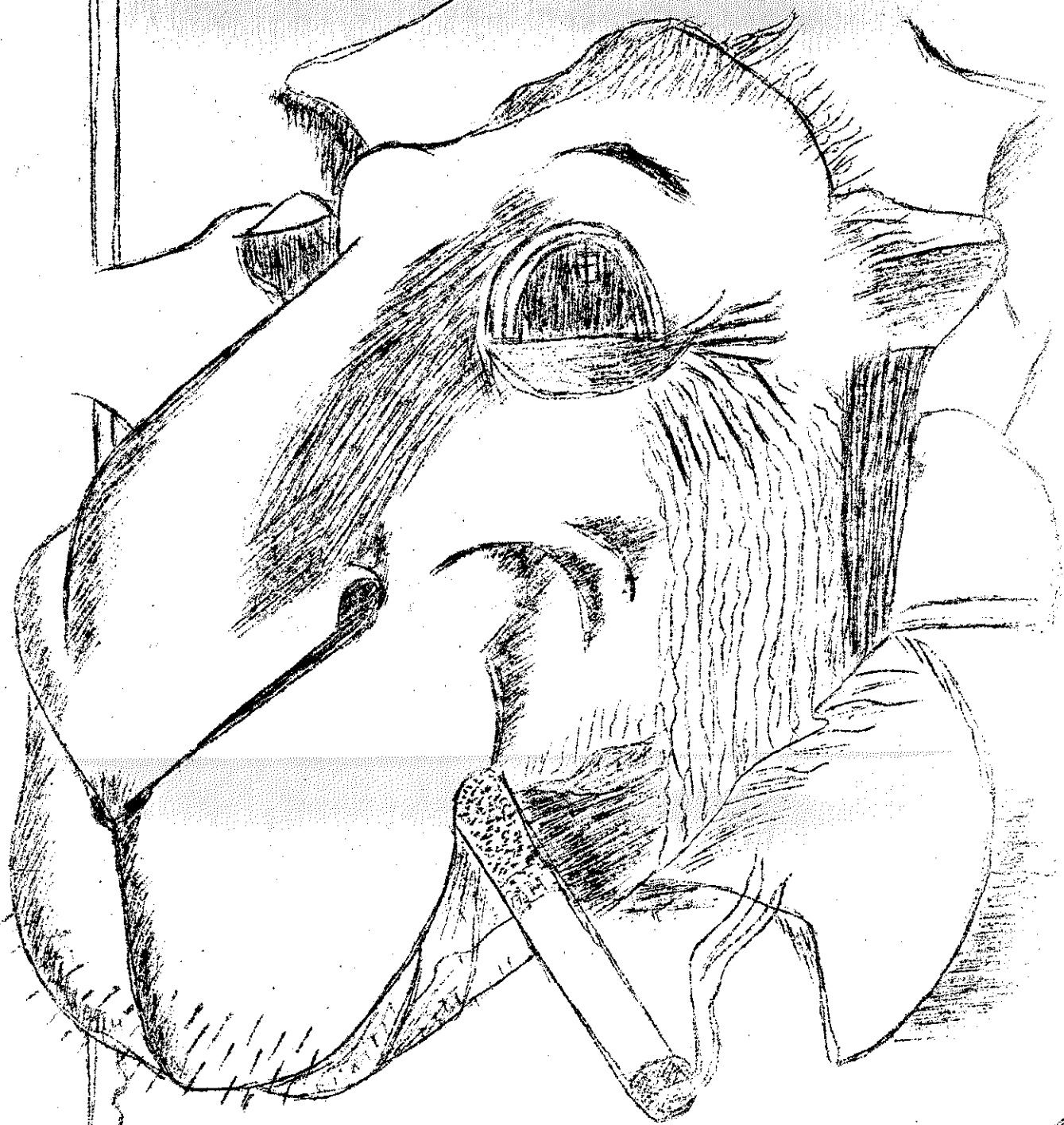


Earl Bricker

# CAMEL

## EXPRESS



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## THE CAMEL EXPRESS

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APRIL, 1980

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I always thought that Earl put too many games in the Camel Express. Then I happened to mention this in the presence of some brousse volunteers. Well, solitude takes some people right to the depths. Country people not only do those brain teasers, scrambled words, and no you aren't a genius, Encyclopedia Britannica quizzes, they do them in pencil so they can erase them the next day and try again, they give them to their troisiemes, they translate them into Hausa, carry them around the village, and sometimes try to stump the marabouts. Puzzle fiends, take heart. New editor and all, I have little choice. I concede. So try this quick one:

§§§

What do these five men have in common?

Orrin Hatch    Donny Osmond    Clark Blair

The Poet Laureate    Brigham Young

§§§

They have Utah, the New Land of Promise, of course. Yes, Clarke has gone home, leaving the Camel Express back in the hands of TEFL biased amateurs. Asked why he was going, he was flippant; "I've got bigger fish to fry." Actually, I think he was right. There wasn't even very much water in the tobkis he from time to time measured for the service. Cheers for work.

Meanwhile, I'll try to keep TEFL from overrunning the pages of the Camel as it usually does a good conversation. But with Old Pop still spending his free afternoons hanging around the press room, TEFL is sure to have a presence for awhile. You know, not every old work camel fades away with grace. This is such a pity. He begs to go for kolos. At least he can still amuse us. He shows us feats of endurance; "Watch boys, an hour without a Flag." And sometimes there's an anecdote from the past; "We lost the stencil, that's all, or that little poolside fashion show would have made this paper."

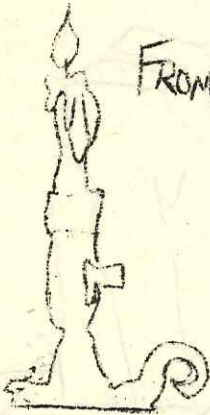
We can thank Earl. He sacrificed a lot of hours reading, typing, and collating. I hope that the Camel Express can keep his record; better with each issue.

Keep writing. Until late May...

JMD

The Camel Express Jim Delchanty, Editor B.P. 228 Zinder
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FROM EN BROUSSE

Dear Earl (or Clark),

Well it's been almost a year since my predecessor described to you all the horrors of brousse life, and the cushy lifestyles of TEFL teachers in Niger. As I just read last month, it looks like the old fart is on the home stretch, so looks as though I'll have to fill his boots and keep the old fervor between life on brousse and en ville going. What can I say about life out here in the house that

Sarkin Daji built (actually just the toilet and fence he built)? Yup, he's right about some things. It's just as hot or hotter out here than it is in Bouza, a big "brousse village." And trees... well there was a small one about 100 yards from here, but the goats and camels got it yesterday. Sure, we foresters do like to see a lot of trees. But then, after all, have you ever seen a mechanic driving a nice car? The frigo died last January, right before the camel did (yes, Sarkk, Fred is really dead), so I hope to get a new camel and frigo in the future. Maybe a package deal at the local brousse market.

How can one really compare his post with others. I find it impossible to do so far. Although I haven't any privacy here (all paths and roads from the village surround my (de)fenceless house), I can be thankful that my work keeps me very busy and does not leave me bored to death. Perhaps in a few months I'll travel and visit the big spots (Zinder, Niamey, Maradi, Goudounaria) to check out the hospitals, wines, cheeses, and the bourgeois, mobylette riding TEFL teachers. After that, who knows what, perhaps a little R&R in Bouza with Sarkin Daji. There I can relax (with, perhaps, a beer) while listening to Sark's favorite tape of Frank Sinatra singing, "I Did it My Way." Keep me in mind for Grand Flag Profiles. I've spent many an Aralen night dreaming about beer.

To. Sai wata rana, when I can hopefully raise some hell y'all's way, in the old tradition of Sark.

Hang Loose,  
Dan Sarkin Daji

\$\$\$

Editor's note: We don't raise hell in this town outside fraternity sponsored teas and sherries. And I don't think you've been initiated, Dan. We do have a number of clever hazing events in mind for you, however, so please bring your camel when you come.



DUPED! by Steve Reid

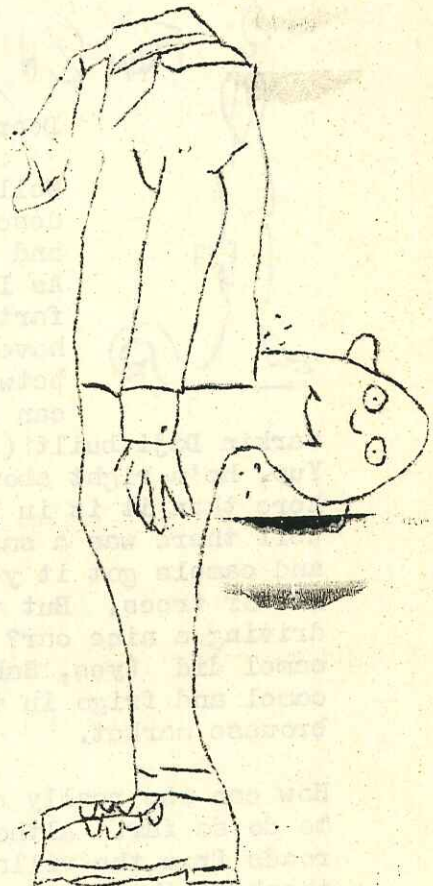
I've always held that it's better to be duped by a clever con-man than to impute ulterior motives to every stranger who begs a favor. If an honest-looking man asks me to make him a small loan, on what grounds shall I deny him? If he has no intention of repaying me, let him bear the burden of having cheated me--I will not be guilty of having wrongly accused him.

This righteous moral stand should render one invulnerable to the stings of petty crime. Still, there is something about "being had" that gnaws at a man's innards and makes his fingers itch with desire for revenge, and that is why I fantasize about catching up with Yusufu Alhadji someday, and breaking his clever little nose.

Yusufu caught me in the Christmas spirit. He tapped on my door one evening in late December and presented me with a letter, written in a humorously grandiose style, thanking me in advance for offering him a bed for the night. As he downed some oatmeal and coffee, Yusufu explained to David Gibbs and me that he was a Nigerian, presently heading the French department of a Government Secondary School in Nigeria. He was on his way back to work, after tending to some marital arrangements in his hometown. He told us about his fiancee and entertained us with tales about Nigeria until it was time for bed.

The next morning, Yusufu accosted me with another letter, this time graciously thanking me for the 1000 francs I was going to lend him so that he could visit his brother in Bouza. He would, of course, repay me as soon as he got home, the letter explained. He expressed the hope that I would visit him in Kazaure as soon as possible.

I helped Yusufu carry his bags to the lorry-park and introduced him to Steve Nelson, who happened to be heading to Bouza that day also. Happy to have done my Christian duty, I said good-bye and did not think of Yusufu again until two weeks ago when a colleague, Sanna Mohammed, told me a story about a smooth-talking dude named Yusufu who'd approached him in Konni a year earlier with the exact story. It seems Yusufu even demanded the help of the Sous-prefet of Konni, but was unceremoniously sent packing.





How bad I'd been had didn't become fully clear until a few days later when Steve Nelson dropped in. I told Steve the whole story and asked him if he remembered the guy I'd brought to the lorry-park in December.

"Remember! Hell yes. We rode to Bouza together and he stayed there with Sam and me!" Steve pulled out the letter Yusufu had written him before leaving.

Hello Steve,

I hope the almighty Lord that these few lines will meet you in a quite good atmosphere...In fact this is just one of the problems that a human being has to face in life sometimes, no matter how wise he is...After spending a quite good amount for my marriage, I am now in a critical period. Could you please believe in the almighty and grant me an amount which will enable me to get home...I have an account with the Barclock Bank of Nigeria and assure to send the amount through the post latest on January 2nd. I am really in bondages.

Thanks in Advance,  
Yusufu Alhadji Tahiru

Steve thanked me for introducing Yusufu to him and for lightening his wallet of five mille.

We agreed to write a letter to the Camel Express to warn other volunteers of the charming Yusufu. If he knocks on your door some night, please don't send him away. Do us a little favor. Let him in, feed him, play the gracious host. And after he's drifted off to sleep, collect all his clothes and bury them quietly in your backyard. Then wake him up with a bucket of cold water and show him where the door is.

\$\$\$

READERS! Look for further adventures with Yusufu in the next installment of *"The College Kids Go to Africa--"*. Next month.

A maman chamolle and her petit fils were eating dinner but the little chameau wasn't finishing his food; he didn't like that particular leaf dish. "Little Chameau," said maman a trifle piqued, "eat all your dinner or you won't get ANY desert!"

--Ann O. Nymous (Just guess who!)



Corps de la Paix  
B.P. 10537  
Niamey, Niger

Dear Friends,

My wife and I spent several years in Chad, Africa and while there we became acquainted with Peace Corps workers in that country. We have corresponded with them since our return to this country.

We would very much appreciate corresponding personally with Peace Corps workers in your country...especially those who would be a little isolated or in the bush areas.

We will await your letter as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

Alan Marquez  
663 W. 91st Ave. Apt. 101  
Denver, Colorado 80221

\$\$\$

Fuzzi,

I have a copy of the Temptations' Ball of Confusion.

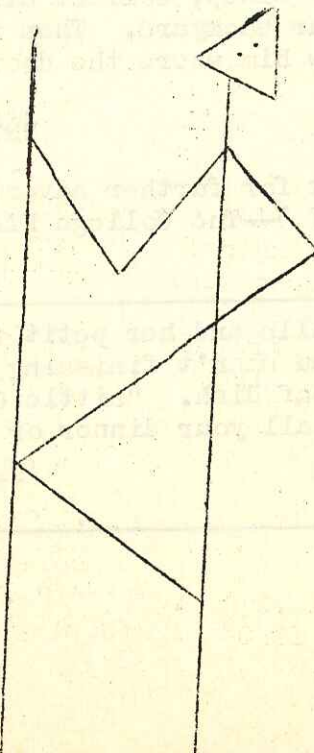
-Mustapha

The results of the living allowance increase surveys have been submitted. Let's count our Aralen tablets until we "see" the results in black and white.

-Ruth-Marie

The Camel Express is looking for job-related advice and information to fill its monthly Education, Rural Development, and Health columns. Send the Health stuff to Karen Godley in Bandé, the rest to CE, for now.

Carol Pint is looking for a sleeping bag that stuffs to a V. small size. Will buy or trade her larger bag.





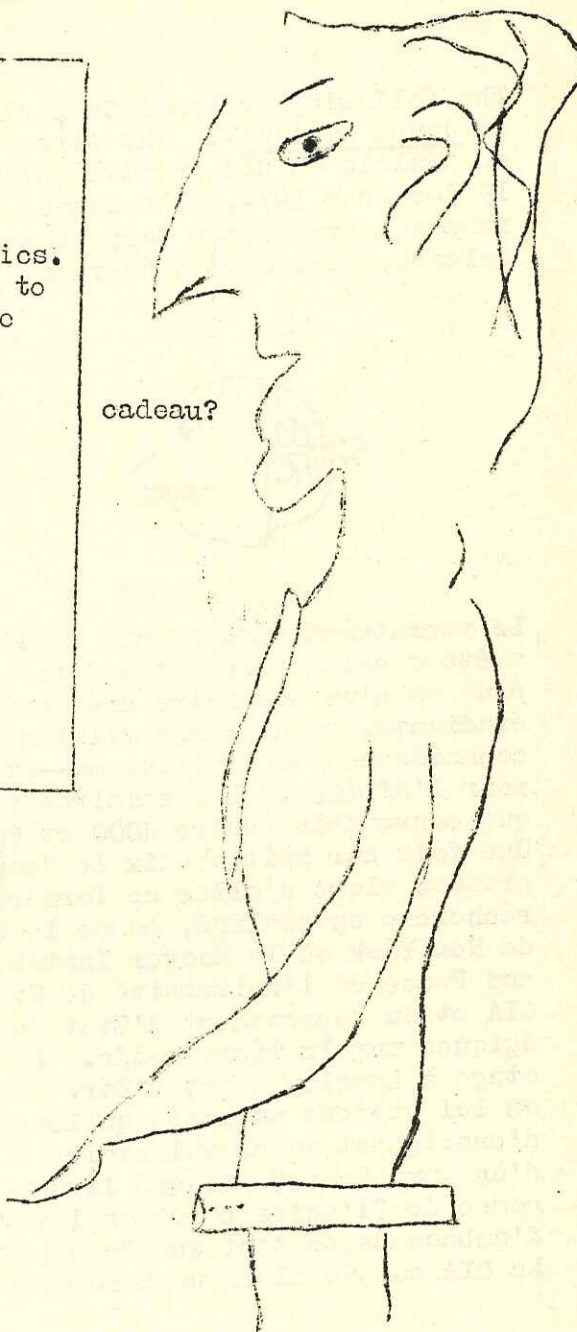
The government of Gabon and Unesco have requested Peace Corps to recruit for their joint Ecole Nationale des Cadres Ruraux two professors to initiate courses in rural development and rural economics. Volunteers are needed who are able to develop courses addressing both the theory and the application of same theory to African development. Qualifications: Two years exp. in Francophone Africa working in development; B.S./B.A. degree in economics, business, political science, or related degree. Recommendation by PCD/APCD required. Two year commitment. Begin August.

For more information contact  
Elizabeth Ernst

Needed! Retiring PCV's who would like to stay in Miami. Cours La Fontaine is in desperate need of good French speakers to teach physical education, industrial or manual arts, or drawing.

Anyone who is interested should contact Mr Claude Pouzol, Director of Cours La Fontaine (Tel. 72-26-63), or leave name and curriculum vitae with Elizabeth Barr, U.S. Embassy Personnel Officer (Tel. 72-26-61/2/3, Ext; 201/202).

cadeau?

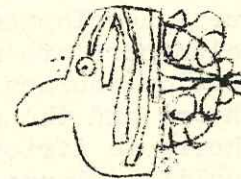
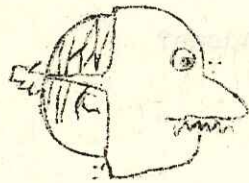


Members of the Stage of '78: Our numbers have been diminished, it's true. Nevertheless, there is interest for those of us who remain to continue contact with each other and possibly have a reunion in 2 or 3 years. Send your U.S. address to Earl Bricker, Jeff Drumtra, or Roger Stewart; one of us will provide you with a newsletter. At least keep in touch with someone in our group so we can learn your whereabouts. Don't dismiss this without some thought: We're going to have a lot in common for awhile. Besides, a reunion will be fun--I propose a central spot; somewhere like Madison, Wisconsin.

-Earl



The following exchange took place on the pages of Jeune Afrique. The first excerpt is from an article on CIA involvement in Africa, dated 19 december 1979. The second is a letter in response from Peace Corps Director Richard Celeste, published 6 February 1980.



Le recrutement des agents destiné au "travail africain" a été considérablement modifié: la CIA s'intéresse de plus en plus aux Noirs américains; universitaires ou étudiants, ayant passé militant--donc une certaine connaissance de l'activisme--et un intérêt "sentimental" pour l'Afrique. Les salaires promis sont en général plus que convenable (entre 4000 et 6000 dollars par mois). Une fois sur huit ou dix le "contact" marche: on lui propose alors d'aller se former dans un institut de recherche spécialisé, comme le Carnegie Endowment for Peace de New York ou la Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace de l'université de Stanford, qui fournissent à la CIA et au département d'Etat des études et des analyses stratégiques sur le Tiers monde. La recrue accomplit ensuite un stage à Langley avant d'être envoyée en Afrique. Sur place, on lui obtient un poste quelconque de coopérant, d'enseignant ou de volontaire des Peace Corps, s'il s'agit d'un pays "ami." Si son lieu de destination est considéré comme de "l'autre bord" on l'intègre dans le personnel d'ambassade en tant que "conseiller" ou encore "attaché culturel." La CIA compte alors un honorable correspondant de plus.

--Jeune Afrique  
19 décembre 1979

Directeur général du Corps de la paix, j'ai été choqué d'apprendre la publication dans votre magazine (n° 989), par ailleurs éminemment respecté d'un article sur la CIA en Afrique, article selon lequel la CIA utilise le Corps de la paix comme couverture pour ses agents. Cette déclaration irresponsable, qui ne repose sur aucun fait réel, porte un grave préjudice aux milliers de citoyennes et citoyens américains qui ont servi dans



le Corps de la paix en Afrique.

Pour s'en tenir aux faits, lorsque le Président Kennedy a créé le Corps de la paix, en 1961, a explicitement ordonné à tous les services de renseignements américains d'éviter tout contact avec le Corps de la paix. Cette politique a été ratifiée par tous les présidents qui lui ont succédé. Le Corps de la paix a conservé comme règle stricte l'interdiction à quiconque a travaillé à la CIA de devenir volontaire. Il procède à une sévère sélection de ses candidats afin de n'engager aucune de ces personnes ni en tant que volontaire ni en tant que membre de son personnel d'encadrement.

Grâce à cette politique, pas une seule fois, en nos dix-neuf ans d'existence, un gouvernement, une organisation, ou un individu n'a identifié un volontaire du Corps de la paix comme un agent d'un quelconque organisme de renseignements. Nous faisons de gros efforts pour maintenir cette situation, sachant pertinemment que toute brèche dans cette politique pourrait ruiner notre efficacité dans l'assistance au développement.

Je souhaite que vous publiez cette lettre comme une assurance personnelle du directeur général du Corps de la paix que notre organisation n'est pas, et n'a jamais été utilisée par le gouvernement américain comme couverture pour une quelconque activité de renseignement.

Le but du Corps de la paix, comme son nom l'indique, est de promouvoir la paix et l'amitié dans le monde en offrant aux américains l'occasion de participer, aux côtés des citoyens du Tiers monde, à la lourde tâche du développement économique. Nous n'avons pas l'intention de compromettre ce but en nous engageant dans les activités qui porteraient un lourd préjudice à notre crédibilité auprès des gouvernements et des peuples d'Afrique.

-Richard F. Celeste  
to Jeune Afrique  
6 février 1980



It's not the end of the year yet and the following are some offerings that may somehow fit into your long-range plan. All credit goes to the TEFL Volunteer leader in the Central African Republic, Michael Blake. He edits the TEFL newsletter which is sent to all English teachers in that country, the content of which is composed of suggestions sent in by the readers. What a wonderful idea. Anyway, as long as he is publishing, their creativity can be passed along to those of you who are interested.

1. A text for 4ème or 3ème:

I Am Woman

Grammar: Should, Rather/Rather than

My name is woman. For cons I have been the slave of man. I have cooked for him, borne and raised his children, cleared his fields, cleaned his house. I am discontent. Can you understand why? I am a person--a human being. I am not a possession or a work-horse. I can think. I have feelings. When will man see that? When will I be treated as a person rather than a piece of property?

Man has a lot to learn about me. He will never understand me, but I who bore him will overcome it. I do not want to conquer or to dominate. I only want to be what the Gods created me for.

I was not created from man's head that I should be his superior, nor from his feet that I should be his slave, but rather from his side that I should be his equal and near his heart.

Do you hear me man?

Activity: Have a discussion on women in Africa, their traditional position, the changes that are occurring today and the possible reasons for these changes.

Have the class break up into groups. One half of the groups will list the advantages of these changes. The other half will list the disadvantages of them. Have the responsables of the groups come to the front of the room and have them debate the issue.

2. A New Twist in Teaching Reading: oral controlled composition

At the ENS we were taught to consider controlled composition as a writing exercise, but in my troisieme class I taught a new version:



oral transformation of a text. This was a challenge to the students, more interesting. Much simply taking turns reading a text aloud in class.

Here's how I did it. I was teaching the text I am Woman from the troisieme supplement to L'Anglais Dans le Premier Cycle, p. 16 (although almost any text will work as well), and instead of having the students simply read the text, "My name is woman, etc.," I told them to transform it from first person. Thus, the first student began: "Her name is woman. For cons she has been..." It was the students' job to decide what pronouns, adjectives and verbs needed changing as a result of the first to third person change.

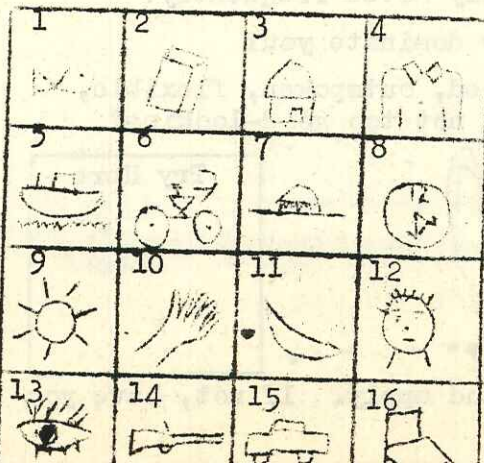
It would be just as easy to ask the students to change "woman" to women" and to make all the necessary changes in going from singular to plural. Of course this takes more time than a simple choral reading of the text, but I think this way is more educational.

### 3. Vocabulary Tic-Tac-Toe

Below is a rectangle with 16 numbered boxes, each with a different picture. Copy it on the blackboard, or substitute other pictures your sixieme students can recognize. Divide the class into two teams, the X's and the O's.

Begin with one student from the X team. If the student gives a correct answer, erase the picture and put an X in its place. Then the O's get a turn.

The winner is the first team to get four of its marks (X's or O's) in a straight line. (Examples: Boxes 1, 5, 9, and 13, or 5, 6, 7, 8, or 4, 7, 10, 13) If this is impossible, the first team with nine boxes wins.



When I did this the students had to give me: 1) the box number, 2) the name of the picture, and 3) a correct sentence using the vocabulary word.

I also used tic-tac-toe to teach verb tenses to troisiemes. Instead of pictures, I put infinitives of irregular verbs in the boxes. They had to give me: 1) the number of the box, 2) the past participle, and 3) a correct sentence using the present perfect.





Peace Corps Washington Has been advised by a blue chip panel of ex-PCV's, Australian aborigines, and Pentagon typists that creativity, not education, idealism, or youthful enthusiasm, is the quality of all the best Peace Corps volunteers. The panel devised the following questionnaire to be sent with the information packet to anyone inquiring about Peace Corps service.

1. Do you ever experience sudden flashes of insight? This is known as the Eureka Process. Do you have a tendency to leap naked from bathtubs and run into the street shouting?
2. Do you perspire heavily? Edison defined creative genius as 1% inspiration, 99% perspiration.
3. Have you ever felt like ruminating a cow? Do you pick up data, chew on it for awhile, swallow it, pop it up again, and chew it a little more? These are the stages of the creative process: intake, incubation, revelation.
4. Are you endowed with heightened perception without taking drugs? Do you look at the same things everyone else does, and not see the same things they do? Do people call you names, like "weirdo" and "oddball?" Do people try to stay away from you? This isolation factor does not apply if you are wealthy and creative, due to the well-known principle: "Money attracts; odor repels" (see no. 2, above).
5. Do you trust your intuition and run risks more than most people? There is a high correlation between artistic ability and cheating on your income taxes while running red traffic lights.
6. Do you get up in the middle of the night to urinate?
7. Can you name at least 1,757 things that are round?
8. Does your family differ in behavior and values from everyone else in your neighborhood? Has your family moved frequently?
9. Did your parents either reject or dominate you?
10. Are you self-confident, uninhibited, outspoken, flexible, independent, strongly motivated, and not too good-looking?
11. Can you draw Winky?



Try Here

If you scored 98% or better, go on and apply. If not, have you thought about VISTA?



## IF MAN WERE A BABBOON

If man were a babboon  
 He could climb up trees,  
 Scratch his knees,  
 Learn to say please,  
 Chew up big brown bumblebees,  
 Play with himself,  
 And never know why.

—Morris Wurse

Whose real name he is not telling.  
 But if he'll allow the editor a verse  
 He'll learn,  
 If man were a baboon...  
 He wouldn't have to watch his spelling.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT BLUES

With billet in hand we stand in the  
 waiting for the SNTM.  
 Our eyes come alive when it finally  
 arrives—we're on the road once again.  
 It's the Sunday express—cheaper than  
 the rest, but takes longer than most  
 in the end.

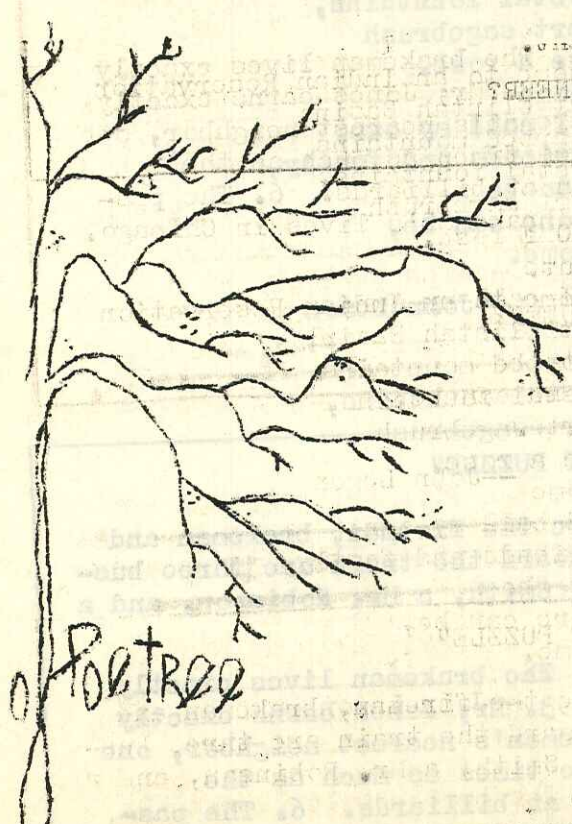
We stop in every town—we don't just  
 down; in every one mai mota's got friends.  
 In each tiny village we plunder and pillage,  
 each vendor we surely offend.  
 Near the destination, more procrastination—  
 we'll never get there—why pretend?

It's been quite a while, we've lost our  
 PC smiles—we're four hours late on time.  
 But when we arrive much less than alive,  
 we bounce to our feet and descent,  
 'cause we know real soon we'll be howling  
 at the moon and drinking Biere Niger  
 with our friends.

—Brian Kern

FRAGMENT FROM A WORK IN PROGRESS: THE  
 PSYCO-VAC'ED VOLUNTEER

Soon I'll be gone,  
 My name a timeless distant memory.  
 The great African moon will shine once



of Poetry



## AU REVOIR

L'heure inattendue est venue.  
On y va,  
Mais je deteste les adieux.  
Il y a des nuages de larmes  
en mon visage.  
Et la tristesse dans mon sourire.  
Ils savent.  
Car mes yeux annoncent les mots  
Que ma langue a essayé-cacher.  
Helas! Leurs bons coeurs ont entendu  
Mon secret clairement, à haute voix.

--John Lemon

## I'M GOING HOME

I'm going home to an Indian Reservation  
In the great Clintah Basin;  
With snow-capped mountains  
Feeding crystal fountains,  
Making desert sagebrush  
Blossom like a rose.  
I'm going home  
To a place I call my own;  
To see my friends and family,  
To a place to be  
As free as one can be,  
I'm going home.

--John Lemon

**"THE ALL-TIME GREATEST PUZZLE"**

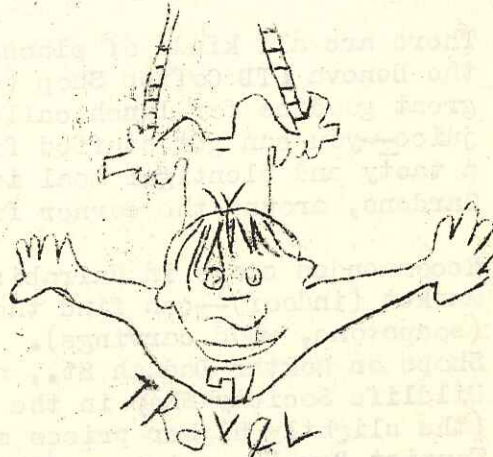
On a train, Smith, Robinson and Jones are the fireman, brakeman and engineer, but NOT respectively. Also aboard the train are three businessmen who have the same names: a Mr. Smith, a Mr. Robinson, and a Mr. Jones.

1. Mr. Robinson lives in Detroit.
2. The brakeman lives exactly halfway between Chicago and Detroit.
3. Mr. Jones earns exactly 20,000 dollars per year.
4. The brakeman's nearest neighbor, one of the passengers, earns exactly three times as much as the brakeman.
5. Smith beats the fireman at billiards.
6. The passenger whose name is the same as the brakeman's lives in Chicago.



Leo Torba and Deb Lewis, former Niger PCV's who left last year, graciously sent the Camel Express the following report on travel in KENYA and EGYPT. They also sent assorted information and travel brochures which I've listed at the end of the article. If you'd like any of these, let me know and I'll copy them and send them out.

\$\$\$



Our lives finally organized in this land of baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and Toyotas, we'd like to pass along some info that will be helpful to anyone thinking of a vacation or end-of-service trip to Kenya/Egypt. Prices given were for November/December, 1979. (One dollar = 7.4 Ksh, Kenya shillings; One dollar, forty-five cents = 1 E.P., Egyptian pound)

#### KENYA

If you have any desire at all to see Kenya, it's worth every one of the over 115,000 CFA you may have to pay to get there (Niamay to Nairobi). If you can get past this without choking on the lump in your throat, or arrange a cheap flight out of Kano, you won't be disappointed, and you'll be the envy of so many people when you get back to the States. As you'll find out, getting there is the hard part. But once there...well, here's what we learned:

We got our Kenya visas at the Nairobi airport for 25 Ksh--no problem. On arrival be sure to get a currency exchange form and have it stamped--don't lose it! All currency changes must be shown on your form and it will be checked when you leave the country. The black market exchange rate can be as high as 90% more than the official rate--but watch out--PCV's warned us--between con people and undercover police, it's just too dangerous!!

The airport bus to town is 20 Ksh. The price of a taxi is outrageous. Take buses--a real bargain at 1Ksh, maximum rate. Where to stay? We tried a few hotels, 80 to 115 Ksh (double). Cheapest bet: Nairobi Youth Hostel, on Ralph Bunch Road (outside of downtown), 20 Ksh for dorm-style bed, cook your own food on little gas stoves they provide. It's quiet and comfy, with a cozy setting. It's a rendezvous for people loaded with info. You must be a member of the International Youth Hostel Federation--fee = 75 Ksh. To get there from downtown Nairobi, take bus nos. 3 or 8 to "Traffic Police Headquarters." (Ralph Bunch Road is right across the street.) Watch out for pickpockets, or they'll get you like they got us. Also recommended is the YMCA, within walking distance of downtown Nairobi. At less than 10 dollars a day, and access to an Olympic sized swimming pool--one of the better bargains. There is supposed to be a YWCA nearby.



There are all kinds of places to eat in Nairobi--our favorite was the Beneva LTD Coffee Shop (cafeteria) on Standard Street, with great goodies for lunch called "samosas" and fresh passion fruit juice--you can get stuffed for 15 Ksh. Another great place for a tasty and plentiful meal is on Mundi Mbingu St., near Jacvanjee Gardens, around the corner from the New Garden Hotel.

Recommended stops in Nairobi: Museum (10 Ksh), Arboretum, Downtown Market (indoor)--can find the best buys in souvenirs there (soapstone, wood carvings). More souvenirs are at Hitesh or Dinesh Batik Shops on Moktar Daddah St., all kinds of stuff at the East African Wildlife Society Shop in the Hilton Arcade Mezzanine on Mama Ngina St. (the slightly higher prices support the E. African wildlife). The Tourist Development Corp./Info Bureau is in front of the Hilton Hotel. Camera shops are plentiful but film is expensive (you must by a pre-paid mailer for Kodachrome but not for Ektachrome). I got lots of X-ray damage on my film even in an X-ray-proof bag--have film examined, not X-rayed.

When in Kenya, you must go on a wildlife safari (downtown Nairobi at night doesn't count), and there are many ways to do it. The cheapest of all might be to rent your own car, but what experiences ~~have you~~ had driving on the left side of the road (it'll take a few close calls to learn how to cross a road, never mind drive on one)? And have you ever searched for animals in unknown terrain?

There are tour companies who will take you practically anywhere; they make a good profit, you see and learn a lot. Too expensive to make a habit of it though.

Nairobi National Park should be your first trip. Only 4 hours, 105 Ksh, close to Nairobi, and packed with enough kinds of big animals to excite the deadest of beats. We also took a luxury safari to Amboseli National Park (cozy cabin, 7-course dinner), 800 Ksh. Mt. Kilimanjaro is great, very different from the other areas we visited--chalky dust basin--see lots of cheetah and lions close up.

To us, the best adventure for the price was a camping safari. We went on two: a week apiece. You are lulled by the singing of zebra, hyena and lions in Masai Mara National Park. Check out "Kimbla" or "Bruce Tours." Masai Mara (5 day) or several stops (7 day), 1500 Ksh. That includes everything you need for the entire trip (except lion-swatters)--and 35 Ksh more if you don't have your own sleeping bag. The 7-day Masai Mara trip: Masai Mara is the Kenya end of the Serengeti; it was terrific! Lake Nakuru is the next great stop for birders, with some big mammals, and beautiful for camping. Thomson's Falls is on the way to Mt. Kenya--nice, though touristy. Mt. Kenya is a rain forest and would be neat to spend time on in the right season (dry season).--lots of neat monkeys, rhinos, ferns, bamboo and flowers. When we went, (November), Tsavo National Park was pretty barren--decide where to go by talking to the



We lucked out and got across the border to Tanzania with another Kimbla Tour (possibly a one-time thing though). The price was a little high (2500 Ksh) because it included a bit of bakshoesh—it was worth it, for the best wildlife viewing. Tanzania visa was 25 Ksh (go to Bima House, Haranbee Ave.).

Take the train to Mombassa (1st Class, 139 Ksh, round trip) and see the Indian Ocean. Have you ever ridden in a sleeper car in a train? The biggest attraction in Mombassa is Fort Jesus (5Ksh). Cheap place to stay, Hydra Hotel (15 Ksh)—seasoned Kenya PCV's recommended it to us, so we stayed away (it's on Digo St.) and settled for 2nd Class luxury (private bath) at the Skyway Hotel (100 Ksh, double). Go down Biashara St. for souvenirs (Moorani's has nice stuff).

Just up the coast from Mombassa is Malinda—another youth hostel, snorkeling at the Marine Park (45 Ksh including boat out to the reefs), Birdland, Snake Park, and quiet beaches. You'll hear a lot about Malindy, but if you're not into snorkeling...I got coral cuts and almost drowned in ocean water 4 feet deep—no one told me you had to know how to swim! Don't put it too high on your "must see" list.

A few final words; unlike Niger, bargain for the taxi fare and ask for the price in advance. Even without a lot of money you can enjoy Kenya cheaply. Everything outside of Nairobi is cheaper. But inflation and poachers are taking a heavy toll. Get there while the going is still good. The beer is great and cheap throughout. Finally, check out Crocodile Travel (Tom Mboya St. across from the Gloria Hotel in the Stewart Building, 2nd floor) for cheap flights to the States or almost anywhere. Do this as soon as you arrive in Nairobi. We flew to London via Sudan and Egypt for 3400 Ksh; that's cheap.

P.S. Save 80 Ksh for Airport Tax to leave Kenya.

#### EGYPT

Now let's get on to Egypt. I took Carol Bint's travel advice and found it to be only slightly dated. Egypt will not be a let-down after Kenya. It's different. It's Arab. And Cairo is BIG. But we weren't overwhelmed after a day of adjustment. Spend a full day getting your bearings, and information. It's not too big to do lots of walking around. Egypt seemed very touristy to us. Don't be discouraged by high pressure guides and such. They do have info, but if you're not interested a firm but polite "no" will seldom fail.

Be sure to get your visa before arrival. We got ours at the Egyptian Embassy in Miami. Ask for a 3-month visa.



Limosine from the airport to Cairo is 3 E.P. If you don't have much luggage, take the bus (No. 10) to downtown Cairo. If your passport needs to be registered with the police. Our hotel did it for us...for a small fee. Where to stay? There are a number of places, many quite cheap.

1. Cairo Youth Hostel, Sharia Abdel Aziz Saoud, El-Manial, Cairo. We didn't stay there.
2. Ask an agent (they'll find you) about cheap hotels. We saw some around Tahrir Square (Golden Hotel, Talat-Harb St.)
3. Hotel Fontana, P E.P. (double). We liked it because:
  - a. Good cuisine is not cheap in Egypt, but here it was plentiful and moderately priced.
  - b. It's very close to the train station. If you want to go to Luxor/Aswan, this is a definite plus.
  - c. Walking distance to the Egyptian Museum; by foot 30 mins. by taxi 25 mins. (you've got to see the traffic to believe it).

Be sure to try hot or cold "karkade," a purple drink made from hibiscus flowers.

Places to see in Cairo: Hell, you know about them! Take a taxi to and from the pyramids, 4-6 E.P.

Souvenirs: The gold and silver jewelry is expensive but beautifully done. I paid only 12 E.P. for a galebeya (caftan-type traditional clothing) made to fit in 5 hours time.

We took the train to Luxor for 20 E.P., round trip, and to Aswan for 3 E.P., round trip from Luxor. Quite inexpensive and comfortable--1st class! The Aswan Dam, botanical gardens, sailboats on the Nile...enough to make the long trip worthwhile.

Luxor--the fabulous valleys of the Kings and Queens. We saw temples and tombs and reliefs and hieroglyphics and ancient history enough to be impressed more than when we saw a rhino in Kenya. We rode donkeys a full day among the ruins and over totally barren cliffs and breathtaking crests. You can go by bike too. Rent a bike for a nice ride to Karnak.

There are several other fine tourist points in Egypt. We heard favorably about El Fayoum Oasis, Alexandria, and Abul Simbel (may be expensive and difficult to get to).

Final notes: Looking for a great gift? Alybaba Oriental Perfume, 13 Abdel Salam Aaref St., exit: el Bustun St., Cairo. The black market rate is practically the same as the official rate. Things are looking good for Egypt. Every Egyptian loves Americans and Jimmy Carter. 3 E.P. for the airport tax here.



Here are the brochures that Leo Torba and Deb Lewis sent with their article:

#### KENYA

1. "Malindi Excursions and Safaris", United Touring Company, rates, schedules, descriptions.
2. "Mombasa Excursions and Safaris," United Touring Company, rates, schedules, descriptions.
3. Rates and tour suggestions from two car hire companies.
4. Rates from a car hire and camping equipment hire company.

#### EGYPT

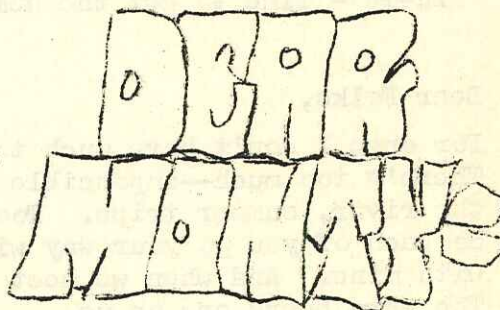
1. A mimeographed list called "Egyptian Youth Hostels," giving locations and facilities. Fourteen hostels listed in eleven different cities.

§§§

Dear Monty,

Would you believe it? Just as I'm all set to go, PC Washington hits me with more red tape. I'm supposed to evaluate all the volunteers in Niger. Nobody told me about it, and I feel a lot of hostility here. Can you or somebody back there help me out?

Phyllis D.  
Somewhere in America



Dear Miss D,

Don't worry--everything's cool. Just have all your charges take this simple at-home test with the easy-to-follow grading guide!

1. How many stars on a Flag label (the big ones, not that little dot on the neck)?
2. How many dents in a Sprite bottle?
3. Quickly and in alphabetical order--What countries border Niger?
4. In what year and in what arrondissement was Kountché born?
5. Speaking of arrondissements, how many are there? Bonus point for knowing the one with the shortest name.
- 7-15. Match the CFA denominations on the left with the bird species on the right as they appear on Nigerien stamps:

- |        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 7. 5   | a. Lanarius Barbarus                  |
| 8. 10  | b. Psittacula Kramen                  |
| 9. 15  | c. Euplectus Orix Franciscanus        |
| 10. 20 | d. Halcyon Senegalensis               |
| 11. 25 | e. Centropus <del>Sahel</del> ahensis |
| 12. 30 | f. Tockus Nasutus                     |
| 13. 35 | g. Ploceus Luteolus                   |
| 14. 40 | h. Coracias Abyssinica                |
| 15. 45 | i. Steganura Paradisia Orientalis     |



16. What was the population of Niamey in 1900 (est)?  
 a. 600    b. 1200    c. 6000    d. 12,000

### Answers

1. 62  
 2. 140  
 3. Algeria, Benin, Chad, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Upper Volta.  
 4. 1931  
 5. Filingué  
 6. 35 Say  
 7. F 8. D    9. E    10. B    11. H    12. A    13. I    14. C    15. G  
 16. A

### Grading Guide

- 0 -USAID material  
 1-2 -Stagiare  
 3-6 -Ville volunteer  
 7-8 -Been here awhile  
 9-11 -Re-upped PCV  
 12-13 -Culturally sensitive  
 14-16 - Time to get the helm out

Dear Folks,

For once I don't have much to say. Rather, I have a lot, but can't. There's too much—impossible classes, great people, hanging out by the river, summer trips. Too many friends, too many memories. So each of you go your way with your memories and I'll go my way with mine. And when we meet up (I know we will), it'll be great. The warm beers are on me.

Take Care,

Monty Fusco  
 60 Town Path  
 Glen Cove, NY 11542

### BIRTHDAYS

May 1 Jeanne Harper	June 10 Karen Hussel
May 4 Stephanie Campbell	June 11 Mark Hukill
May 9 Mustapha Salaam	June 14 Monty Fusco
May 10 Hartha Mordier	June 14 Mike Klinger
May 16 Mary Pat Champeau	June 15 Kent Helmer
May 23 Jeff Drumtra	June 16 Ray Jussaume
May 24 John Grettenberger	June 22 Paula Bryan
June 3 Frank Lusby	
June 9 Joli Burrows	oh yes,
June 9 Tom Daley	May 2 Nancy Dillon
June 9 Rebecca Pickett	June 1 Dave Gibbs



Foot Care for People Who Wear Sandals

Eugenia Wiley, Embassy Nurse

If you are one of those people who get large calluses on your heels and have had one split, this will interest you. The best approach is to avoid the hard ridges which build up. Instead of making your feet tougher, they make them more vulnerable to painful, slow-healing cracks. They can be prevented by regular attention to keep the callus from growing. A pumice stone is great, and at least one volunteer found one for sale in the Miami market. If you want to ask someone to send you a cadeau, there are foot scrapers for sale in drug stores in the States that are small enough to fit in an envelope. They look like fine scrapers one might find in a kitchen and they have plastic handles. Or you can use a rock. Look for one with a flat surface that is a bit rougher than finished cement. Soak your feet before you work on them, or keep a "foot rock" where you shower and use it when your feet are wet. If you get one of those painful cracks, keep it as clean as possible and soak your feet in water. Wearing shoes and socks will also help. They keep your feet clean while healing, and the humidity of the sweat helps to soften the callus.

If you tried to do the puzzle on Page 11 and expected to find the solution somewhere else in the paper, you'd better just go back and try it again, harder this time. The guy who sent it in didn't give us the answer (he just tore the puzzle page out of a Reader's Digest). So if you figure it out, let us know.

## Contributors This Issue

Earl Bricker	Dan Sarkin Daji
Monty Fusco	Leo Torba
Brian Kern	Steve Reid
John Lemon	Morris Wurso
Deb Lewis	Ann O. Nymous

## Next Time:

Something from the Trivia Twins  
Mayer on Huit  
Health Sector Column  
Rural Development News  
And Other Stuff