the publication

## Les Nouvelles

Winter 1998 Edition Vol. 3, No. 1 (2/10/98) FOCI: Keeping the Focus on Côte d'Ivoire, the Country We Love

# Trip to Côte d'Ivoire Rescheduled! We're now going this coming August...

Our proposed trip to Côte d'Ivoire in March has been rescheduled for August 1998. It seems that March wasn't the best time for those interested, due to school and work schedules. FOCI and Friends of Togo hope that August will prove to be the best month for everyone, since children can go before school starts up again, and employers may be more willing to give people time off then. Many people were interested and we're hoping this group trip will happen this time! The new package is more flexible, too. We would REALLY prefer that you leave with the group (more fun that way!) on Friday, August 14 from New York, but if you need to leave August 9 or 12, or even later than August 14, that may be able to be worked out. Flights leave New York City on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday nights only. Returns from Abidjan are possible every Thursday or Friday until September 10, so you have many choices for coming back! The cost is \$1448. This includes round-trip airfare, 5 nights in the Ibis Plateau Hotel (you arrange the days you want to stay there), and a half-day sight-seeing tour around Abidjan. For those wishing to go to Togo via CI, travel information and information about the additional cost is available separately. The non-refundable deposit necessary (to FOCI) is \$100. There is no minimum number of people necessary for the trip to take place, so whoever signs up and pays can go, once the travel agent has reserved seats on the appropriate flights. See page 3 for the Terms of Travel. The nonrefundable deposits are due April 20 to FOCI. See page 8 for the Deposit Form. Please do not hesitate to contact Jeanette Mesite, the trip coordinator, to learn more about the trip as well as requirements for reservations and deposits (see page 2 for her contact info).

#### PLEASE join us on this fantastic adventure!

[Note: all prices quoted are based on the most recent tariffs available and are applicable for the season of travel requested but are subject

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The NEW address for Friends of Côte d'Ivoire is the following:

FOCI P.O. Box 1107 Boylston, MA 01505-1807

If you have sent mail to the previous address, it will be forwarded, but *please* make a note of this change for any future mail.

#### Very Sad News: Peace Corps Volunteer Killed in Tanda, Côte d'Ivoire Our Sympathy is Extended to His Family and Friends

On Thursday, the 5th of February, 26-year old Peace Corps Volunteer Kevin R. Leveille was killed in his home in Tanda, (about 200 miles northeast of Abidjan on the road to Bondoukou). Leveille served as an Urban Environmental Management volunteer, dealing with issues like clean water and sanitation. He was scheduled to finish his service in March or April. Leveille's body was accompanied on February 9 by Ms. Sachiko Goode, the Peace Corps Country Director in CI, back to his home in Ventura, California. Apparently Leveille was attacked by four people during what may have been a robbery. The four are being held by Ivorian authorities. An investigation is underway.

"Kevin was an extraordinary volunteer who represented the best traditions of Peace Corps Volunteers—dedication, compassion, and commitment," said Mark Gearan, the Peace Corps Director.

FOCI would like to honor Leveille and his work and dedication to Côte d'Ivoire and wish to establish a memorial fund in his name. We will discuss this idea with his family and with Peace Corps to get their approval before we accept donations. Therefore, if you are interested in making a donation to the fund, please contact Jeanette Mesite to learn the status of the fund (see below for her contact information).

#### Friends of Côte d'Ivoire P.O. Box 1107 Boylston, MA 01505-1807 Board of Directors

Secretary: *Robert Handloff,* '65-68' 202 483 4929 (h) 202 667 8840 (home fax) e-mail: handloff@mail.loc.gov

Treasurer: Susan Deller Ross, '65-67' 202 244 2806 (h) e-mail: ross@law.georgetown.edu

**At-Large:** *Jim Robinson,* **'64-66** 703 528 8068 (h) NEW: 703 941 0100 ext. 110 (w)

NEW: 703 941 1516 (work fax) At-Large: Suzanne Wilcock Russin, 68-70

413 586 8194 (h) 413 586 0824 (work fax) e-mail: linc4444@aol.com

**At-Large:** *Jerry Withers*, '76-79 301 585 9126 (h)

 $e\hbox{-mail: withersjd} @fbowpoa.us\hbox{-state.gov}\\$ 

Newsletter Editor: Jeanette Mesite To submit an article or idea to Les Nouvelles, contact the Editor.

## Peace Corps Moves PC Volunteer Training from Thiès, Senegal, to Akoupé, Côte d'Ivoire!

Since Peace Corps re-entered Côte d'Ivoire in 1990, training was held at Peace Corps' West Africa training center in Thiès, Senegal. It was managed by CHP International, which also managed several other countries' PC training. Peace Corps has decided to move training for CI volunteers to their country of service. According to a January 15 letter from Ms. Sachiko Goode, Country Director, a new group of Peace Corps Trainees (PCTs) were to arrive in CI on January 21, to have their training in Akoupé, a town of about 65,000 in the eastern Attié region, 140 km north of Abidjan. The training will end April 14, and the new volunteers will then go to their repective sites. She sent FOCI the training design, an overview of which follows. Number of Trainees: 57 (20 health education, 19 urban environmental management, and 18 water and sanitation). [One of the more recent RPCVs ('91-93), Brian Nicholson, is part of the training team, which is especially helpful, since he served in Akoupé.] During their 11 weeks of experiential, learner-centered, and adult learning, they will have classes in various sites around the town. Urban environmental management PCTs will live with families in Akoupé, while water/sanitation and health education PCTs will live in villages situated between one and four km from the town. Several local languages (Koulango, Senoufo, Dioula, Baoulé, Gouro, and Bété) will be taught to health and water/sanitation trainees in preparation for their sites. By the end of the training, PCTs are required to demonstrate proficiency in French and technical skills, depending on their respective program. Welcome PCTs!!!!

#### Friends of Côte d'Ivoire and Friends of Togo Joint Group Travel Plans Terms of Travel

Where: To Côte d'Ivoire How: New York City (JFK) to Abidjan and back to JFK

When: Preferred departure date: Aug. 14, 1998 (other dates available, including Aug.9, 12, and later)
Return dates are any Thursday or Friday night from August 12 - Sept 10, 1998.

Cost to Go (to CI Only): \$1448 per person (non-FOCI members \$1483, which includes membership in FOCI) [Information regarding trip to CI AND Togo is available separately from FOCI. Please contact J. Mesite if you're interested.]

*Non-Refundable Deposit Required:* \$100 (see *Details Regarding Deposits and Reservations* below)

#### Includes:

- Round-trip air transportation (with Air Afrique) from JFK Airport in New York to Abidjan and back to JFK
- Five nights in the Hotel Ibis Plateau (or similar hotel)
- Continental breakfast (5)
- Half-day sightseeing tour of Abidjan
- Round-trip transfers with baggage handling
- Hotel tax, service charges, and departure taxes

Remember, you are responsible for getting yourself to New York (JFK Airport) in time for the flight to

#### Notes and Optional Additions:

- \* Additional hotel nights cost \$35 per person, double occupancy required
- \* Single supplement \$300 extra (means that if you want to be the only person sleeping in your room, it costs this much extra)
- \* Upgrade to deluxe Intercontinental Hotel Ivoire: \$300 per person double occupancy required
- \* Application available for travel insurance with Travelguard: \$85 per person basic coverage, other options available (including medical) for various fees (insurance recommended), details will be sent to you upon receipt of deposit
- \* Information on car rentals is available: cost varies
- \* Weekend surcharge (\$20 each way Saturday/Sunday)
- \* Visits to current Peace Corps sites with Peace Corps Volunteers may be possible at your own cost

#### Details Regarding Deposits and Reservations

There is no minimum number of people necessary for this trip. Once full payment is received and the travel agent has bought your ticket, you are all set. To make a reservation, a \$100 non-refundable deposit must be received by FOCI. April 20 is the deadline for receiving ALL deposits, and making full package payments is required by June 10, 1998. Payment before then is advised. The non-refundable deposit should be made to FOCI via check only, but the balance may be made via check or credit card to the travel agent.

#### Additional Information

Once full payment for the entire travel package is made, cancellation on the part of the traveler will result in the forfeiture of 25% of the entire package cost. Travelers are required to handle their own passport, visa, insurance (FOCI will send insurance information once you make your deposit), and medical arrangements. However, FOCI can provide travelers with some information regarding these issues. Travelers are advised to start making these arrangements as early as possible, as they can take time to process. Please remember that malaria and other parasites are endemic in West Africa. You are advised to take precautions to avoid illness. Health insurance is highly advised. It is advised to bring travelers checks instead of cash, and not to bring unnecessary valuables (even things like wedding rings!). Package prices are subject to change depending on US and international tax changes. Travel at your own risk. Feel free to call J. Mesite, the trip coordinator, if you have any questions, at 617 566 6338, or fax her at 617 566 7974, or e-mail her at dave@bfci.com.

Fill out the Deposit Form on page 8 and mail it with your check soon so you can make this dream possible!

#### Ivorian Embassy Hosting FOCI's Third Annual Meeting: March 28, 1998

Come for Ivorian food, comaraderie, networking, and elections... March 28 is the day of the FOCI Third Annual Meeting, and the Ambassador has offered the Embassy's meeting hall for the meeting! What an experience it will be! Members of FOCI, Ivorians, and other interested people are invited to attend. Elections will be held: absentee ballots will be sent out in early March, but nominations are welcome before February 28 (details on page 4). PLEASE NOMINATE! Due to our catering plans for the meeting, please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible, to Jerry Withers at his home number: 301 585 9126, box #1. If you would like to bring something, that is also welcome! The starting time is 5pm, and the address is 2424 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. If you would like to take DC's public subway, the Metro, you can walk to the Embassy from the Dupont Circle Metro Station.

We will start with a cocktail reception, followed by a meal, then the formal meeting with business and elections, followed by more cocktails and the continuation of the reception. We'd like to have a group go dancing at an African nightclub afterwards—let us know if you're interested. If you have questions or comments, please call Jeanette Mesite at 617 566 6338, or any other member of the FOCI Board (see below).

PLEASE COME AND HAVE FUN WITH US!

## First Request for Funding from Current PCV is Honored

Think of a hundred children smiling in the small southeastern town of Bonoua, where Jason Michaud is currently a Peace Corps Volunteer. That's what he saw during the Christmas festival that he helped organize for orphaned and disabled children. He asked FOCI to provide \$164 to augment funds raised by local citizens and FOCI was glad to give its support. Pictures should be available for the next newsletter.

#### FOCI Again Provides Funding for WID Scholarships

Our second year of support to high school girls in CI is here, and we're happy to report that the Women In Development (WID) Scholarship Program of Peace Corps CI is still running strong. It is expanding its support of students, and FOCI has again provided \$600 to support three girls. We're hoping to have details about the girls for you soon.



#### NPCA Dues Increased

The National Peace Corps Association has increased its general dues from \$35 to \$40. That increase is reflected in the optional joint dues for FOCI/NPCA membership on our membership form (page 13).

## A Financial Report for FOCI Members How Are We Doing? compiled by Susan I

compiled by Susan Deller Ross, Treasurer, and Jeanette Mesite, Chairperson

Friends of Côte d'Ivoire	n/a = not available at the time of this report				
Statement of Activities					
for the year ended December 31, 1997					
y ••• •• - • • • • • • • • • •	Amount (\$)	Notes			
Revenue					
Membership dues and donations					
FOCI direct	3205	paid to FOCI directly from members			
from NPCA	225	paid to FOCI from NPCA joint members			
Interest income	34	paid to FOCI from Riggs Bank			
Misc revenue	n/a	from t-shirt sales			
Total revenue	3464				
Expenses					
Print & mail	1340	printing, copying, mailing, P.O. box			
Grants	600	WID Scholarships			
Rebated to NPCA	360	for members joining NPCA via FOCI			
NPCA affiliation fee	60				
Bank maintenance fees	167				
Other	816	exhibit stand, t-shirts			
Total expenses	3343				
Revenue minus expenses	121	for the year of 1997			
Total in account at end of 1997	2459				

#### Here it is: the Official List of FOCI Members

As of January 30, 1998, the following people have joined as members of FOCI. Of the 168 people listed below, 40 are due for renewal, which is denoted on their personal newsletter. If you would like to join or renew, please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and send it to Friends of Côte d'Ivoire, at P.O. Box 1107, Boylston, MA 01505-1807. FYI, the years the member lived in CI (to the best of our knowledge and if known) are denoted next to his/her name, as well as their present residence. Donors are marked with \*.

Abrams, Jill, 96-97, Kalamazoo, MI Baer, Lillian, 66-68, Dakar-Fann, Senegal Baldino, Ruth, 70-71, Honolulu, Hawaii Beamer, Linda, 76-78, Shorewood, WI Becker, Kate, 91-95, Washington, DC Beeler, Eve, 91-95, Dearborn Heights, MI Bibler, George, 66-67, Billerica, MA Birmingham, Deirdre, 93-94, Alpharetta, GA

Blakely, Anne, 92-94, Arlington, VA **Bloom.** Gretchen Brandow, 70-72, Bethesda, MD

Bockley, Mark, 79-81, San Anselmo, CA Bowles, Nicole Lacoste, 91-93, Bowie, MD

Brenner, Eric, 66-68, Columbia, SC

Brenner, Karlann Puerschner, 66-68, Columbia, SC

Brigode, Linda, 93-96, Hackettstown, NJ Brooks, Melanie, 91-95, Madison, WI

Brownlee, Ann Sykora, 66-68, Escondido, CA Buffington, Julie Maccanon, 68-70, Gig Harbor, WA

Buffington, Ross C, Jr, 68-70, Gig Harbor, WA

Burke, Orla, '95, Burkina Faso

Burgett-Leutner, Tom, 69-71, New Haven, CT

Burland, Julie, 91-95, Boulder, CO

Burlingame, Dorothy Pearle Hartley, 62-64, North Lima, OH

Cary, Susan Fisher Stratil, 66-68, Gainesville, FL

Conaboy, Michael, 91-93, Boulder, CO Creeden, John Jr, 74-77, Norfolk, MA Crowell, Jack, 62-64, Bay City, MI Cutler, Garrett, 65-68, New York, NY \* Dant, William, 70-72, Washington, DC

Dea, Maureen, 66-68, Brunswick, MI deLissovoy, Gregory, 67-69, Baltimore, MD

Dennis, Regina, 77-79, St. Louis, MO

Dramera, Karin Martin, 90-92, Abidian

Drees, Franz, 91-93, Potomac, MD

Dressel, Paula, Atlanta, GA

**Duffy**, Linda, 78-80, Amherst, NY

Dulmage, Glenn T, 70-75, Chestertown, MD

Dulmage, Juliana Kasius, 70-75, Chestertown, MD

Dumaresq, Fred, 73-78, Haines City, FL

Dunford, Polly, 93-95, New Orleans, LA

Dunning, Victoria, 92-94, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania \*

Etian, Sylva, 73-75, 80-81, Yerevan, Armenia

Farkas, Elaine Pick, 79-81, East Brunswick, NJ

Faucette, Letitia Brown, 64-66, Orlando, FL

Fleming, Hal, 68-72, Great Falls, VA

Furigay, Jennifer Hyland, 90-92, Pittsburgh, PA

Gillespie, Michael, Rochester Hills, MI

Goldberg, Stacy Hope, 95-97, San Francisco, CA

Goldsmith, Susan Nelson, 65-67, Phoenix, AZ

Gottlieb, Bonnie, 72-74, Bethesda, MD

Gregory, Michael, 93-94, New Orleans, LA

Haas, Robert, 64-66, San Francisco, CA \*

Hahn, Deborah, 73-75, San Rafael, CA

Hale, Lauren, 68-70, Washington, DC

Han, Eun, 95-97, Lynnfield, MA

Handloff, Robert, 65-68, Washington, DC

Harris, Erika, 92-94, Seattle, WA

Hausman, Richard, 65-67, South Ryegate, VT \*

Herr, Rachel, 95-97, Baltimore, MD

Ho, Norman Wai, 93-95, Chicago, IL

Honeywell, Kate, 92-94, White Plains, NY

Hosmer, Hilary, 67-69, Bedford, MA

Hull-Johnson, Betty, Wilmington, NC

Hume, Margaret, 75-77, Cambridge, MA

Huppe, Lindsay, 93-95, Nigeria

Ishida, Loretta, 93-95, Lansing, MI

Jacobson, Sandra, 93-97, Atlanta, GA

Johnson, Darrel, 66-68, Sioux Falls, SC

Johnson, Sheri-Nouane, 91-93, Atlanta, GA

Jones, Jennifer, 91-93, Bellevue, WA

Keel, Shannon, 91-93, Denver, CO

Kingsby, Washington, Jr, 62-64, San Jose, CA

Kirscher Mortimer, Margaret, 91-93, Glenns Ferry, ID

Langston, Steve, Atlanta, GA

Larson, Patti, 95-97, Fargo, ND

Leonhardt, Tom, 65-67, Washington, DC \*

Liechty-DePonte, Olive, 72-74, Altadena, CA

Likar, Mary Francis, 71-75, Bethesda, MD

Low, Kurt, 91-93, New York, NY

MacAlister, Robert, 63-65, Kensington, MD

Mahoney, Terry, 76-81, Quincy, FL

Marshall O'Connor, Michelle, 90-92, Palo Alto, CA

McAghon, Andrew, 69-71, Novato, CA

McClintock, Jeanne, 64-66, Brooklyn, NY

McFarland, Lorna, 89-94, Los Angeles, CA

McLees, Angus, 92-94, Charlottesville, VA

McLees, Anita, 91-95, Charlottesville, VA

McPhetres, Samuel, 66-68, Saipan, Mariana Islands

Mesite, Jeanette, 92-94, Brookline, MA

Meyer, Louise, 75-80, Washington, DC

Monson, Randall, 78-80, Venice, CA

Mort, Molly, 90-92, Kiev, Ukraine

Moss, Sue Helyar, 65-67, Seattle, WA \*

Murphy, Bettyann, 68-70, Morris Plains, NJ

Nasir, Amir, 93-95, New Orleans, LA

Neese-Todd, Sheree, 78-80, Highland Park, NJ

Nesbit, Catherine, 95-97, San Diego, CA

Neville, Hans, 62-64, Denver, CO

Newmann, Bill, 67-69, Olympia, WA \*

Niner, Tom, 92-94, Blue Bell, PA

Noble, Ken, 89-94, Los Angeles, CA

Nolan, Nancy, 76-79, Rabat, Morocco

Olson, Daniel, 73-75, Lyons, NY

O'Grady, Margaret, 93-95, Newburyport, MA

O'Reilly, Christine, 91-94, East Islip, NY

O'Sullivan, Rita Goldfarb, 68-70, Greensboro, NC

O'Sullivan, John, 68-70, Greensboro, NC

Oulate, Harriet Kessler, 67-69, Abidjan \*

continued on page 7

#### True Story: A Touching Experience in a Northern CI Village by Rachel Herr, RPCV CI '95-97

"I returned from a week in Abidjan, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, back to my village of Babien, ready to resume my work of training village health workers to do nutritional counselling with mothers. At first I wasn't shocked to see the grandmother of the courtyard lying on a mat on the ground, resting. I had seen her nap there before when it got too hot inside. This time, however, she did not get up. She lay there all day and people going in and out of the house stepped casually over her without a word. I saw her grossly swollen leg and I knew she was sick.

Since I'd been gone I assumed that the family must have already addressed the issue and must be already treating the grandmother, either with traditional medicine or with modern Western treatments. I waited and did not say anything, not knowing my position within the family and if it was my place to do so. For three days the grandmother lay on the ground, only moving to go inside at night and lie down there. Nobody was treating her. My heart ached with sympathy, but she was deaf and spoke no French, only Worodougou, so I had no way to communicate my feelings to her or offer her aid. At last on the third day I confronted the family casually by suggesting that maybe the grandmother should see the village nurse. Immediately, as I expected, the excuses began, as people agreed with me but mourned their overwhelming poverty and inability to pay for any expenses. I told them that a consultation is only 100 CFA (about \$0.25), but they insisted that they could not afford such a thing, nevermind any medicines the nurse might prescribe.

Frustrated, I approached the nurse, Doh, with whom I had worked closely and with whose family I ate every evening. Over a dinner of rice and palm nut sauce I casually mentioned that the grandmother in my courtyard was ill, but the family would not take her to see him. Would he mind just strolling over to the courtyard to see what the problem might be? The following day Doh came over, and saw the grandmother's swollen leg.

"She must go the hospital in Seguela to see a doctor." Again, the family sighed and indicated their lack of money. Doh announced, "Don't worry, Bintou (me) will pay half of your expenses, and it shouldn't cost more than 15,000 CFA (about \$30)." I was shocked and annoyed by this outright statement after I'd never offered to do such a thing. Since my arrival I had been approached by people wanting gifts, and I had refused so as not to encourage such behavior. How could I give to them and still expect to keep others from banging on my door? Also, on principle, I wanted to teach people to take responsibility for their own health care. It happened too often that people would cry poverty as an excuse not to treat a family member's illness, only to throw a lavish funeral for the person once he died. Still, the offer was there, and to refuse would mean I was "mean", the worst possible insult, so I acquiesced.

A couple days later I rode the 32 kilometers to Seguela on my bike and stopped by the hospital to visit the grandmother. I will never forget the scene. Three of the

younger wives of the courtyard were seated outside on the steps of the operating room. I sat down next to them, still grubby from my long, dusty ride. A few minutes later the doctor came by and saw me. Ah! The white woman! He invited me in to watch the draining procedure. I followed him hesitantly, afraid of losing respect in my work as a health worker if I admitted my ignorance or squeemishness. As the doctor opened the door to the room from the porch I could already see the grandmother lying with her face away from us, her scant gown pulled up to her waist. I was embarassed for her as I tried to cover the doorway. She lay on an old 1950s style operating table with a torn plastic cushion on it. She was close to the edge and clinging to the sides, fearful of falling. Th doctor chatted on to me about whatever. On one side of the room under a translucent window was another bed. On another was a streaked white tile countertop with a bloody rag on top, and a sink full of old empty vials. The room had no ventilation and smelled strongly of alcohol, bleach, antiseptic, and old medicine. The doctor pulled on a pair of rubber gloves and without a word to the grandmother, commenced the procedure by forcefully massaging her upper thigh and buttock near an incision he had made. With this, the fluid from her edema flowed out into a small tray beneath the wound. The grandmother screamed. She howled. She cried out, but had no tears to shed. I looked on with horror, my mouth open, yet I tried to keep my composure.

I asked the doctor to please use some anesthetic but he said the family would never afford it. He refused even when I offered to pay for it, insisting, "This doesn't really hurt, she just likes to scream," and, "We did this before without anesthetic." At last I moved over to the grandmother who I'd never been able to talk to but to whom I'd only in the past smiled at in passing. She was falling off the table. I moved her frail body back onto the mattress and held onto her hands as she screamed. I had ever seen a look so grateful. The grandmother squeezed my hands and screamed out my name over and over, "Bintou! Bintou! Aagh! Bintou!" I wanted to cry. I felt overwhelmed, sick. The room spun around me, the smell nauseated me, the light filtered through the dirty window in an annoying glare, and my knees gave out from under me. The doctor paused in his work only to catch my half fall and help me over to the other bed where I lay for a few minutes, ashamed at myself for not being stronger, furious with the doctor for his lack of compassion, and deeply frustrated at my inability to ever change anything in the way this system worked.

The doctor declared the procedure finished for the day, and we both returned outside. I was grateful for a bit of fresh air and anxious to get away. The grandmother stayed in Seguela undergoing the same procedure every other day for two months. I could never bear to go back and watch it again. Later I was credited with saving her life. "If it hadn't been for you, Bintou, we never would have thought to bring her to a doctor and she would have died right there on the porch." The grandmother and I never could say much to each other, even as my Worodougou improved, but we always smiled at each other in passing.

#### **FOCI Members, cont.**

Parker, Kathy, 65-67, Decatur, GA \*

Petring, Jane, 78-80, St. Lambert, Quebec, Canada

Pielemeier, John, 66-68, Washington, DC Plotkin, Gerald, 76-78, Schaumburg, IL

Rabke, John, 68-70, Montclair, NJ

Rabke, Nancy, 68-70, Montclair, NJ

Rachmeler, Dale, 73-75, Antananariro, Madagascar \*

Randels, Sandra Porter, 65-67, Seattle, WA

Reed, Daniel, 94, 97, Bloomington, IN

Reed, Nadine, 64-66, Shingle Springs, CA

Remington, Michael, 69-71, Arlington, VA

Rettenmaier, Elizabeth, 93-95, Alexandria, VA

Ricigliano, Gina, 95-97, Pottsville, PA

Robinson, Cynde, 90-96, Cambodia

Robinson, James, 64-66, Arlington, VA

Rood, Tony, 66-67, Washington, DC

Ross, Sue Deller, 65-67, Washington, DC

Rusnock, James, 66-68, West Wyoming, PA

Russin, Suzanne Wilcock, 68-70, Northampton, MA \*

Sammet, Lisa, 79-81, Craftsbury Common, VT

Schanche Ferro, Anne, 80-81, Annapolis, MD

Schilling, Janet, 62-64, El Cerrito, CA

Schmitz, Kjersti, 95-97, Irvine, CA

Seely, Jennifer, 92-94, St. Louis, MO

Seifer, Nancy, 65-67, Falls Church, VA

Seka, Djambra Honore, Silver Spring, MD

Shachat, Beth, 76-79, Bayonne, NJ \*

Shaffer, Carol, 73-75, Portland, OR

Shaffer, Joe, 73-75, Portland, OR

Sherman, Narda Melvin, 91-94, Portland, OR

Sherman, Ulysses, 92-93, Portland, OR

Short, Dennis, 93-95, Denver, CO

Sidy, Richard, 68-71, Sedona, AZ

Smith, Ellen, 64-66, Bear Creek, PA

Smith, Bob, Robert, 65-67, Bear Creek, PA

Snedeker, Frances Muth, 65-68, Larchmont, NY \*

Spencer, Murray, 78-80, Philadelphia, PA

Stokes, Samuel, 63-65, Silver Spring, MD

Tawwater, Nicole, 95-96, Dallas, TX

Taylor, Christopher, 91-93, Portland, OR

Tilford, Kathleen, 68-70, Conakry, Guinea

Tobin, Patrick, 92-94, Tyrone, PA

Tocci, Robert, 76-78, Pembroke, MA

Tonks, Andrew, 68-71, Yarmouth, ME

Trechter, Sherry, 75-77, Washington, DC

Viskocil, MaryAnne, 92-93, Woodstock, NY

Waldman, Elaine, 90-94, Los Angeles, CA Walsh, Karen Ratwik, 63-65, Burke, VA

Walther, David, 66-68, Concord, MA \*

West, Julie, 95-97, Albuquerque, NM

Westwater, Gisela, 92-94, New York, NY

Wheatley, Henry, 64-66, St. Thomas, VI \*

Wilcock, David, 68-70, Falls Church, VA

Wilde, Victoria, 95-97, Chestnut Hill, MA

Williams, Jan, 91-present, Abidjan

Withers, Jerry, 76-79, Silver Spring, MD

Work, Jennifer, 95-97, Wheaton, IL

Wright, Susan, 73-75, Antananariro, Madagascar \*

Yoshida, Steven, 79-81, Davis, CA

Ziegahn, Linda, 73-75, Yellow Springs, OH

From "Where There Is No McDonald's", the Peace Corps CI Cookbook of 1994 "The Official Peace Corps Côte d'Ivoire Low/No Budget Cooking Guide for All Your Gastronomic Needs"

You liked the last recipes so much we thought that you'd like some more!

#### **Tomato and Eggplant Sauce**

2 medium zucchini

2 large tomatoes

1 medium eggplant

1 large onion

olive or salad oil to your preference

salt to your preference

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

1 tablespoon brown sugar

Chop up everything. In a skillet with 1 tablespoon oil cook zucchini with salt until lightly brown. In sauce skillet with 2 tablespoons oil, cook eggplant, onion, and salt until browned. Add tomatoes, vinegar, brown sugar, and 1 cup water. Add cooked zucchini. Cover and simmer until tender (about 10-15 minutes). Use over rice, couscous, attiéké, or even with

by Kate Honeywell, RPCV '92-'94

Practice your French for this one! (This is quoted directly from the PCCI Cookbook.)

#### Le Poisson Braisée

Pour 2 personnes, il faut:

2 gros poissons 2 carottes 1/4 quart d'huiles un peu de persil 5 piments bien écrasés vinaigre

3 tomates bien écrasés 1 cube maggi 2 oignons un peu de sel

2 concombres

Il faut laver tous les légumes. Découper tous les légumes. Mélanger tous ensemble. Mettre le piment à part. Faites le feu et le grillage. Déposer les poissons sur le feu et le mouiller continuellement avec l'huile. Quand il est bien doré, on tourne. Ça prende peut-être 30 minutes. Ouand l'autre côté est bien cuit, on enlève. Il faut prendre une cuillerée de vinaigre, une cuillerée d'huile et un cube maggi. Mélanger et mettre sur le poisson. On sert avec les légumes.

#### Si vous voulez:

Quand vous êtes en train de braiser, mettre un peu de piment bien écrasé et un peu de sel sur le poisson.

THANKS for

**YOUR** 

MEMBERSHIP!

#### Friends of Côte d'Ivoire and Friends of Togo Joint Group Travel Plans Deposit Form

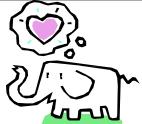
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# News of Economics, Agriculture, and Trade from the Ivorian Embassy's Newsletter, Côte d'Ivoire Update

from the October 1997 Issue of CIU

- Chocolate in CI: with the support of representatives of the chocolate makers community, is strongly opposed to the European Union (EU) proposal to allow the use of 5% of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter in the manufacture of chocolate, but CI "supports a compromise which would defend the interests of the cocoa producers as well as those of the karite producers in order for both to participate fully to the globalization of their economy," said Mr. Gauze, Minister of Commodities. The technology to trace and quantify vegetable fats other than cocoa butter is not a reliable science. Non-vegetable fats may easily be substituted for cocoa butter and thus jeopardize the health of consumers and the quality of the chocolate product. The Government of CI has decided to take a series of measures to fight against the EU lobbying. These measures include the drafting of a White Paper on chocolate; increased lobbying activities on the European Community and on NGOs representing the interests of chocolate consumers and industry experts: a promotional campaign; and membership within the Cocoa campaign.
- Report of agricultural production: In 1995, CI produced 285,000 tons of vegetables on 140,000 acres. It also produced 224,000 tons of bananas and 216,000 tons of pineapple.
- Rice production in CI: CI imports 50% of its rice consumption (250,000 tons per year). On August 18th, 1997, a decree was signed to change the import duty and tax fee for cargo rice. This decrease, from 15% to 5%, corresponds to the elimination of the 5% duty fee and the reduction of the tax fee from 10% to 5%. This decision not only reinforces a coherent tax policy on rice, but also allows for increased activity for local rice processing units. Value added production will also help maintain existing jobs and improve the rate of employment in the rice processing sector.
- CI on CD ROM! On August 8, 1997, Daniel Kablan Duncan, Prime Minister, announced the upcoming release of a CD-ROM on CI ("Côte d'Ivoire on CD-ROM"). In his address, the PM recognized the importance of new communication tools such as CD-ROMs and the internet, which contribute to the economic success of CI. More than 70,000 pages of valuable information on CI contained on one single CD-ROM will soon be available to investors, decision-makers, students and professors, libraries and tourists looking to know more about CI. The CD-

- business in CI and to consult a business directory of companies operating there. The project is a joint effort of the Comité National de Télédetection et d'Information Géographique (CNTIG) and ILT Communications.
- Trade stance: CI is a fervent supporter of "trade, not aid." Public aid has helped build the infrastructure necessary to the development of private sector activities. The participation of the private sector in the development of African nations complements public aid. It should not replace it. However, public aid must eventually end. Envisioning a closer trade relationship with the U.S., President Bédié expressed interest in seeing develop in West Africa a trading partnership similar to that between South Africa and the U.S.
- Public works projects: In 1995, the government had asked private economic operators to participate in the realization of twelve public works projects. Only four remain to be developed. They are the Abidjan urban train, two toll bridges, and the Olympic stadium. The success in the realization of these concessional projects prompted the identification of twenty new projects in the transportation, energy, housing, education, environment, and infrastructure sectors.
- Housing in Abidjan: Projections show that the number of households in Abidjan will increase by 20,000 units by the year 2000. This growth will mainly affect low-income households. However, the number of houses currently built annually is only about 1,000. They cost between \$10,000 (for a 2-bedroom house) to \$15,000 (for a 3bedroom. Low-income households cannot afford these houses. They live in informal and illegal housing such as makeshift homes with poor facilities. To remedy this situation, the government is implementing a reform of the hosing sector. Backed by a World Bank institutional support project, the government is encouraging the massive construction of homes by the private sector to make property ownership affordable to a larger share of low-income households. This project aims to build 12,000 units, which low-income and middle-income families will be able to own within a 24-month period. The project will be financed, implemented, and marketed by the private sector. The government will undertake the facilitation of all land and financial arrangements required for the implementation of the project.
- African World Music Festival (December 2-12, 1998): CI will host this festival which is intended to celebrate African culture and heritage through its musical expression. Artists from all over the world and especially members of the African diaspora will meet and perform together. They will share the universal language of music, which is the meeting point of all cultures. Music will be played in forums in Abidjan, Grand-Bassam, and at the Basilica of Yamoussoukro. For information contact the African World Music Festival, 08 BP 1060 Abidjan 08, CI. Ph: 011-225-48-62-13. You can also e-mail requests to



#### Contraceptive News from Côte d'Ivoire: USAID is Contributing to the Efforts to Decrease Population Growth & Disease Prevalence

by Kieran McGregor, a member of John Snow, Inc.'s Family Planning Logistics Mangement Project (FPLM)

The Association Ivoirien pour le Bien-Etre Familiale (AIBEF) was founded in 1979. Affiliated with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), AIBEF is a pioneer in the field of family planning in Côte d'Ivoire. In 1986, AIBEF had just two clinics and this has since risen to seven with an additional one which was to open in October of 1997.

The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is relatively low in CI (5.5% according to the 1995 Demographic and Health Survey) but prevalence is on the increase and there is now an ambitious plan by the government to increase family planning services to 177 health centers. The planned expansion involves a number of donors including UNFPA, the World Bank, GTZ, and the European Union. Until now the majority of the contraceptives supplied in CI have been furnished by USAID. In 1996 alone this included 500,000 pills, 200,000 condoms, and 50,000 injectables. In addition, there is a successful social marketing project currently supplying "Prudence" condoms, which will soon to add pills to its range of products.

The supply and distribution of such vast quantities of product necessitates excellent logistics management and the Family Planning Logistics Management Project (FPLM) has given technical support in logistics management in conjunction with the USAID regional project SFPS (Santé Familiale et Protection contre le SIDA). Recent FPLM interventions have included: assisting in national forecasting of requirements, training of national staff in logistics management, facilitating a national workshop to design a harmonized logistics system. As a result of the above workshop, strategic plans have been developed in the areas of Logistics Mangement Information Systems, donor collaboration, service expansion, and training. The next step is to implement the activities outlined in the strategic plans, commencing with the preparation of a logistics procedures manual. [Editor's Note: If you know of other companies/agencies/organizations that are doing notable work in

## FOCI T-shirts Available: Funds Support Grants

The FOCI t-shirt is available for purchase—it's soft and comfortable and announces to the world, "ask me about CI!" It's off-white, with a front pocket. On that pocket is a tasteful green, orange, and off-white map of CI with the words "friends of côte d'ivoire" written on it. On the back is a map of Africa with CI extended up from Africa, with "focus on FOCI, friends of côte d'ivoire" written in large letters across the back. The cost is \$15 per shirt, and \$1 for shipping and handling. All funds (besides the cost of the shirt) go toward FOCI's grants.

If interested, send your check, made out to "FOCI", to Robert Handloff at 1824 Kenyon Street, NW, Washington, DC 20010.

#### Peace Corps Day '98



#### Ghana Airways Resumes West African Flights

news via our Africa connection, Rodney Stubina, at nomad@revolutionist.com

ACCRA, Sept 29 (Reuter) - Ghana Airways said it would resume from October 1 its "West Coast" service to neighbouring West African countries, suspended after its only aircraft on those routes crashed at Abidjan airport in April. The airline said in a statement that it had ordered two DC9 aircraft for the service, one of which was delivered on September 26. "Two DC9 series 50 aircraft purchased at a cost of \$7.65 million from Aerovias Venezolanas of Venezuela have been reconfigured to accommodate 24 first-class and 88 economy class passengers," it said. It had decided to operate two planes instead of one on the service "to achieve a higher level of customer service delivery and reliability." The West Coast service of Ghana Airways takes in Lagos, Banjul, Dakar, Lome, Conakry and Contonou, as well as Abidjan. The company said it was studying new routes to Sahelian and Central African countries.

On Tuesday, March 3, 1998, the Peace Corps will celebrate Peace Corps Day by having thousands of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) visit thousands of American classrooms, broadcasting World Wise Schools Destination series videos about Peace Corps countries nationwide. Additionally, currently serving PCVs will visit classrooms in their cities and villages as well as communicate via long-distance telephones and video conferences with American students in the U.S. For more information on how you can participate, or information on how to become a speaker at a school in your area, contact pcday@peacecorps.gov, or call 800 424 8580 ext. 2283. One teacher in Las Vegas, Nevada said, "World Wise Schools is the best way I have found to teach multicultural activities. It is a great lesson in geography as well as reality." No matter how long ago you lived in CI or visited there, and whether you're an RPCV or not, students will be fascinated by the cultures, customs, and languages of the CI. Just as importantly, you can demonstrate the importance of service and encourage young people to make a difference in the lives of other people.

### NominateYourself or a Friend for a FOCI Position...Elections Are Soon!

The FOCI Third Annual Meeting, which will take place at the CI Embassy in Washington, DC, will include elections for Board and Volunteer positions. Nominations are <u>due by</u> February 28, so that ballots may be sent out to all members. More than one nomination per position is welcome. Absentee and live ballots will be accepted until March 28, at the FOCI Third Annual Meeting, where final counts will be made and names of those elected will be announced. Please note that *not all* Board members need to live in the Washington, DC area. At the moment, two live in Massachusetts! Obviously, though, participation in the Board does require travel for meetings, at least once per year, and more if possible.

Nominations are needed for: Chairperson, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and three At-Large Board Members. In addition, FOCI Volunteer Positions are available. Such positions include: Webmaster/ Webmistress (responsible for creating the FOCI website, software is available, Regional Coordinators (responsible for organizing regional events and efforts as well as serving as a regional contact), Historian (keeps track of CI history and current events, and writes an appropriate article for the newsletter), and Co-Editor of Les Nouvelles

Other ideas for volunteer positions are welcome, as well. Positions are for two years, with possibility of re-election. Please mail, fax, or e-mail your nominations to FOCI by February 28, 1998 (letter form is fine).

Mail: FOCI, P.O. Box 1107, Boylston, MA 01505-1807, E-mail: dave@bfci.com, Fax 617 566 7974. Please make sure the person you nominate is willing to do the job. As stated in the FOCI Bylaws, elections will take place at the annual meeting. The Third Annual Meeting will take place on March 28 in Washington, DC (at the CI Embassy!) All members are encouraged to state their interest in a position, as well as to nominate people for other positions. Please get involved!

#### Purposes of Friends of Côte d'Ivoire

According to the *Articles of Incorporation* and *Bylaws* of Friends of Côte d'Ivoire, the purposes of FOCI are to:

- provide funding and technical assistance to support
- humanitarian projects in CI
- maintain a network of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and friends of Côte d'Ivoire
- sponsor opportunities for social interaction and
- decision-making
- educate Americans about the country and culture of CI
- pursue other lawful activities as determined by the Board

### About Our Hairy Neighbor... A Letter Dated 9/19/97, by Hal Fleming, RPCV '68-72

"Dear FOCI: I was interested to learn that you're organizing a trip to Côte d'Ivoire. Good luck with your endeavor! After an absence of over thirteen years, I was able to return to CI and West Africa a number of times between 1986 and 1992 when I worked with UNICEF's New York headquarters, Abidjan being the site of the UNICEF regional office for West and Central Africa.

For those of you who were stationed in CI before the mid 1970's, the area now occupied by the Hotel Hilton on the Plateau auto route used to be the Peace Corps office. It was a multi-story affair arranged up a steep slope with outside steps connecting the various levels. The office had been the American consulate before independence with the Marine Corps barrack up in the rear. (We turned it into a hostel for the "walking wounded.") Next to us was about a hectare of the original mahogany forest complete with hundred foot trees and a grey are trapped by urban development. Unbeknown to me during my first year or so, the office guardian and the residents in a nearby apartment building used to feed the creature in the early morning, after which he would retreat to his aerie far up in the trees. He would watch from his perch the city of cranes, gantry cranes pushing up more and more skyscrapers, trapping him further in the urban sprawl.

One such early morning during a medical evacuation emergency, our presence upset the ape's routine, with some of the office staff on the outside stairs to the upper offices having a frightening encounter. The Zoo National was called, and after much pressure on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, two men finally arrived with a ladder and a coil of rope. They looked far up to the ape half hidden by the canopy of branches, then to their ladder and rope, said *c'est impossible quoi patron*, and were gone.

During that era, we found it more convenient and pleasant to entertain departing groups of PCVs and visiting Washington officials on the terrace of the old Marine Corps establishment. Our office manager, Leontyne Paul-Emile, could turn out mountains of tasty, low cost snacks, and the setting provided one of the best views of the city and the lagoon. One night a perplexed visitor from the States inquired whether we had a particularly hairy volunteer with long arms. No, we said, that was our now half-tame ape reaching out from the terrace foliage to snag his due of the passing hors d'oeuvres.

The pocket, one hectare forest is long gone, but every time I revisited Abidjan in the 80's and early 90's I wondered about our grey, hairy friend. Was he able to slip away from the city one night as the bulldozers and cranes encroached? I hope so.

Best Regards, Hal Fleming"

Please remember to pass this newsletter on to friends who you know are interested in CI but aren't yet

## "Yamoussoukro" Poetry from PCVs, December 1965 from the Peace Corps files of Kathy Parker, RPCV '65-67

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the Coast Every creature was stirring including our host The coffee was stacked in the cases with care In hopes that the Lebanese soon would be there. But the Jeeps they were silent, there wasn't a sound So the girls came in taxis from miles around, And MK in a frenzy and DD in a belt, The needs of mobility were about to be dealt. While out in the village there still was a clatter: No women, no water, let's deal with the latter! Away to the chef, to the cheftaine we dashed, Good water for all, but our teeth we just gnashed. The sun on the crest of the sale marigot Gave an illusion of all of the *bêtes* down below. And what to their wondering eyes must be shown But the millions of *bêtes* that make water their home; Those little ol' worms so lively and quick, If you don't boil them dead, they'll make you quite sick. Less rapid than eagles your body they'll claim With the Ver de Guinée you legs become lame! Now Parker, now Brooks, now Griffen and Guy, On Annie, on Jeannie, on Suzie and I — To teach them good health, the best way we know how Our job it is hard, the beginning is now. Through clouds of dry dust the blue Jeeps must go To introduce change to the Ivoirian "kro"!

So out to the villages we volunteers fly With a trunk full of aids to help us show why. And then in the distance we hear on the road The logs of a truck that's losing its load. So she threw it in second and began turning around, For the logs of the truck toward her Jeep they were bound! But she was wise to the ways of the pistes — And like Bunyan she halted those logs with her fists. Then into the village like strangers we rode, A welcome was given as though we were knowed. Their eyes how they twinkled, their jaws how they fell, When our greeting in Baoulé was pronounced so well. "We want all your women one morning a week"... To the chef, to the *notables* we had to speak. We were promised them all, but when we came back, We found more than half the village we lacked. An hysterical fit we had to perform; We hollered and screamed and made quite a storm. I laughed when we did it in spite of myself, But we want them to see the way to good health. We speak many a word while doing our job An occasional [sigh], an occasional sob, And so by the end of the year when we're through, Our lessons of health the women will do!

#### FOCI Classifieds

Wanted: Writers for Future Editions of Les Nouvelles...Did you enjoy the stories from Rachel Herr, Hal Fleming, and Kathy Parker? Why not go back through your old Peace Corps papers or just through your memories and write something for the next edition of Les Nouvelles? Share your thoughts and memories! If you have something to submit, contact J. Mesite (see p.2).

### **Wanted:** Requests for the FOCI Membership Directory...The directory,

which includes names and addresses of nonmembers as well, is available to members. There are about 500 people on the list...maybe you could find an old friend or make a new one! Need help professional or social networking? The Directory includes information on what people are doing now, as well as contact information. Due to the cost of printing and mailing, this will not be sent out unless specifically requested.

#### Wanted: World Wise Schools (WWS)

Partners...Peace Corps would love to set you (or a teacher you know) up with a Peace Corps Volunteer somewhere out there in the world. If you are interested, call 800 8580 ext. 2283.

**Wanted:** WWS Speakers...Peace Corps and FOCI would love to hear about people going into their local classrooms, churches, synagogues, offices, and community groups to share their experiences. If you would like help in developing a session, contact World Wise Schools at 800 424 8580 ext. 2283 or your local Peace Corps (RPCV) group!

#### Wanted: Regional FOCI Events...

Working with FOCI Regional Coordinators, FOCI would like to see members gathering together with friends and others interested in CI or Africa...maybe an African pot-luck with other RPCVs in your town or state...contact FOCI for contact names or a list of people in your region/city.

**Wanted:** More Classifieds...Do you have something to say, a question, trying to find someone? Send in a classified ad of your own!