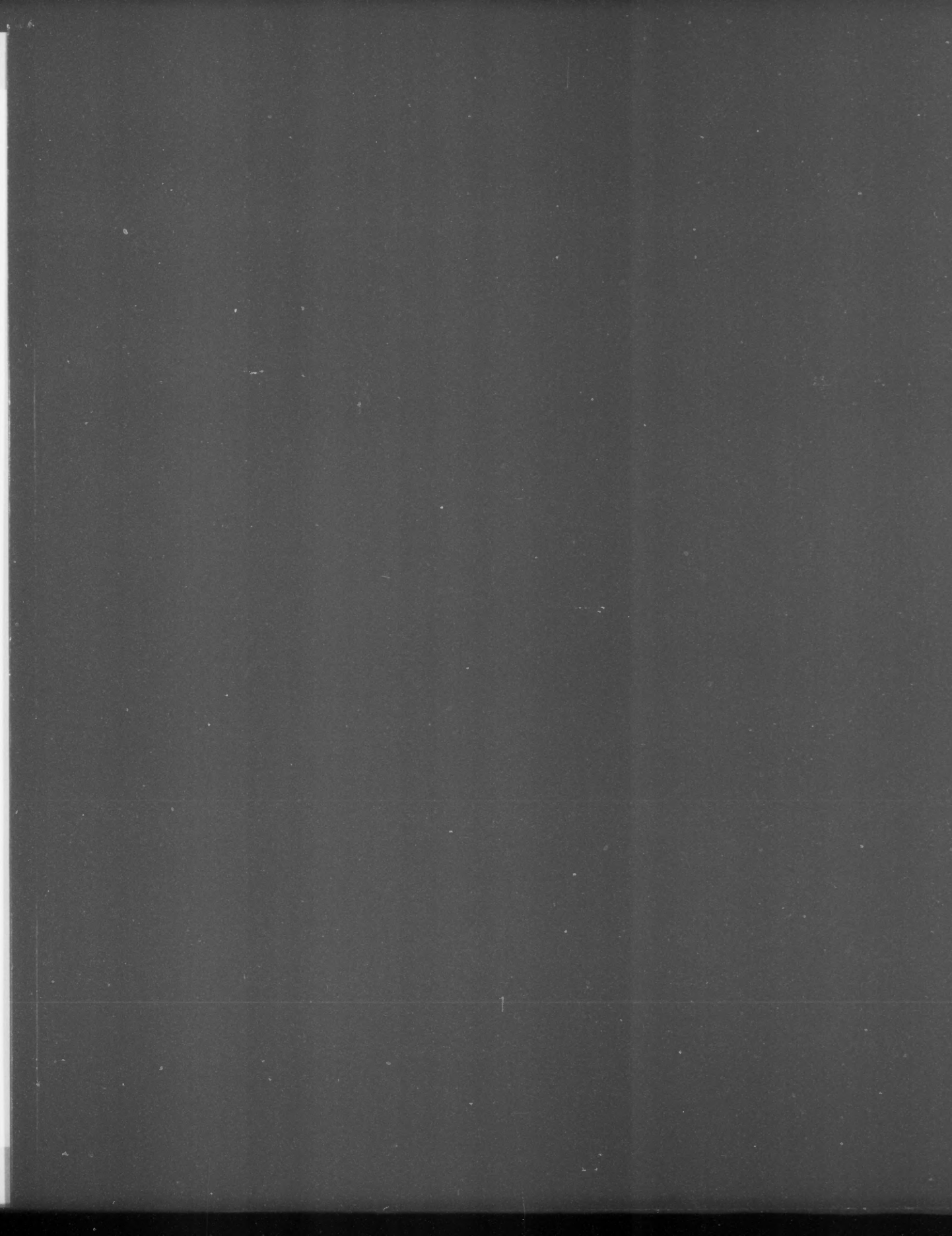
Ultimately, the job at USEU comes down to managing U.S. relations with Europe—a Europe with a population of nearly a half billion people and an economy almost the size of the United States'.

"It's not the standard embassy, where everything has been done before," emphasizes Deputy Chief of Mission Jim Foster. "We need a special kind of officer, one who combines diplomatic skills with unusual creativity and intellectual curiosity"—qualities that work natures in those assigned here.

In 1953, President Eisenhower praised Europe's fledgling steps toward unity by stating that "only as free Europe together marshals its strength can it effectively safeguard its heritage."

At the most recent U.S.-EU summit, President Bush looked back with admiration at what has been accomplished through the transatlantic partnership—how different from what Jefferson imagined—and forward to the uncertain but promising U.S.-EU future. "We meet at an important moment," the President said, "when the EU is taking in new members and writing a new constitution. [At] a time when both Europe and America are facing new challenges,...we are united in common values and we will seek common solutions." ■

The author was a USEU intern this past summer and has returned to Yale University as a junior.





More Than Dollars and Cents

The U.S. relationship with the EU is frequently characterized as chiefly an economic one, with any number of tough trade issues. But over the years it has developed into something much more complex. The EU member states are ambitiously integrating and developing ever closer cooperation among themselves on legal and judicial affairs and law enforcement. This is also changing their relations with the United States just at a time that 9/11 has moved combating terrorism and homeland security to the front and center of the political agenda.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, one of the top priorities at USEU has been to ensure EU cooperation in stopping the flow of funds to terrorists. To date, the EU has designated 34 organizations as supporting terrorism and helped freeze \$137 million worldwide in terrorist-related financial assets. A key part of the U.S. effort has been to establish effective channels of quick communication with representatives of member states and the European Commission to alert them when the President designates groups or individuals that support terrorist activities. USEU contacts terrorist financing officers in U.S. Embassies throughout EU capitals to coordinate U.S. advocacy to European officials involved in decisions to freeze assets.

Promoting the homeland security agenda is another priority area. USEU deals daily with the commission and member states to ensure that they support U.S. measures to prevent future terrorist attacks—whether through aviation, cargo or U.S. imported food. Staff with expertise in economics, customs and border protection work with the commission to enhance and expand the U.S. ability to screen container cargo before it departs from EU ports.

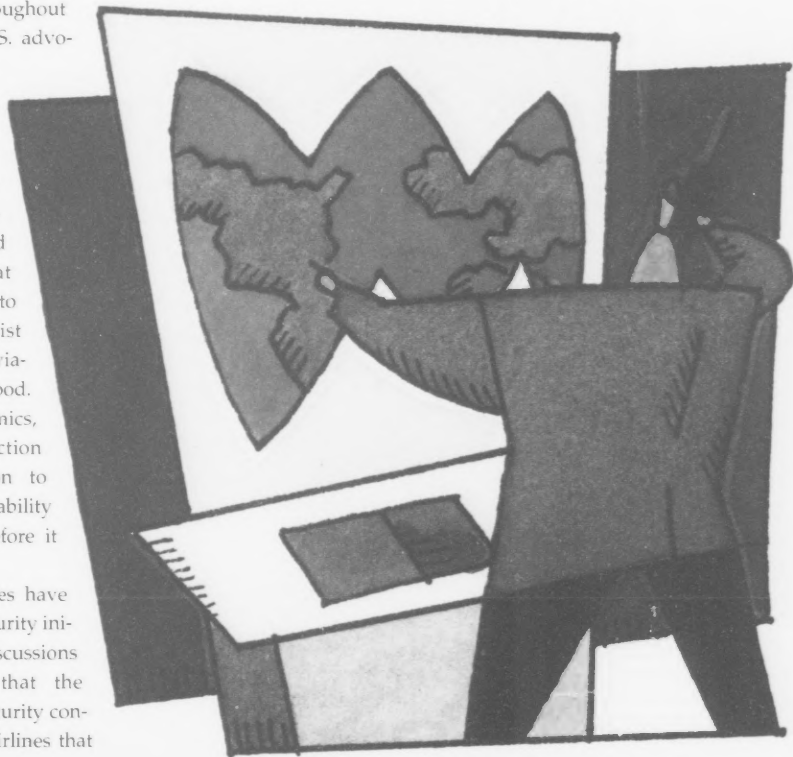
To date, eight EU countries have signed on to the container security initiative. The USEU is also in discussions with the EU to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security continues to receive data from airlines that

can help prevent future attacks. Several agencies communicate to the EU measures taken to prevent acts of bioterrorism by safeguarding the food imports chain.

Overcoming deep-rooted European concerns about the death penalty, USEU officers from the Departments of State and Justice negotiated agreements on extradition and mutual legal assistance that were signed at the U.S.-EU summit in Washington this past June. The new agreements include using joint U.S.-EU investigative teams and identifying bank accounts of suspects within each other's jurisdiction. Another new agreement with EUROPOL allows the sharing of personal data with this important new agency in complex cases including terrorism.

As the EU moves toward adopting a new constitution with more powers in the justice area, the liaison functions of USEU's law enforcement team will need to grow with it.

So the cooperation the USEU promotes with the EU is more than dollars and cents. In the areas of counterterrorism, homeland security and law enforcement, the relationship is keeping the more than \$1 trillion transatlantic economy safe and open for business.



Headline News

Press Office Promotes American Life to Foreign Media

Story and Photos by Paul Koscak

The New York Foreign Press Office is giving people throughout the world more reason to believe what they read.

In an era where much about America is exported through mindless movies and vacuous television, the office introduces foreign journalists to the best of America's artistic, scientific, cultural and economic institutions.

As one of three foreign press centers—Washington and Los Angeles are the other two—the New York office specializes in building a heavy calendar of briefings, seminars and local trips to showcase American life.

Located in midtown Manhattan on East 52nd Street, the office began in 1946 servicing the foreign reporters who rushed to the United States to cover the emerging United Nations. While it still handles U.N. briefings, the office has taken on a far broader role since then.

"We educate and work to dispel stereotypes," said Judy Jamison, the

office's deputy director. "We do lots of research for reporters and provide them a place to work."

Foreign reporters, particularly those on low budgets, take advantage of the office's complimentary work area equipped with computers, electronic research tools and telephones. There's also a press conference room wired to Washington

where foreign journalists can participate in briefings through digital video transmissions.

But many times the New York office becomes the focus by hosting its own news conferences with well-known local personalities who command



*Deborah Cole greets
visitors to the New York
Foreign Press Center.*



it arranged for Toyota to update them on hydrogen-powered vehicles. "President Bush called for the development of hydrogen vehicles in his 2003 State of the Union address," said Sal Scrimenti, program officer. "Toyota was the first automaker to introduce a hybrid vehicle in 1997, the Prius."

A tour of the theater district and Broadway focused on the entertainment industry. An overnight trip to Lancaster County in

national and international attention. Dance Theater of Harlem founder Arthur Mitchell visited with his troupe before leaving on a Department-sponsored tour of China, said JoDell Shields, a program officer. And playwright Edward Albee used the link to speak to journalists in Israel.

"We've had former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and current Mayor Michael Bloomberg," Director Kimberly Nisbet said. "Police Commissioner Ray Kelly has been great, too. We followed up with a visit to the New York City Police Academy."

That's where the office excels. With a staff of seven—two Civil Service, two Foreign Service, two political appointees and a technical contractor—the office sponsors informative tours—some perennial, some new and unique and most within the Tri-State Region.

The location is key. Foreign journalists covering New York are usually assigned there as general assignment reporters who focus on what the region is renowned for—finance, theater, fine arts and society, Ms. Nisbet said. "Washington is much more politically oriented."

"New York is America's story," added James Ellickson-Brown, a program officer.

In January, for instance, the office brought foreign journalists to city locations notorious before the Civil War for their crime and gang warfare popularized by the recent movie *Gangs of New York*.

A trip to Long Island vineyards showcased the wine industry and several local wineries. The stop was part of an overall program on New York agriculture.

"Many journalists don't realize America markets many choice wines," Ms. Jamison said. "It's an industry that's overlooked, particularly on Long Island, where vineyards are replacing apples and potatoes. Many of the reporters are surprised to learn there are farms in New York."

The office arranged for IBM to brief foreign reporters on the latest trends in developing business through the Internet. And

Pennsylvania highlighted Amish culture. "This shows a community-based society, where no Social Security tax is paid because they care for their elderly," Mr. Scrimenti said. "It shows how other cultures exist within the United States."

In August, the office hosted a visit to the Federal Reserve Bank in Manhattan's financial district. The tour is a premier destination for journalists covering the economy. They learn about American banking and how gold is used to transact international payments. They also view tons of gleaming gold the international community deposits in the bank's vault five stories below street level.



Top: Olatz Arrieta, a Basque regional reporter for Spain's ETB-TV, in the press center. Above: Foreign reporters interview a New York police cadet.



it. "They're people who think," he said. He also finds New York "bigger and faster" than Berlin, where his company is based.

But Laura Lazzaroni, a reporter for the Milan publication, *D-La Repubblica Delle Donne*, found just the opposite to be true in getting access to officials.

"Compared to Italy, people are so accessible," she said. "I was shocked." She also found New York inviting. "It's not the tough and cold city that people think."

Sheng-Chao Chang of Taiwan's Central News Agency, who recently moved to New York from Ottawa, marvels at the density of buildings and population. "There's concrete everywhere," he said. "Rush hour at Penn Station is like rivers of people."

Left: The foreign press corps is briefed at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Below: Program Officer JoDell Shields shares a laugh in the center's briefing room.

Visits to *Newsday*, the *New York Times* and CNN for a meeting with columnist and anchor Lou Dobbs are also part of the lineup.

"At CNN, they wanted to debate foreign policy," Ms. Nisbet recalled. "It became a bit tense. Then Mr. Dobbs handed out cigarettes, loosened his tie and everyone immediately relaxed."

Surprisingly, foreign journalists reflect the traditions of their American media counterparts decades ago, she observed, when it was common for a layer of smoke to linger below the newsroom ceiling.

Still, political forums are not overlooked. Through the Washington link, the office featured a news conference with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as an Afghan women's roundtable and a conference with Mark Grossman, under secretary for Political Affairs.

Because of heightened security, the office now processes press credentials for foreign journalists assigned to New York. The city police department previously issued their credentials.

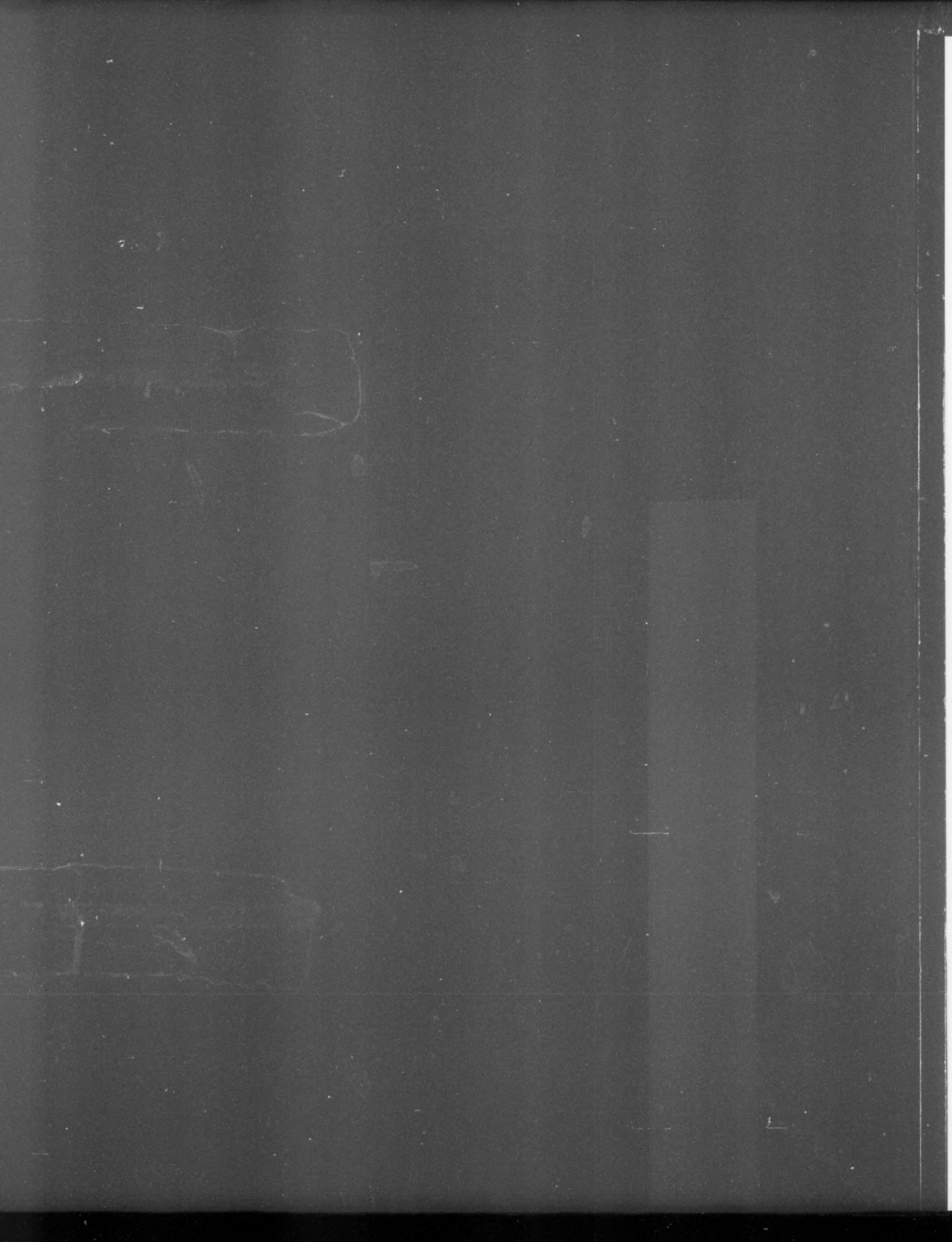
While the office provides access and sources to foreign journalists, they report different experiences dealing with bureaucracy, but voice similar outlooks about the city.

"It's difficult to work here, to get interviews," said Michael Remke, a German reporter for Springer Foreign News Service. "I've tried to get interviews with a lot of administration officials."

A New York resident for six years, Mr. Remke finds the European stereotype of "superficial" Americans without mer-







Press Centers Add Balance; Mergers on the Horizon

As a resource workplace, the foreign press centers are "one-stop shops for the foreign press." Managed by the Bureau of Public Affairs, the centers offer desks, computers, telephones and a staff dedicated to connecting reporters to the Department's decision makers as well as other government officials and people in the news, according to David Ballard, director of the bureau's Office of Foreign Press.

All three centers—Washington, New York and Los Angeles—locate and provide information, making it easier for the foreign press to include the American perspective in their stories.

"We explain things that explain America," Mr. Ballard said. "We want to give them a sense for what America is, beyond the official pronouncements."

Besides support services, he said, each office specializes in its location's fame. Washington, for example, emphasizes politics; New York, culture and finance; Los Angeles, California industries, entertainment and Pacific-rim issues.

"We're the nexus between public affairs and public diplomacy," Mr. Ballard continued.

Part of that means understanding the needs of the foreign press. Foreign reporters, for example, like to ask questions slanted to their nation's interests. Press conference moderators need to recognize this, Mr. Ballard said, and prevent reporters from one region of the world dominating the questions. "We try to add balance to the conference."

Overall, he said, it's evident the offices are doing their jobs keeping the foreign press informed.

"Stories on U.S. policy and American society by foreign media who work with the Foreign Press Centers have a higher degree of factual reporting compared to the stories of many of their colleagues in their homelands."



David Ballard, director, explains the mission of the Foreign Press Center.

While the centers are making a difference in promoting American values overseas, the director predicts a more streamlined operation in five to 10 years. He envisions much of the centers' work being absorbed by the Department where similar tasks are already performed.

"The divisions between the foreign and domestic press are disappearing in many ways due to satellite television, the Internet and the general rush of today's news business," Mr. Ballard said. "For now, the FPCs are still necessary because of the support we provide and the sincere personal touch of our staff. But I can see a time when there will be much less need to provide the foreign media with anything different from what we provide the domestic media."

As the director sees it, the Department can save money and increase efficiency since the foreign and domestic press vie for much of the same information.

"We give briefings," he said, summarizing the Washington office's specialty. "They give briefings in Main State."

"We organize tours for journalists. State has a whole International Visitors Program that does tours."

"We provide information. The State Department has a whole library."

What was once considered a specialty will become part of the Department's regular media-relations service. The director compares the centers to any embassy press office.

Although he directs all the centers, Mr. Ballard lets his managers manage. In fact, he's moving from Washington Foreign Press Center in the National Press Building to Main State, since the Washington center, like the others, has a director.

"I try not to interfere in their work," he said. "They're doing a great job. Nobody likes the micromanager." ■

centers & corners

Program Puts America at Russians' Fingertips

By Ashton Giese

They once lacked access to information about the United States, but today Russians can access it through their own local libraries. American book collections, maps, multimedia and the Internet have reached cities in the country's vast regions through the American Centers and Corners Program.

The program provides efficient grassroots connections to the United States and is becoming an important diplomatic tool. These modes of disseminating information are now being adopted worldwide. Russians even hope to reciprocate with their own Corners in the United States.

For most of the 20th century, the former Soviet Union shielded Russians from America, not only from our weapons but also from American values and way of life. Libraries sometimes served as the only possible access to English literature, yet these materials remained highly censored. When the Russian Federation was established, more information about the United States became available. Millions of Russians, however, still had no grasp of real American culture and no way to understand the U.S. government or American values.

Former Ambassador James Collins recognized that libraries remained the main information resource in Russia—a country spread across 11 time zones. So the U.S. Embassy in Moscow tapped this resource and installed American Centers and Corners within these libraries to create an information bridge to the United States.

"Ambassador Collins wanted to connect Russia's vast regions to America and the answer focused on Russian libraries," stated Eric Johnson, regional information resource officer and former Library of Congress employee.

Centers and Corners usually comprise rooms or, in the case of Centers, multiple rooms, within Russian libraries in large to medium-sized cities. While visiting the library, Russians can stop in the American Corner

to browse English-language texts, research relevant topics and sample American art and music through interactive media. They also can access information on U.S. cultural and political issues as well as publications about U.S. government exchange and assistance programs.



Ambassador Alexander Vershbow opens the American Corner in Arkhangelsk.

Photo by Eric A. Johnson

When he initiated the program, Ambassador Collins insisted that all Corners have Internet access. The nonprofit Project Harmony, based in the United States, established public access Internet sites at each new Center and Corner through funding provided by the Freedom Support Act's Internet Access and Training Program. Thus, Russians also are able to access the Internet at each Center and Corner.

The current U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Alexander Vershbow, continues his predecessor's strong support of Centers and Corners, appearing at many of the nine openings during his tenure.

"We want to give these citizens access to information about the United States, not only for purposes of research but for purposes of action as well," Ambassador Vershbow said. "Businessmen can use Corners to locate prospective clients and suppliers. Students can learn about opportunities for study in the United States. NGO leaders can find colleagues in the United States grappling with the same sorts of issues that they are dealing with here."

Today, there are 25 Centers and Corners in Russia, including Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod, Rostov-Na-Donu and Tomsk, as well as 20 other cities—from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok.

Russians had icon corners in pre-Soviet times that became Red Corners after 1917, according to Mr. Johnson. "Now they have corners promoting the values of democracy, free markets and open access to information."

Centers and Corners provide a useful place to disseminate information and serve as a focal point for outreach. Such activities can include U.S. speakers, presentations on exchange programs, alumni meetings, sessions on topics like grant writing and general contests and exhibits.

"As Russia grapples with the current social and political changes taking place, Corners provide key information on self-government, the rule of law, the free-market economy and individual rights," stated Chris Scharf, former director of speaker programs. Mr. Scharf, like his predecessor Jonathan Mennuti, brought specialists in various fields to a variety of Corners to inform Russians about specific issues and to create bonds between professionals.

Before the 1990s, Mr. Scharf said, Russians were bombarded with propaganda and misinformation about the United States. The Corners program seeks to clear up these misconceptions and create professional relationships that endure and benefit Russians and Americans alike.

Corners also serve as places to recruit members for exchange programs. The International Research and Exchanges Board recently held presentations at the American Corners in Irkutsk and Kazan. Alumni and Americans in the area helped locate and select candidates for the exchange programs.

Directors of the American Corners in Russia fill many roles. They answer hundreds of inquiries from Russians and Americans and they also act as facilitators for exchange pro-

grams. Some even travel to the United States with the Open World Program in the Center for Leadership Development of the Library of Congress.

"I helped librarians who do not speak English visit the United States to understand American culture, tour a different country and take the best from the professional experience of American specialists," stated Slavyana Sagakyan, former director of the Yekaterinburg Center and current information resource center director at the U.S. Consulate in Yekaterinburg. She traveled as a facilitator with small groups of leading Russian librarians and brought them to major cities and small towns in the United States through the Open World Program.

The Russians themselves are largely to blame for the program's success. They have welcomed and even paid to ensure that their communities have access to resources about the United States. In all cases, they have agreed to provide space, overhead costs and staff salaries. The embassy then funds important equipment and key materials, including 1,000 U.S. books, videos, atlases and CD-ROMs. Donation drives, meanwhile, supply Corners with a wide range of English-language literature. In 2002, Corner directors formed a nonprofit organ-

“ The Russians themselves are largely to blame for the program's success. They have welcomed and even paid to ensure that their communities have access to resources about the United States. ”

ization to promote cooperation between Russian and American libraries.

Although the American Corners concept originated in Russia, they have appeared in Serbia, Turkey, Belarus and Ukraine. Corner-like programs are also being planned in other parts of the world as bureaus realize their advantages. Embassy representatives recently participated in a Corners workshop in Bangkok for employees from the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Last year, the Bureaus of European and Eurasian Affairs, Near Eastern Affairs and African Affairs attended Corner workshops in Vienna.

"Corners provide an extremely versatile platform for reaching Russians," stated John Connerley, acting cultural affairs officer. "Many times a Corner will be the first contact a Russian has with America—it is our job in public affairs to ensure that such first impressions are positive and accurate."

Congress sees the program as effective in providing information about U.S. history, government, society and values, access to computers and the Internet and to leveraging U.S. assistance and exchange programs in the Russian Federation. ■

The author interned in the public affairs section of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow last summer and is continuing his studies at the George Washington University.

Photos courtesy of Don Johnson



The repair team poses with Ambassador Amílcar Spencer Lopez, far right, outside the São Nicolau church.

Hands-On Diplomacy Gets Town Clock Ticking

By Don Johnson

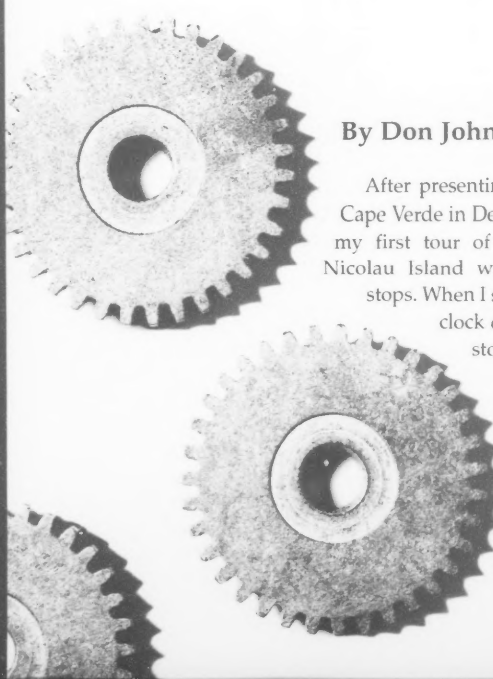
After presenting my credentials in Cape Verde in December 2002, I made my first tour of the islands. São Nicolau Island was among my first stops. When I saw the church tower clock on the main square, I stopped and stared.

You see, I happen to like clocks—collecting them, fixing them and listening to them. I've visited clocks in Beijing, Dublin, Vienna and clock

museums in the United States. I've even studied clocks at the School of Horology in Columbia, Pa.

I got permission to climb the clock tower to see the mechanism firsthand. Covered with dust, congealed grease and ancient oil, it was in a sad state of disrepair. The only clue about its origin was a dial with Kemp Bros. Bristol on it. My best guess was that the clock was about 100 years old. The local town's people said it hadn't worked for the past 20 years. I wondered whether I could contribute to getting it fixed.

Later, in the summer of 2003, Amílcar Spencer Lopes, Cape Verde's former ambassador to the United States and a São Nicolau native, informed me of a committee formed to raise funds for the church's restoration. I asked him about the tower clock. He said the plan was to leave the clock dial in place but to remove the broken mechanical movement and replace it with an electrical one. I urged him to give the old movement one more try.



That's because I'd heard that a Cape Verdean amateur clock-maker named Luis Saldanha had gotten the tower clock in Praia's city hall to work. We contacted him and asked if he would accompany us to Sao Nicolau to see if the tower clock could be saved—or better still—repaired. He agreed, and on July 27, a Sunday, we flew to São Nicolau.

We spent most of the next three days working in the clock tower. Answering the first question—whether the clock mechanism was salvageable—proved easy once we removed the clutter from the tower. Nothing was irretrievably damaged. We reported this to the parish priest and the restoration committee, and they authorized us to clean and repair the clock.

The following day, we spent 12 hours in the clock tower working on the mechanism. It was not lonely work. Besides the crowd in the town square below us, there was a steady flow of volunteers and local citizens eager to learn how things were going. The town's older citizens proved to be our most interested and dedicated supporters. After 20 years without the clock, they couldn't wait for us to get the job done.

We had our fair share of surprises. The first was a loose dial; half the wooden supports holding the dial to the tower wall had rotted away. We had to find pieces of mahogany to reinforce the dial before removing the hands and gears that drive the hands. Then we discovered that the floorboards supporting part of the mechanism were loose. That meant another detour while we installed triangular reinforcements. Finally, we discovered some scoring on the anchor that regulates the clock. That had to be fixed as well. And then there was the unglamorous job of scraping the pigeon guano off the bell.

That job fell to me—presumably on the theory that senior diplomats are skilled at coping with guano.

Credit for accomplishing the other tasks goes to Luis Saldanha. He was the person who solved the tough technical problems. But what amazed me was how we could send out word that we needed a drill, or heavy screws or a strong piece of mahogany and the São Nicolau volunteers would fan out around town and return with what we needed. We had real town-wide support from the moment we moved the first dusty pieces of wood in the clock tower.

Two days of work brought us to the moment when we were finally able to give the pendulum a push, set it ticking and wait—for nearly 30 minutes—so we could see if the mechanism would go through the first full strike sequence. Our

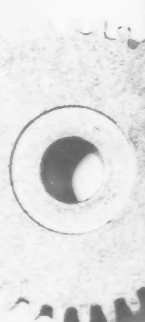
Detective Work Leads to Clock Manufacturer

The clock in Sao Nicolau offered very little in the way of clues about its date of manufacture. It did offer one vital piece of information. Kemp Bros. Bristol was stamped on an interior dial. I wanted to learn more about the company and the clock's date of manufacture.

A member, I contacted the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors in Columbia, Pa., for any records they might have. Remarkable as it may seem to the nonspecialist, there are books documenting the dates of business for clock manufacturers in the major watch and clock-making centers of the world. The association reported that the company had been founded in the late 19th century and they directed me to a web site about a tower clock made and installed by Kemp Bros. They even suggested the company might still be in business.

I contacted Greg Gardner at the U.S. Embassy in London and asked if he could look in a British commercial guide for a company called Kemp Brothers in Bristol. He got back to me with a name, address and phone number. I called the Bristol number from Cape Verde, startling the person at the other end. He confirmed that this was indeed Kemp Brothers Jewelers and that they were the successors of the Kemp Bros. who had manufactured clocks in the late 19th century.

That was the good news. When I asked whether the company had any records about the clock in Sao Nicolau, I was told that all the company's records had been destroyed when their building was bombed during the blitz in World War II. They were delighted to know that one of their clocks was still running, but with no records prior to 1940 remaining, it was impossible to assign a more precise date for the manufacture of the clock. The hunt for a date of manufacture continues.



group of loyal volunteers joined us for the vigil. There was a lot of nervous looking at wrist-watches as the minutes ticked down, but loud cheers and applause when the bell rang again for the first time.

Naturally, getting a very old tower clock to work again was immensely satisfying. Even better, however, was when ordinary citizens of São Nicolau expressed their delight at hearing the bells sound in their town again. ■

The author is U.S. Ambassador to Cape Verde.

Luis Saldanha and Don Johnson at work on the clock.



If it's fall, it's time for the ball. That could be the catchphrase for posts throughout the world as demand soars for tickets and information about the annual Marine Corps anniversary party. A social highlight of most embassies, the ball lets diplomats, spouses and dates socialize with the local Marine Corps detachment that sponsors and organizes the event.



Marine Ball Carries on 80-Year Tradition

★ By Paul Koscak



The celebrations can range from a small cake-cutting party of Marines assigned to a remote location to a formal reception with dinner, music and high-profile guest speaker.

The tradition began in 1921 when the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps directed the service to celebrate the Corps's founding by the Continental Congress on Nov. 10, 1775, according to Master Sgt. Heerwig Klaus, who commands the newly installed Marine detachment in Belgrade.

Today, 82 years later, Marines worldwide still use the ball to showcase the traditions, values and culture that identify America's premier military organization. Although the celebrations are held both on land and at sea, the post balls are where employees can best identify with the Marine Corps.

"Last year's ball was held in the Marriott Plaza Hotel in a grand ballroom overlooking the historical Plaza San Martín," said Heidi Inder, the Buenos Aires community liaison officer. "It was a lovely room with lots of marble, ornate curtains, red carpets and chandeliers."



Marines in Madrid roll out the cake.

The celebration, about 300 people strong, featured a troupe that performed tangos and traditional dances from northern Argentina, she said.



Right: Marines in Madrid "guard" their birthday cake before the celebration begins. Bottom: Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields, deputy commander of Marine Corps Forces Europe, congratulates Madrid Marine guards.

While planning this year's ball in Lomé, Togo, Heidi Harting recalled the gala she attended last year in Madrid. Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields, deputy commander of the Marine Corps Forces Europe, and George Argyros, the U.S. Ambassador to Spain, were among the guests. Richard Berteau, a World War II Marine fighter pilot, was honored as the "oldest" marine in attendance.

Ms. Harting, who works as a consular associate and is married to Staff Sgt. Gregory Harting, Lomé's detachment commander, said this year's festivities will be at a local hotel. Although the balls all share a similar venue of music and dinner, it's the small touches "like roses for the ladies and the special honored guests that set apart the great balls from the good ones."

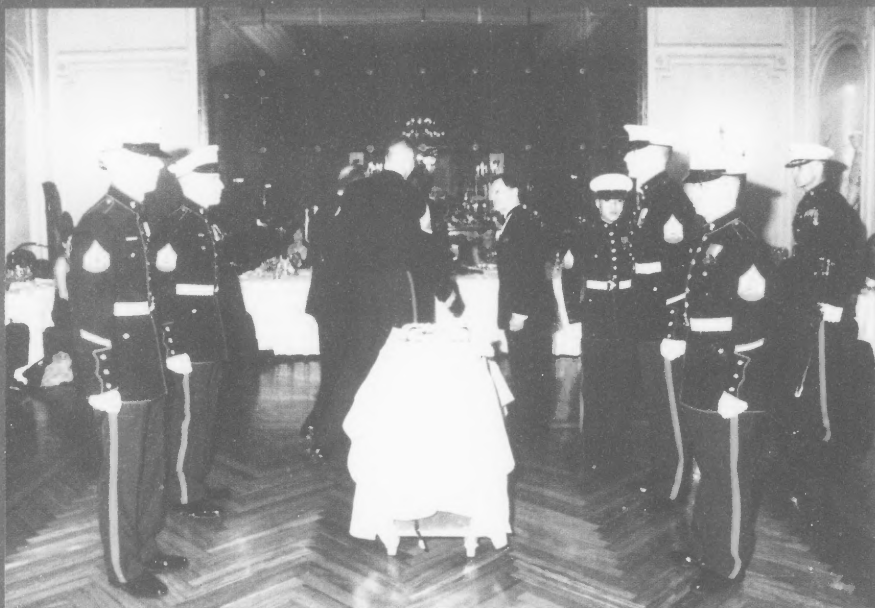
The oldest Marine at the Vilnius ball last year was 81. Other personalities in attendance were Maj. Gen. Jonas Kronkaitis, commander of Lithuania's armed forces, who's a retired U.S. Army colonel, and Linas Linkevicius, Lithuania's defense minister.

What was most amazing about last year's ball was the last-minute location change, said Marcia Barker, the new community liaison officer at Vilnius. Because of President Bush's visit, Vilnius's historic town hall, where the ball was originally scheduled, was unavailable. In short order, Vilnius's Marine

detachment—just six Marines—located an equally elegant location, Le Meridien Villon Resort. The ball drew more than 200 guests.

Even the threat of bombs and bullets didn't stop the Marine Security Guards from throwing a bash at Jerusalem's Crowne Plaza Hotel. Embassy staff volunteered to fill in for the guards so the Marines could attend the festivities, reports Doreen Carlson-Doyle, the community liaison officer.

Here in Washington, D.C., the Quantico Marine Corps Base is planning a ball at a local hotel.



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Madrid

Military Ball Sustains Legacy, Preserves Traditions

By Master Sgt. Klaus Heerwig

Regardless of location, whether on ship, on the battlefield, in garrison or on deployment, Marines gather each year to celebrate the birth of the Corps. They tell sea stories, honor those who came before and pass on traditions for junior Marines to carry well into the future.

Large detachments have elaborate celebrations, others with just a few Marines have just a cake-cutting ceremony. Regardless of the scope, the anniversary is formally recognized throughout the Corps. There are even published guidelines outlining the proper protocols and events.

Newly activated, the Marine Security Guard detachment in Belgrade will host the Marine Corps Ball Nov. 8 at a Belgrade hotel. It's one of the year's largest and most anticipated events.

When you consider that most Marines are not social directors, organizing a ball presents quite a challenge, especially for very small detachments managed by a corporal or sergeant. Nevertheless, they plan an event fit for ambassadors, heads of state and other dignitaries. Although a fall gala, planning usually begins in January.

Activated July 31, the Belgrade detachment had a lot to accomplish in a short time before tickets went on sale Oct. 1.

For a memorable event, each Marine is assigned a task: decorations, ballroom setup, music and entertainment, food and beverages, gifts and floral arrangements, hotel negotiations, invitations and programs, to name just a few. They plan the ceremony, make the proper protocol arrangements such as seating and then work throughout the evening to ensure a perfectly choreographed production. The same Marines who plan and manage the ball become part of it, too.

The big day starts early. First, replacements arrive from other embassies to stand duty so these Marines can work the ball. When it's time for other detachments to hold their balls, the favor's returned.

The Marines work all day placing seating cards, decorating the ballroom and rehearsing the program. They usually work right up to a few hours before show time.

About 7 p.m., the Marines form a receiving line to greet the guests, sometimes as many as 300. Following a cocktail hour, guests proceed into the ballroom, where the gala starts officially. At 8 p.m., the head table guests and guest of honor enter and the Marine color guard presents the American and Marine Corps flags. After some recognitions, everyone is seated and the program continues with presentations

about Marine Corps traditions, a message from the Secretary of State or the President and finally the official birthday-cake presentation.

A Marine formation delivers the cake. This is a special moment, the actual birthday ceremony. The sword used to cut the cake reminds everyone that Marines are warriors, committed to peace. The first piece of cake is given to the



The Marine Security Guard Detachment planned Madrid's celebration.

oldest Marine, signifying honor, respect, experience and seniority. The oldest Marine then passes a piece of cake to the youngest Marine, symbolizing how older Marines lead and nurture.

After the detachment commander and the guest of honor offer their remarks and introduce other Marines, the ceremony ends. A four-course meal, entertainment and music follow.

The reception line, color guard, cake detail and any other protocol requirements are accomplished by the same Marines, flawlessly moving from one function to the next.

Because of improving conditions in Serbia-Montenegro, a nation torn by civil strife and war, this will be Belgrade's largest ball in 15 years. ■

Master Sgt. Heerwig is the Marine Security Guard detachment commander at the American Embassy, Belgrade.



Photos courtesy of Betsy Orlando

This station, located just before the Armenian border, was one of the few on the trip.

Courier Service

Delivering Pouches Is Not Glamorous Work • By Betsy Orlando

If you think delivering diplomatic pouches is glamorous work, you'd be wrong. I should know. I've delivered pouches since 1992 to more than 160 countries from bases in Washington, D.C., Bangkok, Helsinki and Frankfurt. Take, for instance, the trips from Frankfurt to Tblisi and Djibouti.

After arriving in the early morning hours and resting in one of Tblisi's best hotels, I walked about the city. Much of Tblisi's charm has survived the Soviet era. Buildings still exist from the turn of the century. Unfortunately, they look as if nothing has been done to them since. Some are being renovated while others continue to be inhabited or used for stores.

The next morning I started the journey to Yerevan. Luckily, my pouch was small enough to fit into a sports utility vehicle. The ride out of the city was relatively easy. Once into the countryside, however, the road fell into disrepair and finally disappeared. For most of the ride to the Armenian border, the road consisted of leveled rocks. Cars with broken axles and flat tires were abandoned along the road.

While poor, Armenia seemed quite lush and green. Yerevan sprawled over a cluster of hills as if someone had scattered pale white building blocks throughout the landscape. There is no downtown, only unending rows of concrete.

The exterior of the Hotel Yerevan was unimpressive, but the interior was an ecstasy of color—with classical design features marred only by gaudy lobby furniture. After the overnight stay in Tblisi, this was like checking into a hospital room. Fortunately, there was a pool and I enjoyed a brief swim and rest before my wake-up call at 2:30 a.m.

Djibouti is a difficult place to service. Few airlines fly into the capital. Three large bags, each the size of a refrigerator when filled, were stuck in Addis Ababa, awaiting delivery. I decided to take them overland to Djibouti. On the map, the route looked easy enough. I was to learn differently.

Flying from Djibouti back to Addis Ababa, I stared down at the desert landscape. It was not until Ethiopia that brown turned to green. Seemingly, the landscape looked flat—a deceptive illusion. When I looked down, it was hard to believe that a few days earlier I had been riding in a van across that endless stretch wondering if a helicopter could rescue me.

I had been told the roads were good. My driver and his companion, both Ethiopians, had stocked our van with extra gas, another tire, water and provisions. The road was quite good in the beginning. Once beyond the city, there was little life except for scrub bushes and a few trees. I listened to Coptic Christian music on the radio.

After scaling one hill, we came to a valley where the bridge was gone, so we drove down a hill, through the valley and back up another hill. We then came upon a rapidly moving river. Again, no bridge. This time there were men standing by to coach trucks through the river. We were guided to low water

and made our way across. We got stuck a few times but the guides pushed us out.

We made it to the border of Ethiopia and Djibouti. It was more than 100 degrees in the sun. We actually drove past a shack marking the border crossing. That's when we discovered that I had a visa problem. At first, the officials refused to let me into the country.

After much haggling in French, one of the guards relented. We agreed to take him with us in the van to the next village where I could get a visa. Once in Djibouti, we entered one of the most inhospitable deserts on earth. There was no road, just



A McDonald's in downtown Tblisi.

hardened sand tracks. I developed a migraine, felt incredibly sick and just wanted to stop.

We made it to a small town—10 houses in the middle of nowhere—found the official's home, paid the \$20. I was now legal. Before we dropped off the guard at the edge of town, I gave him a small bottle of water for saving me from border-crossing purgatory. Where he would go and how he would get there, I had no idea.

After traveling a paved road, we found the embassy contact waiting for us. When we finally entered Djibouti after 15 hours on the road without rest, I nearly wept from relief. I could now look forward to sleeping in an air-conditioned room with a bath and bed.

Such is the glamorous life of a diplomatic courier. ■

A diplomatic courier currently based in Frankfurt, the author is a poet and former law clerk and court advocate in Ohio.

Opening the Door Carefully

FSI Retools
Consular Training

By Stuart Hatcher



“I’m from Staten Island,”

Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Maura Harty told students in the Advanced Consular Course. “I watched them build the World Trade Center and for a while I worked two blocks away.”

She said she and her husband recently visited Ground Zero, where she purchased a paperweight with the Twin Towers, an American eagle and flag. It now sits on her desk and reminds her daily to ask, “Are we doing enough?”

The students made their own pilgrimage to Ground Zero. While they were there a wreath was delivered on behalf of a group of 30 Buddhist monks from India, testifying eloquently to how the world was touched and continues to be touched by the events of that day.

Davella May, who represents the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey—the authority lost 37 police officers on Sept. 11—expressed her appreciation that visa officers are so dedicated to their work that they would visit this site.

But you don’t have to be from New York to understand how profoundly the consular environment has changed in the last two years. Almost all consular officers, whether they have visited Ground Zero or not, have engaged in intense self-examination since 9/11, asking themselves what they can do better to safeguard the nation.

The 42 officers who attended the two summer sessions of the advanced course brainstormed on the question in developing a consular affairs improvement project. While their grief is still palpable, the consular corps is determined to accept the new challenges. Fortunately, they will not be bearing these heavy responsibilities alone. Secretary Powell, the Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Foreign Service Institute have all pledged to give consular officers the tools they need to cope with the post-9/11 world.

Secretary Powell, recognizing the difficult work of the consular officer, told the students, “I want to get you the resources to do that job.” He said he was sending a message with his appointment of a new assistant secretary for Consular Affairs. “I picked Maura Harty because I wanted someone I had confidence in, someone from the consular corps. I wanted you to know I had confidence in you. I wanted Congress to know I had confidence in you. And I wanted the President to know I had confidence in you.”

The bureau has adopted a number of visa policy changes and new security measures for visa and passport processing. To keep pace with these changes, Consular Affairs has created consular management assistance teams to consult with consular sections worldwide and to help them comply with regulations and implement standard operating procedures. Thirty of these new procedures are already in place in every consular section.

The bureau’s Office of Fraud Prevention Programs now hosts a vulnerability assessment unit to spot anomalies in visa issuances, at times highlighting a misapplication of a law or procedure and at other times serving as an early warning against possible malfeasance. A DS agent will join the team sometime this fall to ensure closer cooperation with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

Meanwhile, FSI has made substantial changes in consular training and will complete those revisions by mid-October. The Basic Consular Course will be extended from 26 to 31 days. Briefings from the Central Intelligence Agency, Diplomatic Security, the Coordinator for Counterterrorism and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research have been added and will be expanded. With the help of behavioral science and law enforcement professionals, training on interviewing techniques has been doubled and additional training on detecting

deception will be introduced. Some of these elements were "road tested" with the advanced course. Suggestions from the experienced officers who took the course will enrich it further.

Though most of the changes have focused on border security issues, participants in the course were reminded that border security is not the bureau's only mission.

"I've told the President we've got to be secure," the Secretary told the students, "but we've also got to be open, because we are not America unless we're open. The difficult job is to strike the right balance." To underline this message, the advanced course students followed their visit to Ground Zero with a tour of nearby Ellis Island, where the federal government began processing immigrants in 1892.

In addition to ensuring secure borders and open doors, the Secretary also reminded the consular officers that they are there to provide a safety net for Americans overseas. He spoke with pride about the letters he has received from Americans who were in distress overseas. They had nowhere to turn, so they turned to the embassy, where a consular officer stood by them and handled their problems until they were solved.

"And for this," he said, "I'm proud of you. And I want you to go back to all of your posts and tell everybody how proud I am of you and of them." ■

The author is deputy coordinator for consular training at the Foreign Service Institute.

Consular Profiles

Students of the Advanced Consular Course were asked to submit brief haiku-like impressions to appear with their photos in the course syllabus. Here are four students' entries:



Andre Goodfriend

My mother's father's yellowed passport "pour se rendre à Phoenix, Arizona (U.S.A.)" hangs on the wall. An Egyptian passport, issued to a Greek Cypriot British citizen. On the back is a U.S. visa issued in Le Havre in 1919. At 22, my grandmother sailed from Cyprus to marry him. With an American passport, she flew back 50 years later.

My father's family came as refugees after World War II. No visas and only memories left behind.

My children still wonder what I do.



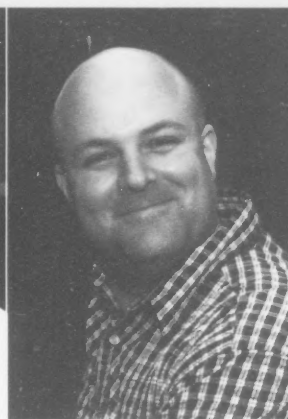
Corinna Ybarra Arnold-Matamoros

They look scared to come talk to me. They do not see me as a person, just the American behind the window. Some of them have heard about me; they hope they get someone else. I ask questions, they stand there nervously and sometimes they go numb. I go home and think about the lives I have touched throughout the day. Some were happy because I changed their lives, but the others lost money and hope. I followed the law, but now some see me as an angel and others as the devil, but I am simply a consular officer.



Katherine McGowen

We planned to see America during our home leave. On June 6, 2003, I packed the SUV full with two kids and luggage and drove headlong into the heart of America. We visited the pristine beauty of Yellowstone National Park, the majesty of Mount Rushmore and the wonder of the caves of the Black Hills. We rushed to see the awesome colors of the Badlands and the surprising silent beauty of Put-in Bay. 5,000 miles. Fourteen days. Welcome home.



Benjamin Ousley

Indefinite validity border-crossing cards, or "micas," were issued to Mexican residents for more than 50 years by the INS. Two of my three assignments have been in Mexico working with State's Laser Visa project to replace them. My professional life is uniquely marked by the "mica."

This mica, his companion for 10,000 days, is a time machine that shows the boy who became the man. The boy in the photo has his life ahead of him, the man in my window his life behind. Does his son standing with him know that his father once had dreams too?

Photos courtesy of Stuart Hatcher

Conferees Focus on Combating Anti-Semitism

By In-Mi Gosnell

In a conference hall near the balcony where Hitler announced to cheering crowds in 1938 that Nazi Germany had annexed Austria, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani led a U.S. delegation 65 years later to call the world's attention to the unfortunate resurrection of anti-Semitism.

The June conference in Vienna attracted more than 400 representatives of government and non-governmental organizations from the 55 member nations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It was the OSCE's first conference devoted exclusively to anti-Semitism.

A U.S. initiative, the conference was launched last December at the OSCE ministerial in Porto, Portugal, where U.S. Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes urged the council to hold such a meeting. The council's agreement to sponsor the forum followed a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in many participating states. The June meeting was a natural outgrowth of the OSCE's work on human rights and was part of a continuing U.S. effort to persuade other participating states that the upsurge is global in scope. The attendees discussed effective legislative, legal and educational strategies to counter the problem.

President Bush's choice of former Mayor Giuliani to head the U.S. delegation reflected his interest in the conference. In his message read to conferees, the President reminded them of their "responsibility to confront and denounce anti-Semitism and the violence it causes." He urged them to search for effective ways to fight it.

Mayor Giuliani's earlier op-ed piece in the *New York Times* alerted Americans both to the increase in anti-Semitic incidents and to the conference itself. He drew on his experience as New York's mayor to suggest practical measures to combat anti-Semitism, including systematic compilation of statistics on anti-Semitic incidents, the passage of effective hate crimes legislation, the establishment of educational programs and the careful analysis of data by law enforcement to better target the perpetrators of such acts.

Mr. Giuliani proposed that the OSCE act as a clearinghouse for data collection and that it hold an annual meeting to ana-



Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani addresses the Vienna forum.

Photo courtesy of In-Mi Gosnell

lyze results. The former mayor's proposal would have OSCE's participating states collect and share national statistics on anti-Semitism and other hate crimes—those crimes directed against particular ethnic, racial, religious or other distinct groups. The OSCE will have an opportunity to consider this proposal at a December meeting in Maastricht.

The U.S. delegation worked closely with several European delegations and NGOs to build a coalition to fight anti-Semitism. Signatures have been collected on a joint plan of action from parliamentarians from Germany, France, Hungary, Russia, Belgium, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Albania and Austria. France discussed its new hate crime legislation as a model to increase punishment for anti-Semitic violence. As evidence of the continuing seriousness of the problem, the German government has proposed a follow-up conference be held next year in Berlin. The United States strongly supports such a conference. ■

The author is a public affairs adviser at the US OSCE.

OUR TOWN

Pittsburgh May Not Be Paris, But It Has Its Charms

By Dan Simpson

My wife Libby and I approached the question of where to go after retirement, from Bosnia-Herzegovina, with puzzlement. I'm from Ohio. Libby is from Louisiana, California and Paris. Our children and grandchildren are, in alphabetical order, in Cleveland, London, New York, Paris and Washington, D.C.

So why Pittsburgh?

The short answer is that the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* offered me a post-Foreign Service job that I really wanted: associate editor and member of its editorial board. If it had been the same job at a comparable newspaper in another major city, I would have taken it.

Pittsburgh is great. It is an old city. "Old" for us is good. It retains most of the cultural infrastructure and some of the sophistication of the city it once was. At the end of the 19th century, for example, it rivaled New York for financial and industrial pre-eminence in the United States.

It is beautiful, located at the juncture of the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers, its origin and *raison d'être* when it was founded in the 18th century. It has rivers, valleys, hills, old churches, ethnic neighborhoods and a certain gritty quality that reflects its industrial, immigrant origins.

We found a penthouse downtown. As a result, there's no commute and plenty of exercise. I walk to work, and we can walk to the cultural district for concerts and plays and to

Pittsburgh's new riverside football and baseball fields to watch the Steelers and Pirates.

In practical terms, Pittsburgh is a reasonably inexpensive place to live, by comparison, for example, to Washington, D.C. It is generally estimated that in terms of quality of living \$45,000 in Pittsburgh will get you what would cost \$125,000 in Washington or New York. Medical care is cutting edge.

Pennsylvania does not tax government annuities. Pittsburgh does get a bit carried away with taxes. That's

because of an archaic governmental structure that includes the city, Allegheny County and some 130 boroughs in the metropolitan area. That translates into a sizable number of employees on the public payroll.

Libby and I are very fond of "Our Town," Pittsburgh. It has enough of an international relations community with its uni-

versities, companies and organizations to make an old foreign affairs type feel at home. Life continues to be too complicated in its evolution to say whether we will stay here until the bitter end, although those old cemeteries on the hills do offer inviting views. ■

You can reach the author at dsimpson@Post-Gazette.com.

Editor's note: *Our Town* is an occasional feature about retirees and their choice of retirement spots. If you'd like to contribute, please write or e-mail the editor at goodmancw@state.gov.



Photo courtesy of Dan Simpson

Libby and Dan Simpson with the scenic Pittsburgh skyline.

Wherever You Go, Ergonomics Is Sure to Follow

By Regina K. McClelland

By now you are familiar with the term ergonomics. You most likely heard it on the job or in the news media. Although the focus of ergonomics has traditionally been on the workplace, ergonomic risk factors can have an impact on you on official travel, at home or at play.

Ergonomics is the study of the relationship between people and their working environment. The formal study of ergonomics is new, but the importance of a "good fit" between humans and their tools was evident early when Prometheus made scoops from antelope bones, clearly creating objects to make tasks easier.

In recent years, the term ergonomics has become one of those buzzwords that we hear too often, particularly in the marketing of products. Manufacturers try to create products that are easy to use and visually pleasing. They do not always succeed but they make the ergonomic claims anyway. Don't let the hype make you skeptical about ergonomic concepts and principles designed to reduce the risk of musculoskeletal disorders.

Musculoskeletal disorders are injuries caused by excessive repetitive motions, awkward and static posture and contact stress. Examples include tendinitis, herniated disks and carpal tunnel syndrome. Pain, tingling and numbness are symptoms often associated with these disorders.

Achieving a good physical fit is not always easy. Considering the range in human body sizes across the population, one size seldom fits all. Using adjustable chairs, keyboard trays and monitor platforms or arms at your computer workstation can help you work in neutral posture. This is the best way to avoid a musculoskeletal disorder. To ensure good user posture, you should be able to reach the keyboard keys with your wrists straight; bend elbows at or greater than 90 degrees; relax the upper arms; keep elbows close to the body; sit back in the chair; place feet flat on the floor or on a footrest; keep head and neck as straight as possible and make sure that you feel relaxed.

When you use your laptop computer while traveling, carry an external keyboard and mouse if you are going to be using it for extended periods. Also, carry a laptop stand with you to elevate your monitor. This will help you avoid bending to see the monitor and straining your neck and shoulders to work on the small keyboard. Using an adaptable, portable workstation will decrease injury and fatigue. Don't forget to take breaks. Get out of your seat and stretch, especially on an airplane.

Doing needlework, weight training, playing sports and musical instruments can trigger musculoskeletal disorders or aggravate a previous injury. If you lift weights, play golf and other sports infrequently, you should condition your body to become fit enough to participate in these activities. Using the proper techniques, stance, seating and hand/wrist positioning are as important in these activities as they are on the job.

It may surprise you that whether doing needlework, keyboarding, playing the piano or participating in sports, it is important to stretch before starting. Most of these activities involve some kind of repetitive motion that is often combined with some degree of force or awkward posture. You can avoid most injuries by maintaining your general fitness so that your body can cope with stresses and strains.

Effective task and job design takes into account human needs such as rest breaks. If you do computer work at home or on travel, have a hobby or play sports, you should incorporate rest breaks into those activities. It is important to listen to your own body and rest when you're physically stressed.

To minimize your potential for experiencing musculoskeletal disorders, consider evaluating key high stress or repetitive activities and try to understand the demands they place on your body. This will help you change your techniques and enable you to avoid injury, be more productive and improve your work and leisure life. ■

The author is an ergonomics specialist in the Office of Safety, Health and Environmental Management.

Photo courtesy of Gail Johnson-Pop

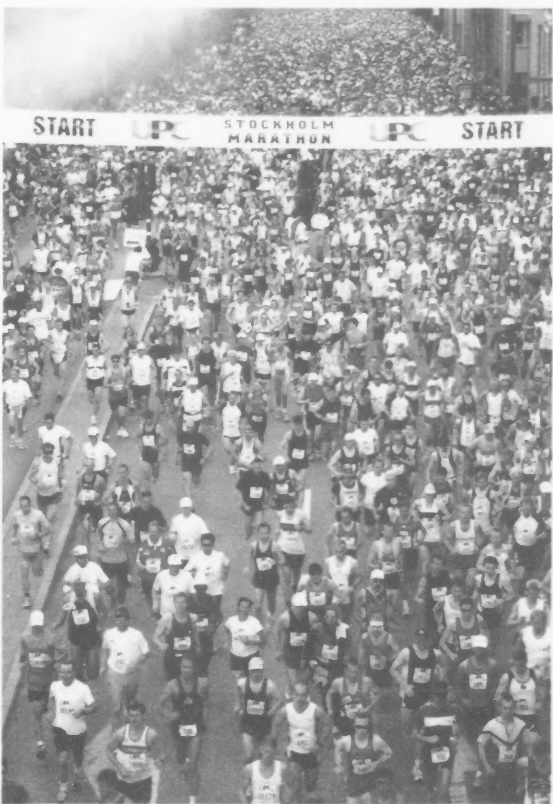


Photo courtesy of Action Sports International

Top: Stephanie Bunce, left, Gail Johnson-Pop and Angela Barroso train in Herastrau Park in Bucharest. Above: The 25th Annual Stockholm Marathon starts with a bang.

3 on the Run

By Gail Johnson-Pop

On a chilly, overcast January day, two women colleagues and I decided to outpace our winter blues and train for the 25th Annual Stockholm Marathon.

Master Sgt. Angela Barroso, detachment commander, and Stephanie Bunce, vice consul, and I agreed that finishing the race strong, not achieving a specific time, would be our goal. I had run the marathon once before, but it would be my running mates' first.

Stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, we followed a training schedule from *Runner's World* magazine. The training schedule, however, did not advise us how to overcome such obstacles as icy park trails and short daylight hours. These kept us inside on treadmills for the first few months. As winter turned to spring, we traded in the treadmills for parks and streets. While the training was hard, the biggest challenge proved to be finding time in our busy schedules to run 20-35 miles per week. It was often after the last visa interview of the day or at 6 a.m., following a swing shift.

After months of logging 18- to 20-mile runs and numerous shorter runs, we were ready for the big event. We arrived in Sweden a few days before the June 14 race and calmed our pre-race jitters touring Stockholm with a Swedish friend.

The race began at Stockholm's Olympic Stadium at 2 p.m. As novice runners, we were grouped with other first-time marathoners. The runners, about 12,000 strong, lapped the city twice over the course of the race, passing the Royal Palace and the U.S. Embassy and traversing downtown Stockholm along the Baltic Sea harbor.

Though not setting record times, we all finished the race and are currently planning our next marathon. If you'd like to join us in our next race, e-mail BarrosoAR2@state.gov, BunceSA@state.gov or JohnsonPopG@state.gov. ■

The author is consular outreach coordinator in Bucharest.

People Like You



Photos courtesy of Darryn Martin

When He Gets the Blues, He Grabs the Harp

By Darryn "Dutch" Martin

*Blues with a feeling. That's what I have today.
Blues with a feeling. That's what I have today.
I'm gonna find my baby, if it takes all night and day.*

*"Blues With a Feeling" by Little Walter,
circa 1950*

Harmonica Sources

Here's a list of helpful harp resources.

www.gindick.com

Jon Gindick's web site has information and products for those desiring to learn to play the harmonica for the first time.

www.harmonicamasterclass.com

You, too, can enjoy a workshop in Hawaii.

www.harmonicalessons.com

An excellent resource for all harmonica enthusiasts.

www.leeoskar.com

The Danish harp player from the group WAR has been marketing his own brand of high-quality harmonicas since the 1980s.

The harmonica gets little respect. It's a pedestrian instrument for playing tunes like "Oh, Susanna" and "Red River Valley."

That was my view, too, until I started learning how to play. Only then was I exposed to some of the most powerful and beautifully sounding music—blues music in particular—ever recorded. And the lowly harmonica was the lead instrument.

This music came from artists like Little Walter, Big Walter Horton, Junior Wells, James Cotton, Rice Miller, George Smith, Norton Buffalo, Mark Hummel and Kim Wilson, to name just a few. When these performers placed a harmonica next to a microphone connected to an amplifier, they made sounds and moved people in ways I never thought possible.

Since learning more about the harmonica's contribution to blues music, I have developed a much deeper love and respect for this little 10-hole instrument, one that Otis Spann, Muddy Waters's piano player, called "the mother of the band."

The harmonica, or "harp" as it is also called, has played an integral part in blues music as long as there has been blues music, according to Kim Field, author of *Harmonicas, Harps and Heavy Breathers: The Evolution of the People's Instrument*. It was the ideal instrument for the part-time or roving musician: small, portable, versatile and, best of all, cheap. From the earliest days of recorded blues onward, you can find the sharp sounds of what is also called the "Mississippi Saxophone" echoing through the tracks, observed Field in her book.

According to CD liner notes in "Blues Masters, Volume 4, Harmonica Classics," early blues pioneers like Will Shade, Noah Lewis, Hammie Nixon and Jaybird Coleman brought the sounds of the harmonica into the juke joints, house parties and fish fries of the Deep South. As the blues moved to the urban centers of the North, so did the sounds of the harmonica. In Chicago, men like Jazz Gillum and John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson transformed the country sounds of the harmonica in the 1920s to blend with the

sophisticated Chicago blues being played in the '30s and early '40s. During the war years, thousands of workers migrated North. With them came musicians from the backwoods and rural areas of the South. The conditions were ripe for blues harmonica, especially in Chicago.

My first harmonica lesson came from a beginner's instructional tape by Jon Gindick and B.B. King. After gaining a strong foundation in blues harmonica music from the tape, I wanted to learn more. And I did—through books and CD sets, instructional tapes and workshops. One of these was in Honolulu—not a bad place for a workshop.

David Barrett, Harmonica Masterclass founder and president, and Mark Hummel, harmonica player and blues bandleader, taught the workshop for 20 participants from

the United States and several other countries.

The workshop culminated in a Saturday evening concert with each of us performing the individual blues harp solos our instructors had helped us compose during the week. I've never had a summer experience like it. Since then, I have been inspired to practice on my harmonica daily for at least 20 to 30 minutes.

Whenever I get bored or discouraged about my progress on the harmonica, I frequently go back to an e-mail I received



The author performs with a local band.

from Norton Buffalo. A Grammy-winning musician, he is one of the most versatile harmonica players I've ever heard. When I e-mailed him several months ago to express my appreciation for his music and harp skills, he thanked me and ended his e-mail with some words of encouragement that keep me going: "Keep wailing on that harp." ■

The author is the assistant general services officer in Rabat.

George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center

Education & Training

The Department's Mandatory Leadership and Management Training Requirements

The Secretary of State has mandated leadership training from mid through senior grade levels for Foreign Service officers and Civil Service employees to ensure that they have the necessary preparation for increasing levels of responsibility. FSI's Leadership and Management School offers the required courses to meet these mandatory training requirements and other courses for all employees.

Mandatory Courses

- FS 3/GS 13: Basic Leadership Skills (PT245)
- FS 2/GS 14: Intermediate Leadership Skills (PT207)
- FS 1/GS 15: Advanced Leadership Skills (PT210)
- Newly promoted FS-OC/SES: Senior Executive Threshold Seminar (PT133)
- EEO Diversity Awareness for Managers and Supervisors (PT107)

Some Nonmandatory Recommendations for All FS and GS Employees:

- Employee Relations Seminar (PT246)
- Managing People Problems (PT121)
- Teambuilding (PT129)
- Performance Management Seminar (PT205)
- Creative Problem Solving Workshop (PT212)
- Managing Conflict Productively (PT214)
- Influence by Design (PT224)
- Valuing Diversity in the Workplace (PT225)
- Productively Managing Stress (PT251)
- Managing Up (PT252)

For more information, contact FSI's Leadership and Management School at (703) 302-6743, FSILMS InfoBox @state.gov or <http://fsiweb.fsi.state.gov/fsi/lms/default.asp>

Transition Center	Dec	Jan	Length
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Dates for FSI Transition Center Courses follow. For information on all the courses available at FSI, visit the FSI Schedule of Courses on the Department of State's OpenNet at <http://fsi.state.gov>. FY 2003/2004 dates are now available in the online catalog. See Department notices for announcements of new courses and new course dates and periodic announcements of external training opportunities sponsored by FSI.

Security

SOS: Security Overseas Seminar (MQ911)	1,22	5,20	2D
ASOS: Advanced Security Overseas Seminar (MQ912)	9	13	1 D
TDY SOS: Security Overseas Seminar (MQ913)	1	5,20	1 D

Foreign Service Life Skills

Regulations, Allowances & Finances (MQ104)	1		3 D
Explaining America (MQ115)		30	1 D
Protocol & U.S. Representation Abroad (MQ116)		24	1 D
Managing Rental Property Overseas (MQ853)		14	2.5H
Emergency Medical Care and Trauma Workshop (MQ915)		28	1 D

Career Transition Center

Retirement Planning Seminar (RV101)	9		4D
Financial and Estate Planning (RV103)	11		1 D
Annuities & Benefits and Social Security (RV104)	10		1 D

School of Language Studies

Increased language enrollments due to the Diplomatic Readiness Initiative have required FSI's School of Language Studies to change class schedules. Classes are being run in double sessions. The morning session may begin as early as 7:30 a.m. and the afternoon session may end as late as 5:30 p.m.

FasTrac Distance Learning Program, Learn at Your Own Pace, When and Where You Want.

All State Department employees. LES and EFM's, are eligible. FasTrac offers more than 3,000 courses on numerous topics. Training is conducted online through the Internet and the Department's OpenNet. Students may complete courses for inclusion on their official FSI transcript or take a course module they need to "get the job done." Course lengths vary from two to eight hours and knowledge preassessments may shorten learning plans. To view the complete FasTrac catalog, visit the FasTrac web site at <http://fsi.state.gov/fastrac>. For additional information, please contact the Distance Learning Coordinator at the Office of the Registrar (703) 302-7497.

NOTE: Smartforce courses originally offered through the School of Information Technology are now a part of the Skillssoft library, identified as "Skillssoft IT." Be sure to review these courses when taking advantage of the FasTrac program.

Length: H = Hours, D = Days, W = Weeks

For additional information, please contact the Office of the Registrar at (703) 302-7144.

From Handel to Glass Harps

By John Bentel

The Foreign Affairs Recreation Association and the State of the Arts Cultural Series provided a variety of summer entertainment for State Department employees.

Soprano Elizabeth Kluegel and pianist Marie-France Lefebvre presented a program entitled "Songs of Spring, Youth and Love" with music by Handel, Wolf and Chausson. Ms. Kluegel affirmed what her critics have said about her "silvery soprano" voice with a "brilliant and shimmering tone."

In a departure from the classical, artist Jamey Turner played a glass harp composed of glasses filled with various amounts of water. A tune was elicited when he rubbed on the rims of the glasses. Mr. Turner has played with many orchestras, performed numerous times on television and is one of only a few full-time glass harpists.

Returning for her second performance, pianist Larissa Smith presented a recital of colorful selections of music by Bach, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Ginastera.

Mezzo-soprano Marquita Raley wowed the audience with her exquisite voice and commanding stage presence. She was accompanied by Victoria Alma Castello. Ms. Raley, who will be attending the Julliard School in New York on scholarship,



Photo by Caryl Traten Fisher

Mezzo-soprano and State intern Marquita Raley.

received a standing ovation. The young artist was an intern at State this past summer.

Elena Rypkina of Ukraine, winner of the International Piano Competition, presented a recital of Bach, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Prokofieff.

Rounding out a summer of superb entertainment was vocalist Maryann Jenkins and pianist Brenda Jenkins. This mother-daughter team performed a medley of popular show tunes. ■

The author is a computer specialist in the Executive Secretariat.

CALENDAR

Nov. 5 Cellist Nathaniel Chaitkin and Pianist Marie-France Lefebvre

Nov. 19 Concert Pianist Hyo-Sook Lee

Dec. 17 Christmas program with Venus d Minor

Performances are on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium.

Pianist Hyo-Sook Lee



Editor's note: We erred in our September issue when we announced that Ragtime Bob Darch would perform here in October. The performance, by Sue Keller and Alan Mandel, was a tribute to the late musician.

APPOINTMENTS



U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu. Robert W. Fitts of New Hampshire, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu. From 2002 to 2003, he was political adviser to the commander of

Special Operations Command, responsible for combating terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction worldwide. He was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Manila from 2001 to 2002 and directed the Office of Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore Affairs from 2000 to 2001. He also served in Jeddah, Riyadh, Bangkok and three separate tours in Indonesia for a total of nine years. In Washington, D.C., he was a legislative assistant for then-Senator George Mitchell and, later, a special assistant to the assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Malaysia in the early 1970s. Mr. Fitts' Foreign Service career began in 1975 with an assignment to the newly independent nation of Papua New Guinea, a post he returns to 28 years later as ambassador.



U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. John E. Herbst of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. He was U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan from 2000 to 2003 and consul general in Jerusalem from 1997 to 2000. He was principal deputy to the U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for the New

Independent States from 1995 to 1997, and directed the Office of Independent States and Commonwealth Affairs from 1994 to 1995 and the Office of Regional Affairs in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs from 1993 to 1994. He headed the political sections at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv from 1990 to 1993 and in Moscow from 1985 to 1987. He also served in Jeddah. Mr. Herbst and his wife Nadezda have five children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova. Heather M. Hodges of Ohio, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova. She was deputy chief of mission in Madrid from 2000 to 2003, in Lima from 1997 to 2000 and in Managua from 1993 to 1996. From 1991 to 1993, Ms. Hodges was deputy director of the Office of Cuban Affairs and from 1989 to 1991, she was principal officer in Bilbao, Spain. She has also served in Caracas and Guatemala City.



U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan. Tracey Ann Jacobson of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Foreign Service, class one, is the new U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan. She was deputy chief of mission in Riga from 2000 to 2003. She served at the White House from 1998 to 2000 as deputy executive secretary and senior director of administration for the National Security Council. She headed the administrative section at the U.S. Embassy in Nassau from 1997 to 1998. Ms. Jacobson also served in Moscow and Seoul. She and her husband, Lars Anders Johansson, have one daughter.



U.S. Ambassador to Belarus. George A. Krol of New Jersey, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to Belarus. He headed the political section at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow from 1999 to 2002 and was deputy chief of mission in Minsk from 1993 to 1995. He directed the Office of Russian Affairs from 1997 to 1999 and was special assistant to the Ambassador-at-Large for the New Independent States from 1995 to 1997. Mr. Krol has also served in Warsaw, New Delhi, St. Petersburg and Kiev.

APPOINTMENTS



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique. Helen R. Meagher La Lime of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique. She was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat from 2001 to 2003 and director of the Office of Central African Affairs from

2000 to 2001. Ms. La Lime was deputy chief of mission in N'djamena from 1996 to 1999 and consul general in Zurich in 1993. She has also served in Warsaw, Bern and Stuttgart. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, she was a teacher in France, Portugal and the Netherlands. Ms. La Lime is married with two children.



U.S. Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of ambassador. Constance A. Morella of Maryland, Republican representative of the 8th district of Maryland in the U.S. House of Representatives for 16 years, is the new U.S. representative to the Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development in Paris, with the rank of ambassador. She served as a senior member of the House Committee on Science and chaired one of its key panels, the Subcommittee on Technology, from 1995 to 2000. She spear-

headed the enactment of legislation to promote technology transfer from federal labs to private industry and was a key supporter of biotechnology and advanced scientific research. A longtime member of the Committee on Government Reform, she chaired the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia and served as a senior member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service. She was also a member of the House Select Committee on Aging. She chaired the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, advancing efforts to promote access to micro-enterprise capital among women in developing countries. Ms. Morella and her husband Tony, a law professor, have raised nine children, including her late sister's six children.



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Greta N. Morris of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She headed the public affairs section at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta from 2000 to 2003 and was deputy director of the Office of Public

Diplomacy in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1998 to 1999. She was public affairs officer in Manila from 1996 to 1998 and information officer in Bangkok from 1993 to 1996. She has also served in Kampala and Nairobi. Before joining the U.S. Information Agency in 1980, Ms. Morris taught English in Surabaya, Indonesia.

APPOINTMENTS



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania. Stephen D. Mull of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania. He was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta from 2000 to 2003. In Washington, D.C., he served as deputy executive

secretary of the Department, coordinating support for the Secretary of State and other senior policymakers and overseeing crisis management. He directed the Office of Southern European Affairs and was deputy director of the Operations Center. In his second tour in Poland, Mr. Mull headed the political section at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw from 1993 to 1997. He served in South Africa from 1986 to 1990. He and his wife Cheryl have one child.



U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. George Herbert Walker III of Missouri, chairman emeritus of Stifel, Nicolaus & Co., Inc., is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. He joined the company in 1976 as executive vice president and served as chairman from 1982 to 2001. During that period, Stifel grew from a

privately owned firm with a revenue of approximately \$12 million to a publicly listed firm on the New York Stock Exchange with revenues of more than \$200 million and 1,000 employees. Throughout his career, Mr. Walker has been active in education, politics and civic affairs. Since 1974, he has served as a director of Webster University, a school with a main campus in St. Louis and more than 60 other campuses worldwide, and as chairman of the board from 1987 to 1992. He founded a group, Citizens for Home Rule, that seeks to amend the Missouri state constitution to empower citizens of St. Louis to change the structure of their city government, a power enjoyed by other cities in the state but denied St. Louis by the constitution of 1876. Mr. Walker and his wife Carol have eight children and six grandchildren.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Foreign Service Retirements

Blais, Joseph A L.
Fachetti, Thomas E.
Gaffney, Edward F.
Griffin, Christa Ute
Karika, Arpad
Kattouf, Theodore H.

McCumber, George L.
Moose, George E.
Nathanson, Alan M.
Paartberg Jr., Don
Possanza, Louis M.
Snead, Donna J.

Terzuolo, Eric Robert
Westmoreland, Margaret S.
Whittemore, Simone
Yacovoni, Rosemarie C.
Zimmer Jr., Everett C.

Civil Service Retirements

Aldis, Pheny C.
Benson, Richard E.
Braden, Marria L.
Breault, Joyce K.
Cox, Stephen G.
Crafts, Charles R.
Ely-Raphel, Nancy
Halliday
Espie, Alberta Jackson
Gogerty, Edward R.
Grippe, Joan M.
Horak, David A.

Hoy, Robert L.
Jackson, Gloria Jean
Jones, Cornelius D.
Natale, Richard J.
Powell, Shirley T.
Simms, William Henry
Smith, Diane Marie
Steiner, Steven B.
Walker, Margaret A.
Walker, Ulysses V.
Washabaugh, Dorothy M.

O B I T U A R I E S

Willis Bryant Collins Jr., 86, a retired Foreign Service officer, died June 29 at the Washington Hospice in Washington, D.C. Mr. Collins served during World War II as an officer in the U.S. Navy in Africa, Italy and France. He joined the Foreign Service in 1955 and served in Europe, Africa and Asia until he retired in 1974.



Larry Corbett, 61, a retired Foreign Service officer, died unexpectedly of heart failure related to chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer on April 7 in Westlake Village, Calif. Before joining the Department, Mr. Corbett served in the U.S. Army at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland from 1964 to 1966. His Foreign Service assignments included

Brussels, Rio de Janeiro, Bonn, the U.S. Sinai Field Mission, Oslo, Victoria Mahe, Cotonou, Bangui, Helsinki and Vienna. In Washington, D.C., he served in Foreign Buildings Operations, the Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. He retired in 1998 to Gardnerville, Nev.

Sylvia W. Crowl, a Foreign Service information specialist, died July 29 in Lakeland, Fla. After joining the Foreign Service in 2000, she served as an information systems officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem until an illness forced her to return to the United States for treatment.



Genevieve "Jen" DiMeglio, 62, a retired Foreign Service secretary, died May 14 of lung cancer in Chester, Pa. After working in the private sector, Ms. DiMeglio joined the Foreign Service in 1966 and served in Copenhagen, Libreville, Beirut, Paris, San Salvador, Georgetown, Guangzhou and in the executive office of the Bureau of European Affairs. She was also a roving

secretary based in Rome with the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.



William "Bill" Fanjoy, a retired Foreign Service information specialist, died Aug. 28 of sudden cardiac arrest in Bangkok, Thailand. He joined the Department in 1979 and served in Bonn, Bujumbura, Tokyo, Mombasa, Washington, D.C., and Bangkok. He retired in Bangkok in 2002.



John Keppel, 85, a retired Foreign Service officer, died June 23 of a heart attack in Bloomington, Ind. After graduating from college in 1940, Mr. Keppel expected to assume responsibility for the family's fine arts business, but his experience as a U.S. Army officer and aide to a division commander in the Normandy campaign heightened his interest in foreign affairs. He joined the Foreign Service in 1947 as a Soviet specialist, serving two tours in Moscow. He served in the U.S. Embassy in Seoul during the Korean War and as an adviser and translator for General Walter Bedell Smith at the 1954 Geneva Conference. He served in Rome from 1955 to 1957. In 1959, Mr. Keppel helped escort Khrushchev on his 1959 visit to the United States and served as an adviser during the 1960 Kennedy-Khrushchev summit in Paris. Later, he headed the political section of the U.S. Embassy in Rio de Janeiro and chaired political studies at the Foreign Service Institute. After retiring in 1969, Mr. Keppel worked for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.



Dudley W. Miller, 77, a retired Foreign Service officer, died May 29 in Gettysburg, Pa. He joined the U.S. Army after high school and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in France and Germany during World War II. After the war, he worked in the Defense Department before joining the Foreign Service. During his 27-year career, Mr. Miller served in Saudi Arabia, Greece, Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom. Following his retirement in 1979, he joined the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council as vice president and then president until 1985.

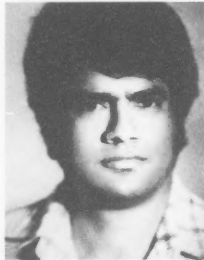


Albert Dennis "Scotty" Moscotti, 82, a retired Foreign Service officer, died Aug. 7 of complications related to Parkinson's disease at his home in Honolulu. After serving in the Army Air Force in the Pacific Theater during World War II, he joined the Department. Mr. Moscotti served in Karachi, Madras, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Washington, D.C. After retiring in 1970, he became a professor of Far Eastern Studies at the University of Hawaii and wrote two books on Burma.

O B I T U A R I E S



F. Pierce Olson, 73, a retired Foreign Service officer, died April 14 of cancer in Jackson, Wyo. He served as an economic officer in Warsaw, Manila, The Hague, Basel, Bern, Oslo, Toronto and Stockholm. In retirement, Mr. Olson was active in the Jackson Hole Chamber of Commerce and was affectionately known as the region's unofficial historian.



Juan Peña, 62, a Civil Service employee, died suddenly July 30 at his home in Alexandria, Va. Born in the Dominican Republic, he joined the U.S. Information Agency in 1985 as a laborer in the agency's Brooklyn, N.Y., warehouse. Later, he became a woodworker. When USIA merged with the Department in 1999, he moved to the logistics center in Newington, Va., where he was promoted to facilities management specialist and served as the incoming pouch supervisor until his death.



*Datus C. Proper, 69, a retired Foreign Service officer, died July 27 in a drowning accident while fishing in Montana. He served in São Paulo, Luanda, Dublin and Lisbon. In Washington, D.C., he served in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and as the Department's liaison officer with the U.S. Coast Guard. After retiring in 1987, Mr. Proper settled in the Gallatin Valley of Montana, where he wrote on outdoor sports and travel and was a regular contributor to *Field and Stream* magazine.*



*Richard C. Salvatierra, 83, a retired Foreign Service officer, died of cancer Aug. 30 in his hometown of Tucson, Ariz. After serving in the Army during World War II, Mr. Salvatierra joined the U.S. Information Agency, serving in Panama, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Italy. He completed his 28-year career as consul general in Guayaquil and director of Latin American studies at the Foreign Service Institute. After retiring, he began a second career as an editorial writer for the *Tucson Citizen*, writing more than 1,500 articles, most of them on foreign affairs topics.*

In the Event of Death

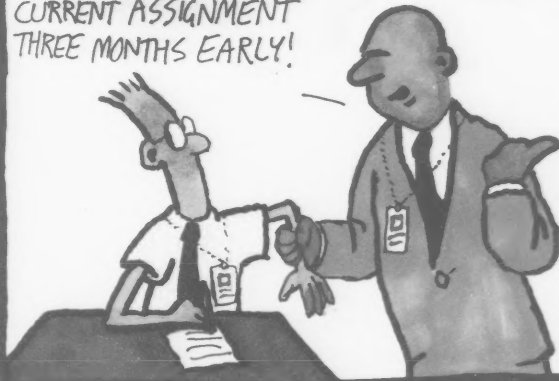
Questions concerning deaths in service should be directed to the Employee Services Center, the Department's contact office for all deaths in service: Harry S Truman Building, Room 1252, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-1252; (202) 647-3432; fax: (202) 647-1429; e-mail: EmployeeServicesCenter@state.gov.

Questions concerning the deaths of retired Foreign Service employees should be directed to the Office of Retirement at (202) 261-8960, Retirement@state.gov.

Questions concerning the deaths of retired Civil Service employees should be directed to the Office of Personnel Management at (202) 606-0500, or through their web site at <http://www.opm.gov>.

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HERE UNTIL SHE ARRIVES!



AND DON'T FORGET: BETWEEN YOUR
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ACCORDION APPRECIATION
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AGGELER 2003

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I TAKE THE LEAVE I'VE RACKED UP?



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