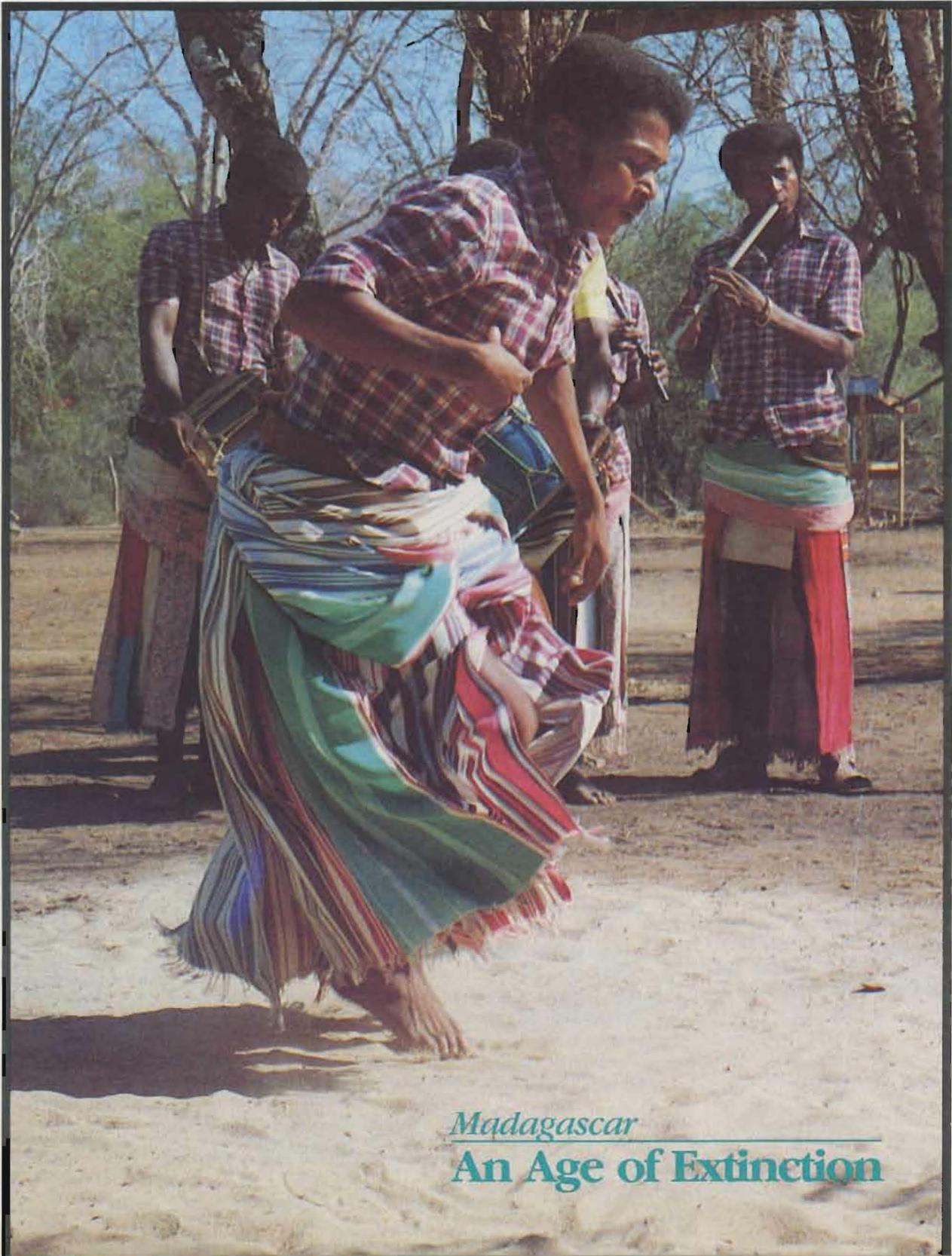


# Washington

WASHINGTON • UNIVERSITY • MAGAZINE

WINTER • 1987



*Madagascar*  
**An Age of Extinction**

## An Age of Extinction

The island of Madagascar, off the southeast coast of Africa, is drawing a lot of attention from scientists around the world right now, and for good reason. Closed to Westerners for most of the 1970s, Madagascar offers what one anthropologist calls "a living laboratory." Severed from the African continent nearly 150 million years ago, Madagascar's population of living things consists of species that have evolved in parallel to the rest of the world and many that still exist in something like a primitive state.

But the island, roughly twice the size of Arizona, represents something else as well: the rapid and continuing disintegration of the tropical landscape. Largely due to human population growth and the pressures of economic development, the tropics are being devoured worldwide at more than an alarming rate. Last September, a National Teleconference on Biodiversity estimated that 50 tropical species are disappearing *every day*, putting nearly 750,000 organisms at risk over the next 30 years. In Madagascar, 90 percent of the island's natural vegetation has been decimated. We are facing, says Peter Raven, Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University and director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, "an age of extinction the like of which has not been seen since the age of dinosaurs." Moreover, Raven says, that extinction will occur within our lifetimes.

The intriguing creature you see pictured here is a lemur, and he lives nowhere else in the world but Madagascar. It is scientists' interest in the



*Lemur catta*

lemur, and a host of other plant and animal species native only to Madagascar, that has forced them to confront the extinction of these species. Members of the primate family, an incredible variety of lemurs lives on Madagascar, ranging in size from the mouse lemur at 60 grams to the Indri at four or five kilos. Once, as many as 36 species of lemur roamed the island; now only 22 survive, and all are being threatened. The lemur pictured here is

calling to others in his group, a common practice: lemurs are intensely social.

In order to both study and attempt to save these species, scientists have been forced to step out of traditional roles, becoming involved in political and economic activities. They have also, to an extraordinary extent, begun working across disciplines. At Washington University, interest in Madagascar has linked the resources of anthropology, sociology, ethnopharmacology, biology, botany, anatomy, radiology, and even the space sciences, to make knowledge about the island and its endangered state available to the rest of the world.

That interest has also, to an unusual degree, found a home in the city of St. Louis. Only three major research agreements exist at present between the Malagasy government and United States educational institutions. In addition to activity at Washington (in cooperation with Yale) and Duke Universities, researchers at the Missouri Botanical Garden, a worldwide center for interest in the tropics, have begun in earnest cataloguing plant life in Madagascar. Also, the St. Louis Zoo has become a worldwide center for the study and propagation of lemurs in general and the black lemur in particular.

We hope, as always, that you enjoy this issue of *Washington University Magazine*, but we also hope you are disturbed, in particular, by our story on Madagascar. It is a story of great beauty, intense conflict, and, most of all, alarming urgency.—R.H. □

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Volume 57 Number 1

St. Louis, Missouri

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On the island of Madagascar, scientists hope to both study and preserve a small portion of Earth's vanishing tropical species. And they are running out of time.

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Type A's don't mate well with each other, tend to injure themselves, and are more prone to heart attack. Why, then, are we so taken with them?

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Certainly not Establishment, William Hyland is the new hand at the helm of *Foreign Affairs*.

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Henry Hampton has a dream. He wants his ambitious documentary on the civil rights movement to evoke a national catharsis.

**On the cover:** Malagasy musicians and a dancer celebrate the inauguration in 1985 of Beza Mahafaly Reserve — a cooperative project among Washington and Yale Universities and the University of Madagascar — as a special government reserve. Photograph by Robert Sussman.

**On the back cover:** A typical day's catch for a Malagasy fisherman. Photograph by Voara Randriansolo.

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*Washington University Magazine* (ISSN 0162-7570) is published quarterly by Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130. Second class postage paid at St. Louis, MO 63130.

***Nip & Tuck: WUTA Rescues a Texas Damsel in Distress***

**I**t's no secret Texans have a tall opinion of themselves.

So it's probably no accident the Texas Capitol in Austin, built in 1888, is seven feet higher than the U.S. Capitol, completed just 23 years earlier. Texans, when in their capital city, apparently prefer to be reminded of nothing so much as their own stature.

But when the Goddess of Liberty, a 16-foot-tall statue atop the Capitol, began cracking up not long ago, the eyes of Texas turned to

Washington University Technology Associates, Inc. (WUTA).

The firm, made up of artists, chemists, engineers, and business experts, has merged disciplines to forge a national reputation in sculpture conservation.

WUTA had previously restored the "Meeting of the Waters" fountain opposite St. Louis Union Station, equestrian figures at the entrance to Chicago's Grant Park, and a statue of Hans Christian Andersen in New York's Central Park,



**Safe at last:** *The Goddess landed, on the front lawn of the state capitol.*



**Bound for glory:** *The original Goddess of Liberty rigged for hoisting.*

among many other projects. But this was its loftiest challenge yet: None of the other monuments had been 300 feet off the ground.

The trouble all began in 1983 when workers repainting the "Old Lady" confirmed that a web of cracks, first noticed 15 years earlier, had grown wider and more pronounced. People began wondering whether the Goddess' upraised arm, holding the Lone Star, might topple down on the most important building in the state.

Patrick Rice, vice-president and general manager of WUTA, surveyed the Goddess from a helicopter and from a scaffolding and took a two-inch fragment of her "hem" back to St. Louis, where the worst fears of Texas officials were confirmed. The statue's zinc alloy was in extremely poor condition; there was a good chance the Goddess would not last until 1986 and the

Texas Sesquicentennial celebration.

WUTA determined that the statue could be restored, but they could not guarantee decay wouldn't recur. The solution arrived at was to fabricate a "twin" for the Capitol cupola and to restore the original for display inside the building.

Texas Governor Mark White launched a statewide fund-raising campaign; Texans proved the reputation for being proud of themselves by donating \$523,000.

The new statue was hoisted into place last June, and the restored original placed inside the Capitol in December, where it will be safe forever from the elements.

Governor White expressed his gratitude by bestowing on Rice the greatest honor in the state, proclaiming him an honorary citizen of Texas. — *Andy Siering* □

## U.S. Trade Restraints Provide Auto-Stimulation in Japan

Japanese automakers, under the guise of voluntary restraints on exports, have formed a cartel that for five years has gouged American consumers, says research by the Center for the Study of American Business at Washington University that questions the assumption restraints have helped American automakers.

Researcher Arthur Denzau says that in 1981, when six Japanese firms agreed to the restraints, they also agreed to divvy up the American market.

"The result," says Denzau, "was higher prices for American consumers and higher profits for the Japanese firms involved."

Japanese profits rose so dramatically over the next three years the automakers decided unilaterally to continue the restraints even after the United States announced an end to them in March 1985. Denzau argues this is proof the restraints were designed

as "a cartel device to raise prices and profits."

"The irony," he continues, "is that the whole scheme was instigated at the request of the American government. It was rather embarrassing when the Japanese refused to go along with ending restraints we had suggested."

While the restraints spurred investor confidence in American automakers, the restrictions have two negative consequences in the long run, Denzau says:

- The decreased volume of Japanese sales has encouraged Japanese firms to pursue more aggressively the upscale market in personal luxury cars and sports cars – traditional strengths of Detroit carmakers.
- The resulting devaluation of the yen has encouraged the Japanese to build new plants here – five in the last five years – which, Denzau says, is bad news both for Detroit and for organized labor. – A.S. □



**“Decreased sales have encouraged the Japanese to pursue the upscale U.S. market.”**



STEPHEN KENNEDY

## Designing Woman

Graphic design by Washington University sophomore Cynthia Lindman was chosen last fall by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as the official logo for the *Magellan* Mission to Venus.

*Magellan*, an unmanned mission to map the surface of Venus, is scheduled for launch in 1989. Lindman's logo will be used on the masthead of the *Magellan* newsletter and on all mission documents and reports. The logo also will

appear on T-shirts, coffee mugs, and other commemorative items.

Lindman, a native of Bloomington, Indiana, who describes herself as a "non-scientific, compulsive design-contest enterer," composed the winning design the night before the contest deadline. The circular logo incorporates a sailing ship representing the mission's namesake, Ferdinand Magellan, with graphic symbols representing the orbits of Earth, Mercury, and Venus around the sun. □

## Branch Offices? Scientists Try Talking Tree-to-Tree

Long-range research at Washington University's Tyson Research Center is focusing on how trees collaborate to produce extremely large crops of acorns and nuts. This phenomenon is called "mast fruiting."

"Mast fruiting represents a pulse of energy and nutrients into the forest ecosystem," says Richard W. Coles, biology professor and director of the Tyson Research Center. "It can be quite dramatic – acorns literally so abundant that it's like walking on a floor covered with ball bearings. The interesting aspect is that the trees' reproductive efforts are coordinated. One wonders how."

Hunters and outdoorsmen have always known about this peculiar habit in oaks, hickories, and other fruiting trees. Every few years, trees within a limited area let loose a crop of acorns and nuts five to 20 times the normal yield. Until recently, this overabundance was dismissed as just another of nature's interesting quirks.

But research conducted by Victoria Sork, a plant ecologist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in conjunction with biologists Coles and Owen Sexton of Washington University, indicates that what goes on beneath the shade of the old oak tree is more than coincidence.

For the last six years, field researchers have tracked flower and fruit development in 60 trees – including white, red, and black oak and pignut hickory – in Tyson's rolling forest southwest of St. Louis.

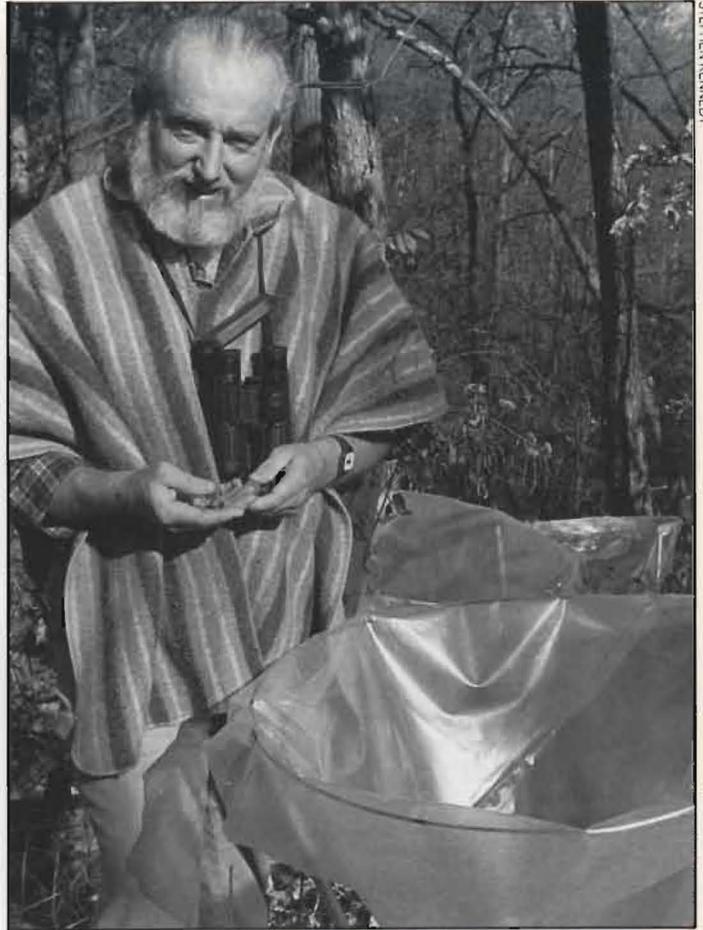
Each spring, researchers hand-count the number of male and female flowers on selected branches of study trees; in late summer they return to measure new growth and count maturing acorns that the flowers have produced.

During summer and fall, eight cone-shaped plastic baskets are placed under each tree to sample acorn production. Nuts retrieved from these traps are examined in the lab to determine the percentage of seeds capable of growing into new trees.

By tracking flower and acorn production patterns, the scientists have identified when in the tree's annual cycle the "decision" is made to produce a mast crop. (The word "mast" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word for food.) "Although trees fluctuate tremendously in acorn production, they flower with similar vigor every year," explains Sork. "Aside from the tree's general health, what really makes the difference in crop size is the genetic quality of the pollen fertilizing the flower."

The researchers also noted, as others have in the past, that some species have only one or two good years out of five. "But when it's a good year, the majority of adult trees have a good year. When it's a bad year, most have a bad year," Sork observes.

According to Coles, "The prevailing hypothesis is that this conspiracy to synchronize mast crops exists to ensure survival of the species." When trees produce a large crop after several



STEPHEN KENNEDY

Whispering pines: Tyson Research Center director Richard W. Coles listening in on this year's acorn harvest.

years of skimpy production, he says, there are more acorns than the squirrels, deer, birds, and turkeys can eat. That means a better chance that some of the acorns will produce new trees.

But the plot thickens when researchers theorize on *how* trees' productive efforts are synchronized. There is no regular cycle to mast crops. Most interesting, Sork says, is that different species produce mast crops in different years. One year white oaks might produce a mast fruiting; the following year, red oaks may have the large crop.

Thus trees may "talk" with succeeding generations via the genetic lan-

guage contained in pollen. In mast fruiting years it is possible, Sork says, that a handful of the best pollen producers, spurred by common weather cues, trigger the event by producing unusually large amounts of high-quality pollen.

Still, to many biologists, including Coles, the idea of a more direct chemical language, although remote, is intriguing. "Here we have many individuals holding back for a period of time," Coles maintains. "It's an anti-Darwin type of response. Direct communication, though not substantiated, is not out of the question." – Robert Brock □

**“In each of my novels there is a murder connected with an enigma...The world is an unsolvable mystery.”**

## ***A Bed, a Desk, a Theory: The Novel, by Robbe-Grillet***

The French novelist Alain Robbe-Grillet says he can't write unless his bed is in the same room as his desk.

“It's true,” says Michel Rybalka, professor of Romance languages at Washington University and a good friend of the author. “The first thing we did when Alain arrived in St. Louis was to move his desk into his bedroom.”

Robbe-Grillet smiles as Rybalka tells the story.

“The desk and the bed are connected,” Robbe-Grillet says and shrugs his shoulders.

He is a slight man, conservative and delicate looking, his French precise and academic. Sitting across from Rybalka in the small faculty lounge overlooking the inner quadrangle, he seems shy, almost frightened.

Still, he has the head of a lion – steel-gray hair, unmanageable eyebrows, and a strong, high forehead. His long, delicate fingers are at odds with the strength of his facial features and the analytical power of his eyes. Robbe-Grillet's theories on the structure of the novel have revolutionized the way writers and critics think about the novel and fired the imagination of writers throughout Europe and South America. His intricate

novels of murder and psychopathy, based on his revolutionary theories, such as *Les Gommés*, *La Jalousie*, and *La Maison de Rendez-Vous*, have sold millions of copies around the world.

This past fall, Robbe-Grillet, author of the screenplay for *Last Year at Marienbad*, discussed those theories about the novel with Washington University students and faculty members, as he will for the next several years. He has accepted an appointment as Distinguished Professor of Romance Languages, an appointment that will bring him every other fall to St. Louis.

In the United States, his work is almost completely unknown by the general reading public. This is due, at least in part, to his novels' strident intellectualism and

his uncompromising disregard for traditional plot development.

“In each of my novels,” he says, “there is a murder connected with an enigma. So, in a sense, I write mysteries. But what are normally thought of as mysteries have no interest for me. In a normal detective novel the whole premise implies a solution. But the world, life, doesn't work like that. The world is an unsolvable mystery.”

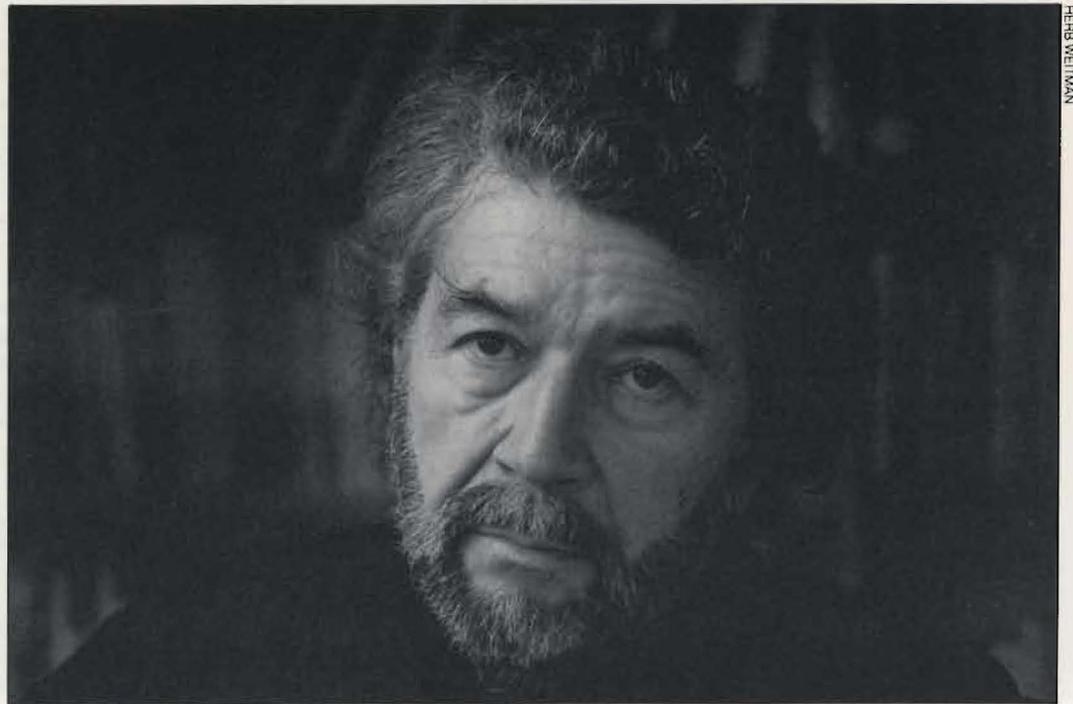
Shunning metaphor and traditional form, Robbe-Grillet has built a literary career on the belief that a precise and dispassionate examination of the objects around us can reveal experiences untouched by more conventional writing techniques. In everyday objects he believes we can find fragments of the human



Alain Robbe-Grillet

imagination – of memories, dreams, and desires.

“I begin a novel with an image in my mind,” he says. “I have a vision. The vision is very intense, very close. I try to explore the vision by writing it down. With the act of writing down an image, the visions proliferate.” – *Ed Bishop* □



HERB WEITMAN

HERB WEITMAN

## Nat'l Councils Established; ALLIANCE Tops \$500 Million

Washington University is establishing National Councils for each of its schools and other units of the University "to carry out, on an ongoing basis, the functions of external review and recommendations on the programs and potentials of the schools." The councils will also interpret the schools' programs to the Board of Trustees and to the schools' alumni and friends.

W. L. Hadley Griffin, chairman of the Washington University Board of Trustees, made the announcement October 9 at an event

celebrating the ALLIANCE FOR WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, a \$300 million fund-raising program undertaken as a result of recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of Washington University during 1979-81.

Formation of the National Councils also springs from recommendations made by the Commission, Griffin said. The councils will continue on a permanent basis the functions served by the task forces of the commission.

Each National Council will consist of a group of local and national volunteer

leaders in fields related to the work of the school or unit they advise. The membership will include trustees, but will be composed primarily of scholars and educators, scientists, and leaders in business, government, the arts, and the professions.

The National Council chairpersons will serve as members of the newly structured Advancement Committee of the Board of Trustees.

ALLIANCE chairman George H. Capps also announced at the October 9 event the campaign's gift commitment of \$503.5 million had made it the largest amount ever achieved by a national fund-raising cam-

paign. Two major grants totaling \$85 million from the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation and the Danforth Foundation were also announced.

The ALLIANCE campaign, begun in 1983, will continue through December 31, 1987, as originally planned.

"Even though we have more than a year to go on the Washington University campaign, nothing will ever match the excitement of putting this great institution at the forefront of educational philanthropy in America," said Capps. "Our success leaves us both incredulous and thankful for the more than 53,000 donors who have already made their gifts and pledges." □

## Quotables

"If anybody ever makes an offer for Mesa Petroleum, there will be the most orderly, professional transition you've ever seen. But I want one thing if you take over. If you keep me past lunch on the last day, I want to be paid to five o'clock—because you have really ruined my day."

T. Boone Pickens, chairman and CEO of Mesa Petroleum, speaking to a conference on corporate takeovers, sponsored by the Center for the Study of American Business.

"By reducing incentives for business expansion, we're going to see fewer new jobs created, a weaker economy, less revenues into the Treasury, more unemployment compensation, and a bigger budget deficit."

Murray Weidenbaum, director of the Center for the Study of American Busi-



T. Boone Pickens

ness and former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, commenting on tax revision legislation in *The New York Times*.

"WW II made Nobel winner eat her works." Headline in *The Chicago Tribune* on a story describing how Rita Levi-Montalcini—who was awarded the Nobel Prize last year with Stanley Cohen for work at Washington University—lived off eggs from chicks used in

her experiments while hiding from Mussolini in her native Italy prior to WW II.

"Learning and education are not necessarily what makes one a writer. What makes one a writer, I think, is an irrevocable sense of loss and dilemma."

Irish short-story writer Edna O'Brien, during a reading of her work as part of the Assembly Series.

"There seems to be a deeply held male conviction that a book in a woman's hands is not what engages her."

Leo Steinberg, Benjamin Franklin Professor of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania, speaking on "Interrupted Reading: How Men Have Perceived Women Reading from the 14th Century through Modern Advertising," as part of the Assembly Series. □



THE REJECTION OF FOREIGN TISSUE.

**“We wanted this series to be something more than another starving-Africa program.”**

## ***PBS on Africa: Documentary Stirs Controversy***

“There is no question that the West has been destructive of African values,” says Victor T. Le Vine, professor of political science at Washington University and a noted authority on Africa.

Le Vine, who has taught and conducted research in several African countries, was one of several academicians in political science, anthropology, and African studies selected to serve on the advisory committee for *The Africans*, a nine-part PBS television documentary.

“We wanted this series to be something more than the usual anthropology special or another starving-African program,” says Le Vine.

The series, which aired from October through December, was a source of great controversy in both the United States and England. Conceived and hosted by Ali A. Mazrui, a native of Kenya and a professor of political science at the University of Michigan, *The Africans* has been condemned by some critics for its anti-Western tone and its criticism of capitalism and colonialism.

“I first met Mazrui in 1969 when I was teaching in Ghana,” recalls Le Vine. “He and I have been arguing various points of African politics ever since. Other members of the advisory committee have had similar experiences, but Mazrui is an authentic African voice worth listening to,” he adds. “We recognized that he would be controversial and at the same time would provide a perspective of Africa that is worth hearing and arguing about.”

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which contributed \$600,000 toward the cost of the series, didn’t care for Mazrui’s point of view. The agency demanded that its name be removed from the credits and termed the program “narrow and politically tendentious.” The episode that brought



*Victor T. Le Vine*

about the retraction by the NEH dealt specifically with Libya and the “insider’s view” of Muammar Quaddafi and the American air raid on Tripoli. Critics of the series felt the program was too soft on Quaddafi.

“Whatever one thinks of the series’ tone,” Le Vine wrote in a letter to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, “the fact remains that the major sponsors of the project – the BBC, the Annenberg PBS project, WETV, as well as the NEH – knew what they were getting all along. Ali Mazrui . . . and his views on Africa – expressed through the years in a variety of books, articles, occasional pieces and media appearances – were no secret to anyone.”

Mazrui is scheduled to speak at Washington University in February. His lecture, “Cultural Forces in World Politics: A Third World Perspective,” will be delivered in Graham Chapel as part of the Assembly Series.

Despite Le Vine’s own disagreement with Mazrui on some African issues, he believes the program reflects a perspective common to many African intellectuals. “Mazrui argues that the gifts of

the Western world are somewhat like a poisoned apple,” says Le Vine. “He is also politically to the left. That, I suppose, is a sin in the eyes of some of those who criticize him.”

As an advisor to the program, Le Vine helped prepare material for *The Africans* telecourse, which involves viewing the documentary in the classroom, followed by a discussion and selected readings. The course was offered at universities in every major city across the country.

At Washington University, according to Le Vine, the class was attended by a “mixed group of students.” Besides viewing the program and reading the material, each student “adopted” an African country and applied the main ideas in each program to his or her specific country.

“None of these students were passive receptacles for ‘the wrong point of view,’” says Le Vine. “In African discussions people get animated. They raise their voices and wave their arms to make a point. We did, at times, achieve that level of enthusiasm in our discussions.” – *Bridget McDonald* □

# PARADISE GONE AWRY

*On the island of Madagascar, scientists hope to both study and preserve a small portion of Earth's vanishing tropical species. And they are running out of time.*

**by Robert Brock**

**B**y sunrise, the jungle is 95 degrees and incubating life. Robert W. Sussman, professor of anthropology at Washington University, is weaving his way through primeval undergrowth: monstrous, leafy growing things with no names; exotic flowers fragile as blown glass; primitive plants few human beings have ever seen. The damp, sweet smells of life in the jungle mingle with the heavier odors of decay.

But the stocky, bearded Sussman takes little notice of the strangeness around him. His dark eyes search for movement or flashes of color in the green and khaki underworld. For five days he has camped alone in the jungle, hoping for a glimpse of the most primitive primates on Earth.

It is frustrating work. Lemurs exist only in isolated patches of this island 250 miles off the east coast of Africa. Once, at least 36 species of lemurs covered Madagascar; at most, 22 species remain, many of them on the edge of extinction. Today Sussman is lucky.

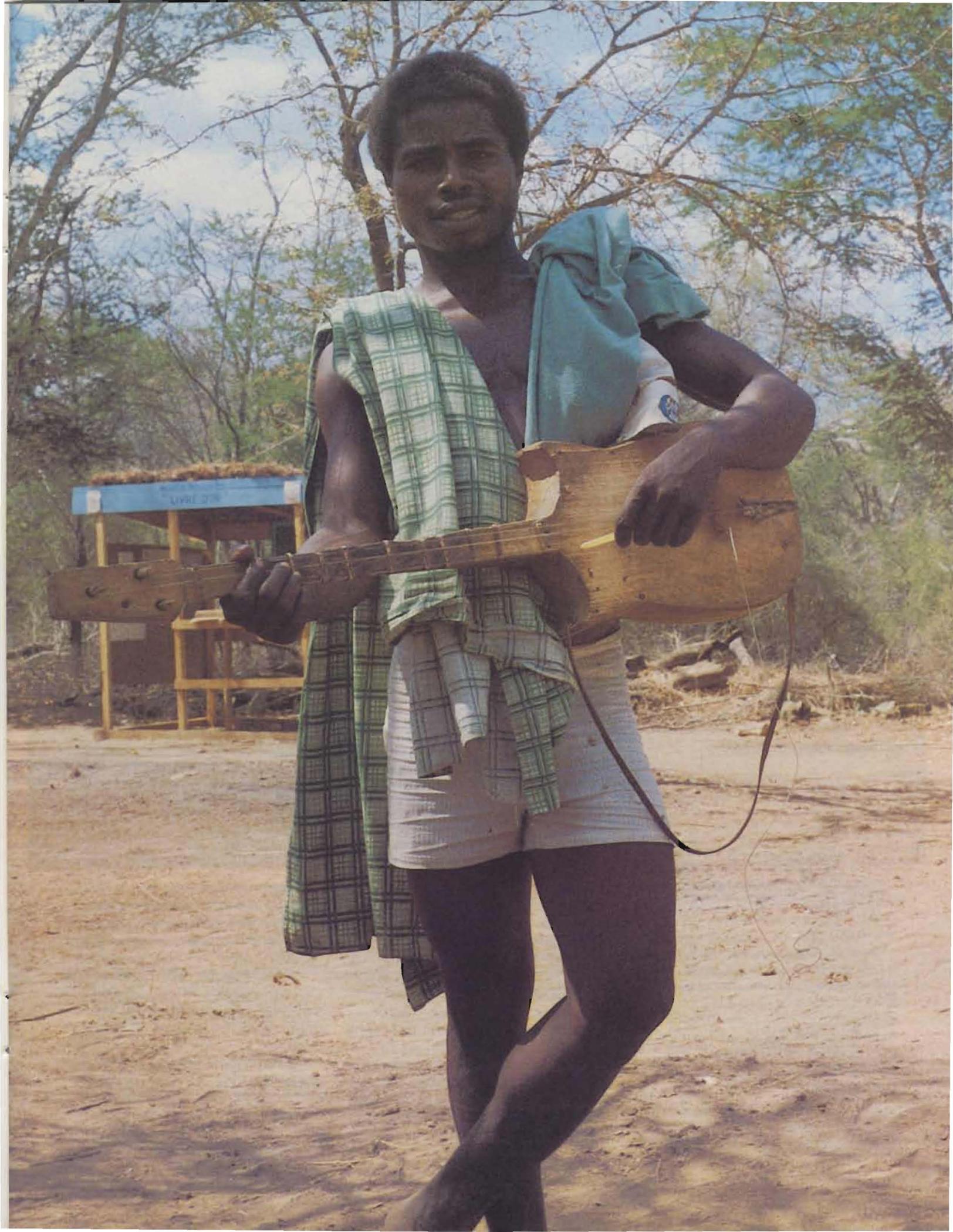
There is a sound, not sudden or sharp, but a creeping rustle off to the right, coming closer. Eight shadowy forms dance from branch to branch. They are large, the tallest four feet high, stunning bright yellow in color with flecks of reddish gold in their coats, and crowns of rich cocoa; their bushy white tails are as long as their bodies. For an instant, Sussman glances back millions of years at the history of man's own evolution. Then, sensing the intruder, the band of lemurs glides without a sound into the shadows.

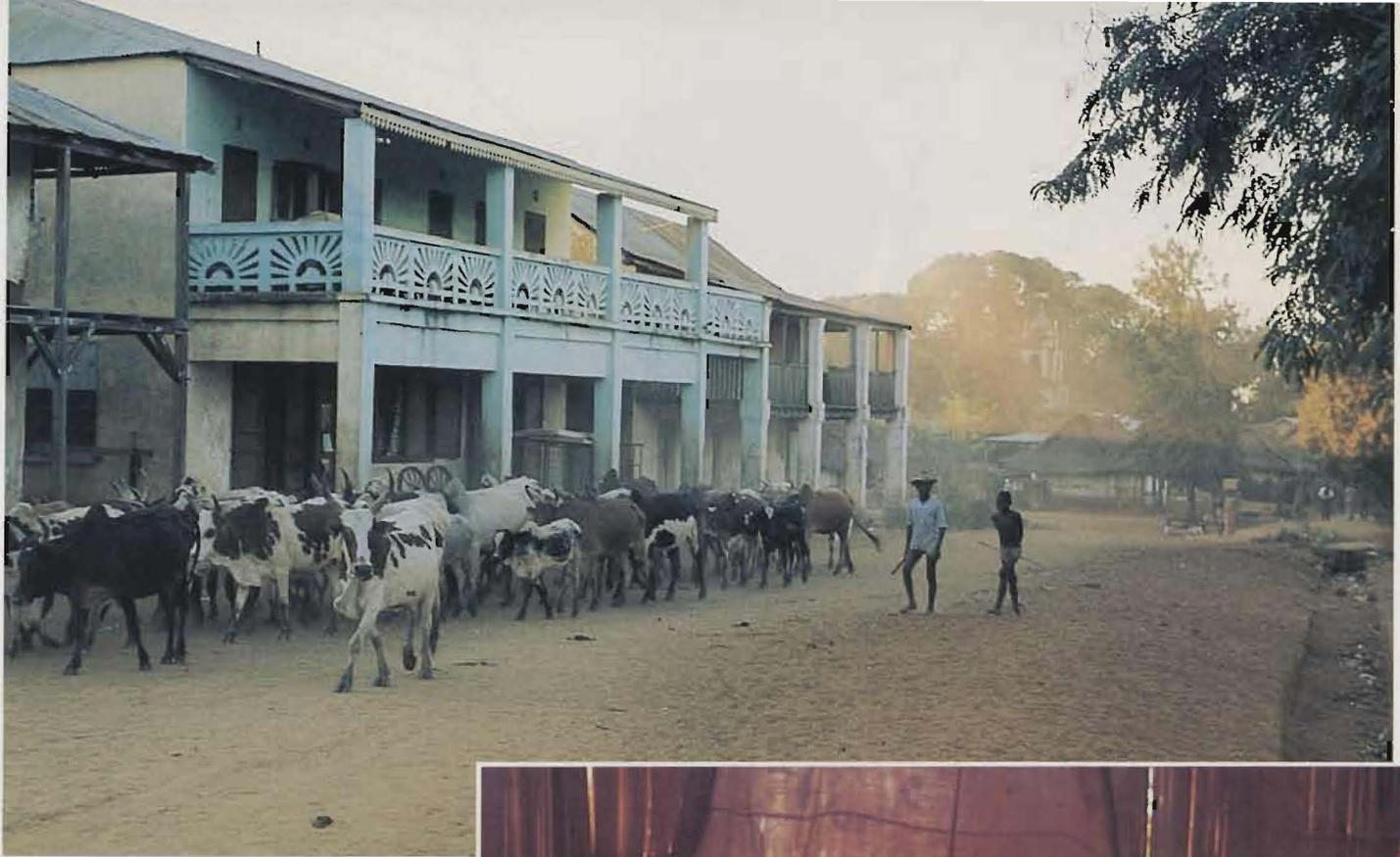
The scientist breaks into a sweaty grin. This rare animal, the Eastern Sifaka, was thought to have vanished from the Perinet Reserve, a small, protected enclave on Madagascar's eastern escarpment. Yet it continues to hang on tenaciously while the primitive paradise around it slowly disintegrates.

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**Different drummer:** *Unable to afford store-bought instruments, Malagasy often fashion their own. The guitar played by this young man at the celebration for Beza Mahafaly Reserve, although acoustic, seems to be fashioned after an electric model. Photograph by Robert Sussman.*

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R. SUSSMAN

Back in his office at Washington University, anthropologist Sussman has traded jungle khakis for a sport shirt, but the deep-set eyes still search and penetrate; the clock continues to echo in his head.

"Madagascar is an incredible place," he says, turning toward a window kept open regardless of the weather. "Darwin made the Galápagos Islands famous because of the isolated species he found there, but there is no comparison to what we're finding in Madagascar."

For more than an hour, Sussman struggles to keep pace with his vision of a spectacular paradise gone awry. Stalking his book-lined office as if it were a cage, he speaks with equal fluency about poverty and economic development, population growth, and agricultural productivity – seemingly odd topics for a biological anthropologist.

Sussman represents the evolution of a new generation of scientists, a growing international cadre of specialists from a crosscut of disciplines who have emerged from ivory-tower laboratories to confront a global issue of extraordinary significance. By necessity, they address subjects scientists have never dealt with before. From specific disciplines they have developed an ecological consciousness attuned to the political and economic forces shaping the world.



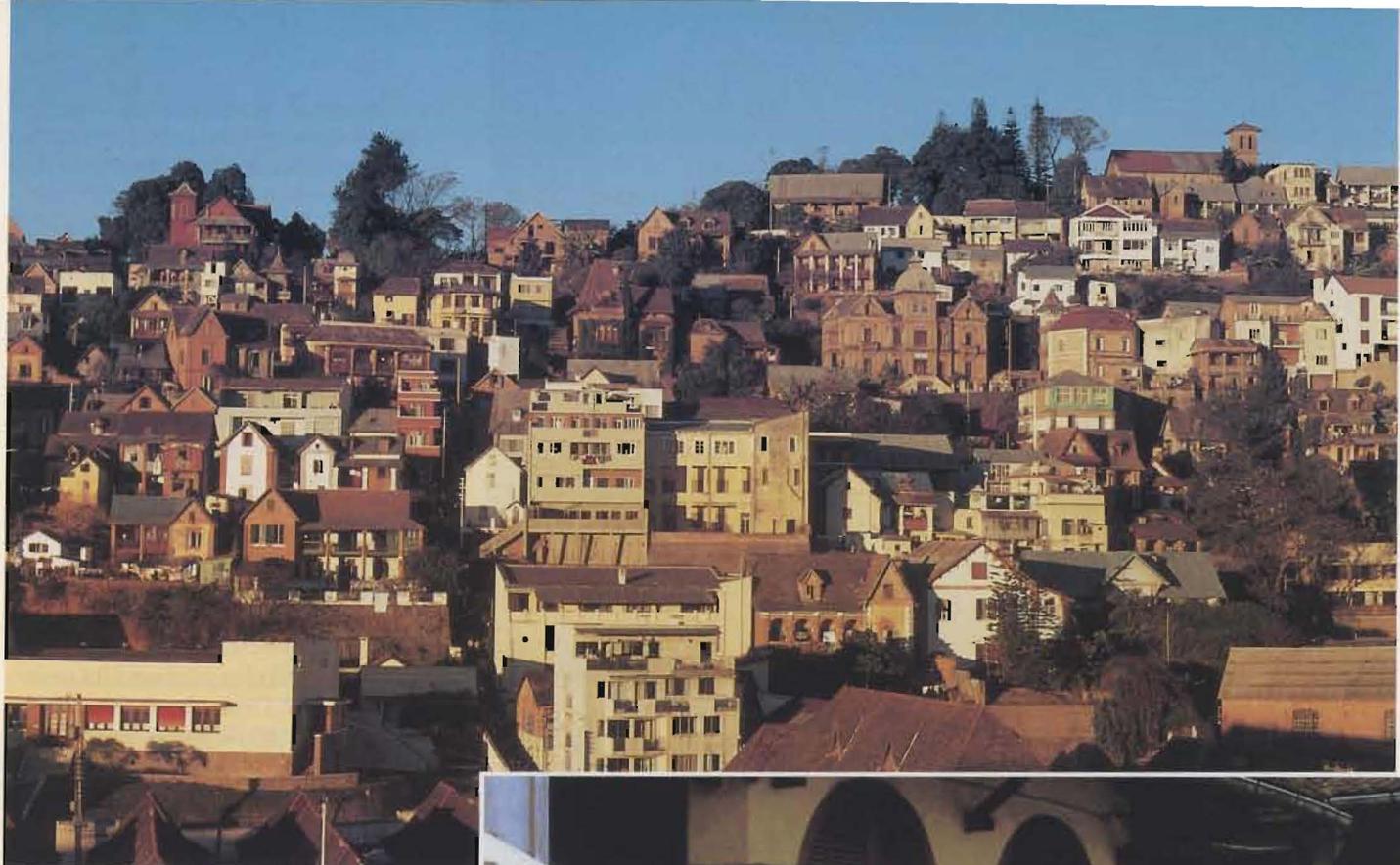
R. SUSSMAN

**Rural life:** *The town of Manja, in the eastern rainforest of Madagascar, is characteristic of small towns on the island: basic, ornamental, desolate. Cattle are a form of currency to the Malagasy; to see them driven home from grazing at day's end is usual. Above: A village weaver working at a lamba cloth, the all-purpose shawl worn by both men and women.*

Biologist Porter P. Lowry II (Ph.D., 1986), assistant curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and coordinator of the Garden's Madagascar Research Project, explains: "We can't ignore it; it slaps us in the face every day. How many times have I heard colleagues say they'll go back to study some interesting area next year, and

when they return, it's gone – simply wiped off the face of the Earth? The tropics are on a collision course with disaster."

"We are rapidly approaching an age of extinction the like of which has not been seen since the age of dinosaurs 65 million years ago," warns Peter Raven, a graceful, silver-haired scientist pacing across his spacious office/labo-



ratory. His agitated, steel-blue eyes glint with passion as he gazes out the picture window overlooking the manicured walkways and idyllic flower beds of the Botanical Garden. "This event," he says, "will take place within the lifetimes of most of us living today."

Raven, Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University and director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, is one of the world's most articulate defenders of tropical habitats. He was given the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Award in 1985 for his work in tropical botany. Under his direction, the Garden has become the most active institution in tropical research in the United States. Its herbarium is the official U.S. repository for plant specimens from Africa.

Earth, Raven continues in a trademarked, machine-gun litany of statistics – an intimidating address he has delivered before governments and scientific bodies worldwide – is home to at least four or five million species of plants, animals, and microorganisms. Two-thirds of these living things – at least three million species – exist only in the tropics, where scientists have identified only half a million species, about one of every six.

Yet in every part of the tropics natural habitats are disappearing at a frightening and accelerating rate. According to a 1980 National Research Council



**Urban life:** *Tananarive, the capital city, bathed in the light of sunset. "You walk the streets of Tananarive and all you see are young faces," recounts Porter Lowry, a biologist in charge of the Missouri Botanical Garden's research in Madagascar. "The demographics are scary." Above: A glimpse of the busy marketplace in Tananarive where indigenous medicines and native produce vie for space with Western goods.*

committee report, 250,000 square kilometers of tropical forest – an area the size of Great Britain – are being degraded or destroyed each year. At that rate, the world's tropical forests will be gone in about 35 years.

"Most of the small forests outside the Congo Basin of Africa and the

Amazon Basin of South America will have been destroyed by early in the next century. Those large, inaccessible tracts in the Congo and Amazon Basins will persist a little while longer," Raven says.

As forests are literally ground up and devoured, Earth loses forever substantial portions of its biological diversity –

that finite stockpile of incredibly varied forms of plants, animals, and microorganisms that inhabit our planet. Scientists have coined a new term to refer to the totality of life on Earth – biodiversity – and their warnings of its significance to human existence are growing increasingly urgent.

A National Teleconference on Biodiversity, in September, for example, broadcast by the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academy of Sciences to nearly 100 locations across

the country, included scientists such as Raven; Paul Erlich, of Stanford University; Edward O. Wilson, of Harvard University; Tom Lovejoy, vice-president of science for the World Wildlife Fund; and Michael Robinson, curator of the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

In strident tones the distinguished panel warned that at least 750,000 tropical organisms are at risk over the next 30 years – an average of more than 50 species a day. “When most of them disappear,” Sussman insists, “no one will

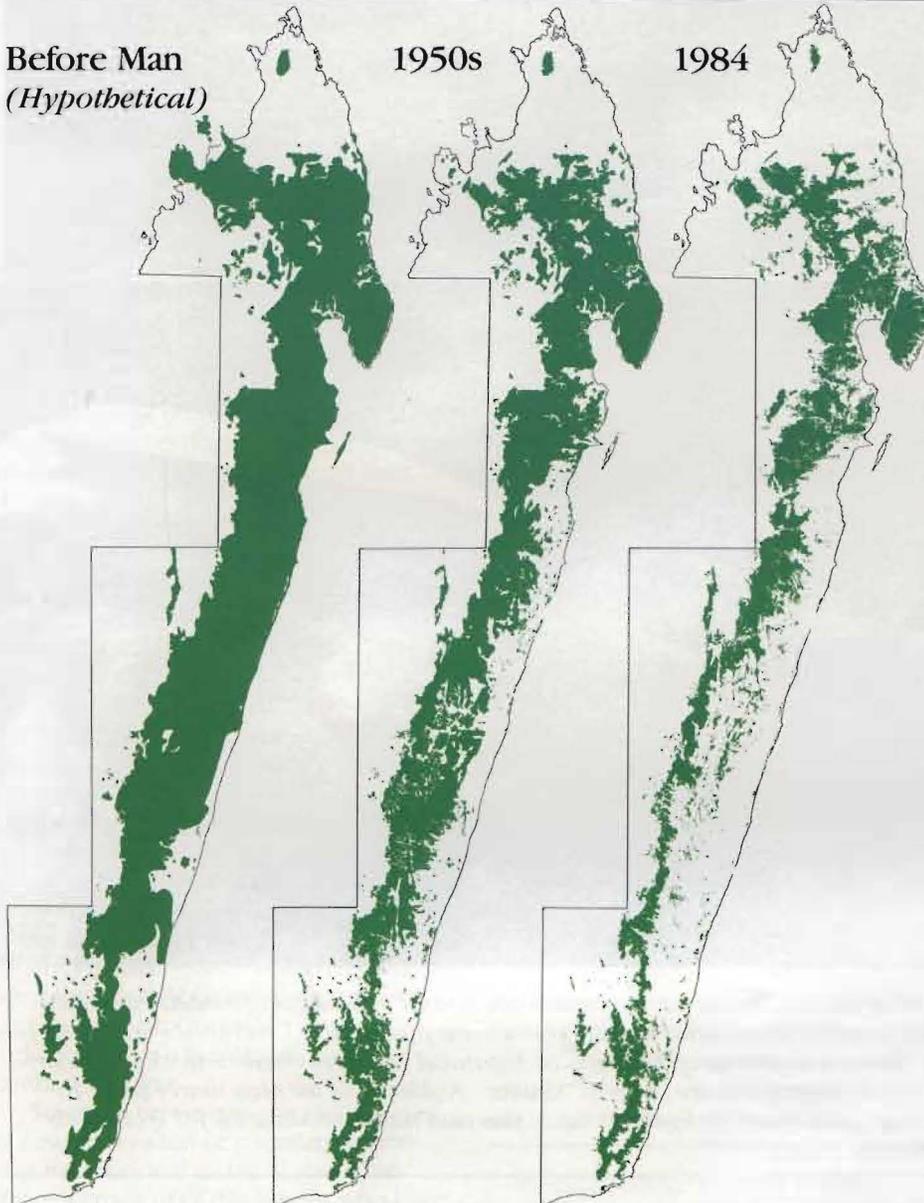
have known they ever existed.”

Tropical forests, the participants pointed out, are being sacrificed as a short-term economic Band-Aid. To create cash to offset crippling debts, Third World countries have allowed, even encouraged, the clearing of large tracts of rainforest for cash-crop plantations, mining, oil production, cattle grazing, and wholesale timbering. Yet, as damaging as these activities are, the underlying cause of deforestation is a staggering increase in human population in the tropics.

According to the Population Reference Bureau, over half of the world's people, about 2.4 billion, live in underdeveloped countries, primarily in the tropics. In these countries, populations typically are growing much faster than those in the developed world. In only fourteen years, by the year 2000, 60 percent of the world's people – some three-and-a-half billion – will live in the tropics, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

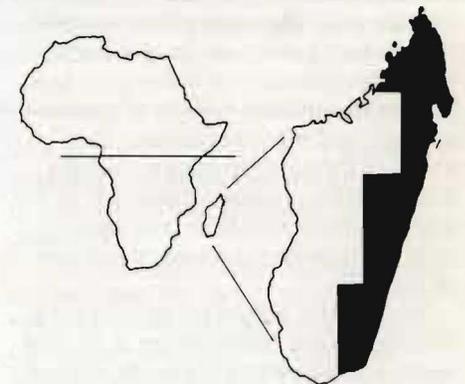
More significant still is the radically uneven distribution of the world's wealth, says Raven. In the tropics, nearly 40 percent of the people live in poverty. “In order for those people to get food or anything at all for themselves and their families, they must exploit their only resource – the forest,” he says.

Using an age-old technique known as slash-and-burn agriculture, a farmer clears a patch of forest, grows crops for a few years, until the soil is depleted of nutrients, and then repeats the process in another plot. A man in Madagascar with an axe can clear a hectare of forest, nearly two-and-a-half acres, in just 12 days. “And there are waves of people doing just that without any planning or thought for the future,” Raven says.



**Vanishing rainforest:** Using Landsat satellite images obtained by Washington University's Remote Sensing Laboratory, anthropology professor Robert Sussman and graduate student Glen Green (from the Earth and Planetary Sciences department) have mapped the entire east coast of Madagascar.

Comparing this data with aerial photographs taken thirty years ago reveals about half the tropical rainforest having been destroyed. What remains is restricted to nearly inaccessible mountain areas, and at least one protected reserve shows evidence of deforestation.



The consequences are pointedly catastrophic. One of every four prescription medicines today is derived from chemical compounds discovered in nature. The rosy periwinkle, for example, offers science the only known cure for devastating Hodgkin's disease. The medicinal qualities of the plant, a native of the rainforests of Madagascar, were not discovered until 1979. No one can speculate how many new cures may be lost as thousands of unknown plants disappear.

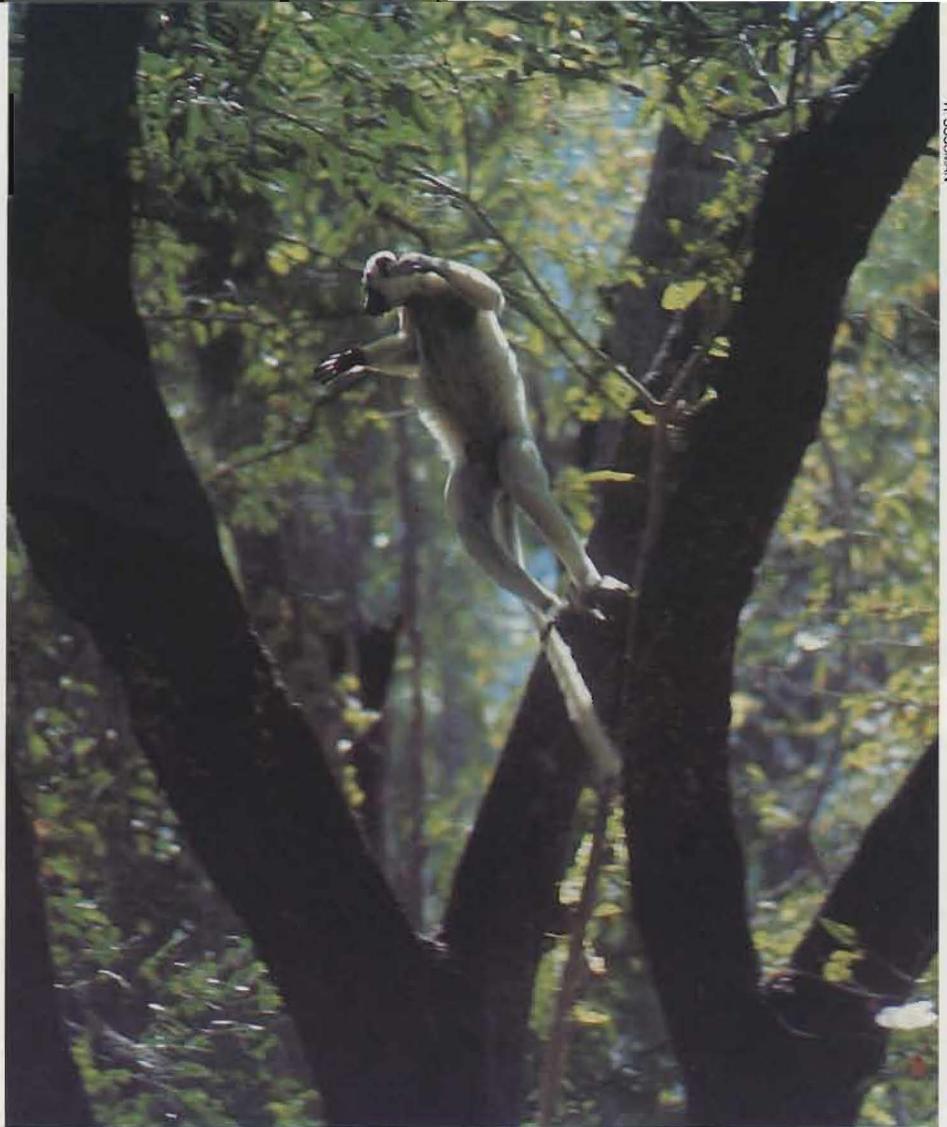
Currently more than 90 percent of the world's food comes from only several dozen agricultural crops. These crops depend upon periodic cross-breeding with closely related wild plants, most of which are derived from the tropics. Hundreds or thousands of potentially nutritious, edible plants may be lost with the forests.

Although its ramifications are not yet understood, the disappearance of major blocks of the world's forests is certain to have an impact on global atmospheric circulation and carbon dioxide levels. Changes in either could trigger catastrophic upheavals in world climatic conditions.

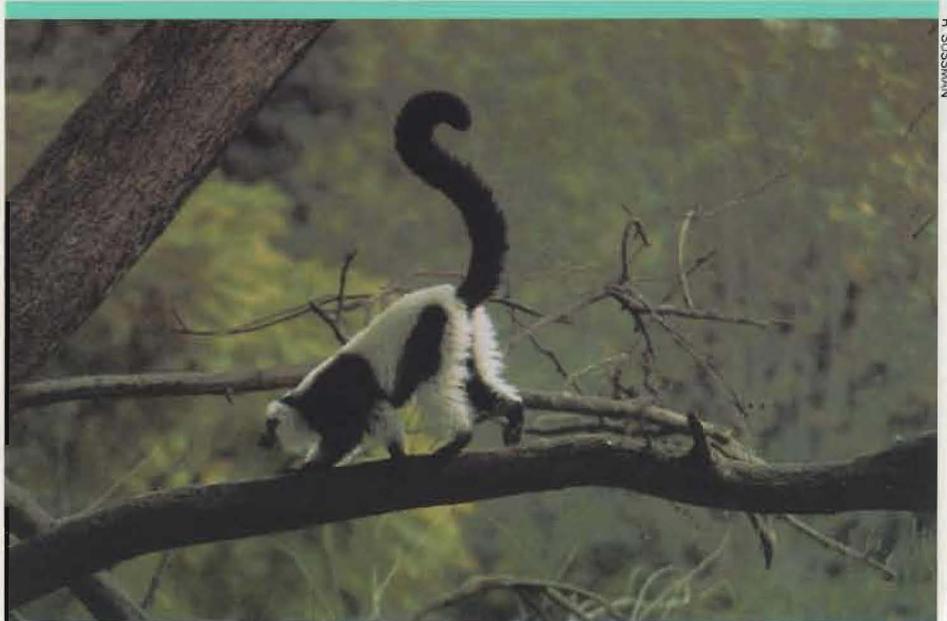
But economic and political instability, the conference concluded, may be the most immediate problem. With a principal resource depleted, many Third World countries will be hard-pressed to sustain trade in the world marketplace. They will find it difficult to buy foreign goods. International debts will skyrocket, increasing their already-heavy burden on the global economy. The United States and other developed countries may find themselves increasingly embroiled in foreign disputes in the tropics; they could well be under siege by ever-larger numbers of immigrants seeking refuge from poverty.

"To think that the United States could maintain its current standard of living while vast portions of the world and the majority of the world's people slide into economic instability is preposterous," Raven says.

Against this ominous global backdrop, Madagascar has emerged as a focal point for science as well as economic development agencies such as US-AID (United States Agency for International Development) and the World Bank. "Madagascar is a microcosm of what's happening all over the tropics," Sussman says. "If we are unable to save Madagascar, it will be a bad omen for the future of the tropics, and consequently for Earth."



R. SUSSMAN



R. SUSSMAN

Top: *Sifaka* are a "vertical clinging and leaping" species of lemur, as this one, traveling through gallery forest, demonstrates. Above: This variegated, or ruffed, lemur was photographed in Tsimbazaza Park, a national park in Tananarive.



A. GENTRY

**Remaining rainforest:** *What remains of Madagascar's rainforest is restricted to vistas of nearly inaccessible ridgetops. Left: Slash-and-burn agriculture leaves a permanent scar. Right: The central plateau region supports significant rice production, but not enough to feed Madagascar's present population.*

### ***Bleeding the Red Island***

One hundred and fifty million years ago, experts theorize, Madagascar broke away from continental Africa and drifted eastward into the Indian Ocean, cutting itself off from modern plants and animals. For at least 60 million years, the island and its inhabitants evolved as a world unto themselves.

The estimated 200,000 species of living things on Madagascar, for example, represent nearly five percent of the earth's total biodiversity. Roughly 150,000 of these species exist only on the island's 230,000 square miles.

Alison Jolly, professor of anthropology at Rockefeller University and a longtime student of Madagascar, describes the result: "It's as if time had suddenly broken its banks," she says, "and flowed down to the present in a

completely different channel." The rules of natural selection were identical to those on the African mainland, but they were played out with a different cast of characters, and under different conditions.

"An evolutionary accident transformed the entire island into a living laboratory," says Alison Richard, chair of the anthropology department at Yale University and a specialist on the primates of Madagascar. Because the island's plants and animals did not have to compete with advanced species found elsewhere, she explains, many primitive species survive today. Madagascar offers science a parallel history of evolution.

Yet nature's evolutionary experiment teeters on the brink of annihilation. Less than ten percent of the island's

natural vegetation remains intact. Says Sussman: "All of the plants and animals unique to Madagascar are threatened, endangered, or have already vanished."

In the rainforests of the east coast, slash-and-burn agriculture once was so infrequent that the jungle had decades to replenish itself. But farmers now return after only a few years, clearing fields, leaching nutrients from the soil, and leaving scrubby wasteland behind. Because the protective jungle is gone, rain-laden trade winds rolling off the Indian Ocean – which for thousands of years fed Madagascar's spectacular forests – now bring floods that wash the island's brick-red topsoil down swollen rivers to the sea. Whole towns are being washed away while fertile lands are permanently diminished, accelerating destruction of the remaining forests.

Over most of Madagascar the only source of energy is wood. "This is true not only in rural areas, but in the cities as well," Sussman says. "Every day you see trucks driving back to the capital, Tananarive, from the forests, loaded with firewood for sale." Each year the

lumberers cut further and further into the rainforests.

"In the final analysis," says Sussman, "Madagascar's problems are directly related to the pressures of human population." About 10 million people live on the island, which is twice the size of Arizona. The growth rate is more than three times that of the United States and population is expected to double in less than 25 years. "You walk the streets of Tananarive and all you see are young faces," recounts the lean, intense Lowry who returned recently from several months on the island. "The demographics are scary."

But if human population is the ultimate source of Madagascar's problems, the people are its potential salvation. Despite its poverty, Madagascar is one of only several tropical countries to develop a national conservation strategy. "The Malagasy are intensely proud of their natural heritage," says Yale's Richard, "and if resources are made available, they are very willing to work hard at conservation."

Most experts agree that with increased agricultural productivity Madagascar could support its growing population and still preserve much of the remaining natural vegetation. But that would require fertilizers, fuel, tractors, and other farm equipment, in addition to some technical training.

Once, high-quality Malagasy rice was a premium export, gracing the finest tables of Paris and Vichy. Today, to feed its people, Madagascar must import rice from the United States and elsewhere – much of it as foreign aid.

Any effort linking conservation with economic development, Sussman cautions, must be based on intimate knowledge of Malagasy culture. It must take into account the realities of life in the island's isolated villages. Better than most, Robert Sussman and his wife Linda (who received her Ph.D. in sociology from Washington University in 1983) understand the island and the people inside its mud-hut villages.

### ***A Model for the Tropics***

The Sussmans' love affair with Madagascar began during the years 1969 to 1971, when Sussman, then a doctoral candidate at Duke University, researched his thesis in primate ecology.

The Sussmans lived for ten months Malagasy-style in a dirt-floor, one-room, one-window mud hut in an isolated village of 200. Another five months were spent studying lemurs from an Abercrombie & Fitch tent pitched in the

western forests. When stranded for three months on the wrong side of a swollen river because the only ferry washed out to sea during the rainy season, they took advantage of the unexpected opportunity to learn even more about Malagasy life.

Today's Malagasy, says Linda Sussman, now a research instructor in the psychiatry department at Washington University's School of Medicine and a research associate in the anthropology department, are distant descendants of the Indonesians who migrated to the island fifteen hundred years ago. Most are subsistence farmers living in small villages. "Walking through rural Madagascar," she says, "is like walking back thousands of years in history."

Phones and cars are oddities. There is no electrical power, and villagers rely on oxcarts for transportation over packed and rutted dirt roads. In 1985, average income was about \$350. To thrust new technology – a shipload of tractors, for example – into such a culture, she says, would be a serious mistake.

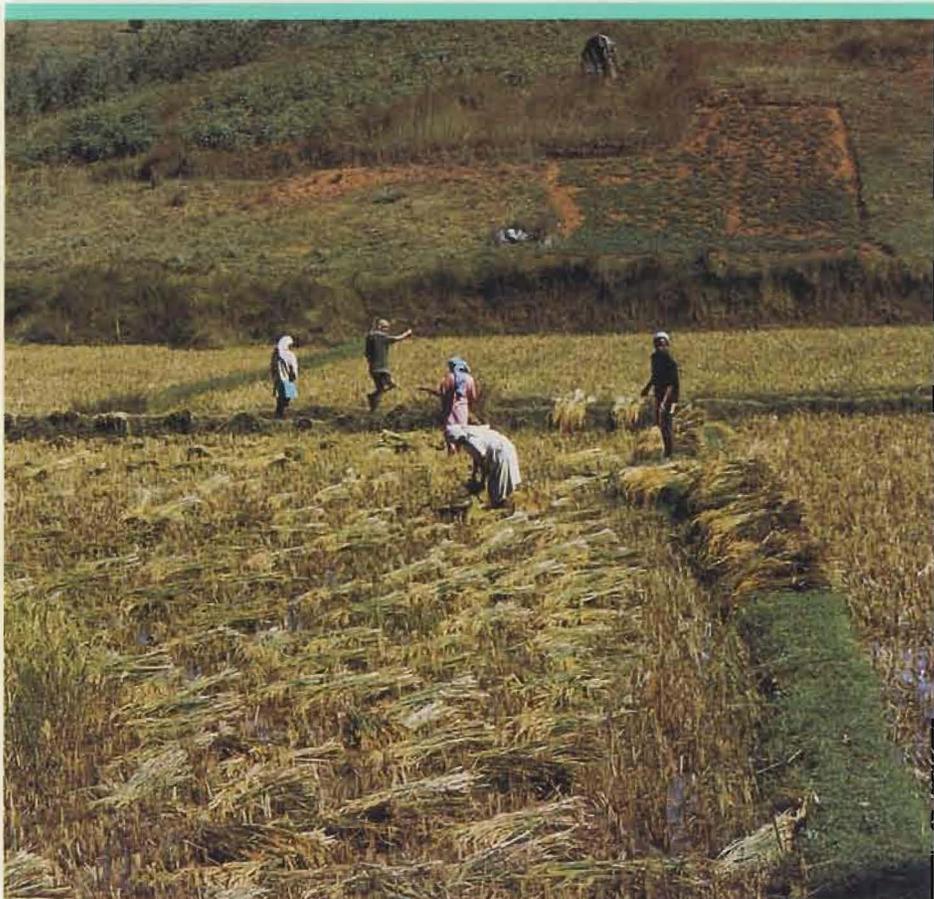
The political climate in Madagascar has compounded the difficulties. A French protectorate since 1885, The Democratic Republic of Madagascar

became a sovereign nation in 1960. In 1972, a socialist army coup cemented political ties to Eastern Bloc countries, and for many years Madagascar was a closed world to all but a few Western scientists and engineers. "It was almost impossible to study there unless you knew the right people who were willing to pull for you," Lowry says. Sussman was one of only a handful of Western scientists who made it into the country during the 1970s.

Only recently has the situation begun to change. The American embassy reopened in 1981, and Tananarive has shown an increasing willingness to accept aid and advice from the Western economic community. "They realized that the political direction after the revolution was not successful economically," says Sussman.

In the late 1970s Sussman and colleague Alison Richard spearheaded the country's first conservation effort that combined conservation with goals of sustainable economic development.

"In 1975, only a few Americans could get into Madagascar," Sussman recalls. "I got a strange, late-night call from a man I didn't know. 'What can we do to save Madagascar?' he asked, very excited. He wanted an answer right then!" The agitated caller was Ted



A. GENTRY



**Above:** An aroid, of the philodendron family, lines the bank of a lake; it favors aquatic habitats and is endemic to Madagascar. **Right:** A baobab tree, found throughout the south of Madagascar. One species is known to exist in Africa; seven are native to the Red Island.

Steele, a co-founder of the Defenders of Wildlife, a private, nonprofit foundation conducting animal conservation efforts.

As a result of Steele's interest, Sussman, Richard, and collaborators at the University of Madagascar proposed a small reserve that would simultaneously involve conservation, education, training, and research. Although the proposal turned out to be too ambitious for Defenders of Wildlife, the World Wildlife Fund – a 25-year-old international foundation dedicated to preserving the diversity of life on Earth – agreed to support the project.

Land was donated by local villagers in southwestern Madagascar, and the Beza Mahafaly reserve was officially established in 1978, three years before the reopening of the American embassy. An important component of the project was a formal document under which Washington University, the University of Madagascar, and Yale University agreed to assist in operating the reserve and in supporting its projects through faculty expertise, academic scholarships, and inter-university cooperation designed to help Malagasy students earn degrees in biological sciences.

Last November, at an international

conference hosted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Bank, the Malagasy government declared Beza Mahafaly a special government-protected reserve.

The reserve incorporates two extraordinary environments. One portion is rich gallery forest flanking the banks of a river, dominated by tamarind trees. Farther from the river, the forest becomes drier and thinner, eventually turning into a spectacular desert forest, where it may rain only once or twice a year, dominated by a family of plants unique to Madagascar, the didiereaceae, which looks like the candelabra cactus of the American Southwest but is actually from a completely different family. In fact, ninety-five percent of the species in this unique desert are found nowhere in the world but southern Madagascar.

Because of its scant size, the reserve cannot provide safe haven for a large number of plants and animals. "But Beza Mahafaly has already had an influence disproportionate to its acreage," says Richard. "It is a model beyond the traditional barbed-wire fence with armed guards; the reserve ties research and economic development with conservation. It's the first time anyone has done it. Ever."

The reserve, says Sussman, also draws together different scientific disciplines. The Missouri Botanical Garden, for example, will use Beza as a home base for the operations of four field researchers conducting a botanical assessment of Madagascar flora. Working with Sussman, the botanists will identify potential sites for additional reserves and will buy time for severely endangered plants by bringing them into cultivation at other sites in Madagascar.

### ***Our Distant Cousins***

Beza provides a field laboratory for anthropology where Sussman, Richard, and other scientists can conduct ongoing research on the rarest of our evolutionary ancestors – lemurs. "Lemurs are our oldest living relatives. Studying them gives us insights into our own distant evolution," says Richard.

Early primates on the African continent, outclassed by more successful monkeys and apes, disappeared over the millennia, she explains. But lemurs on Madagascar had no competition from advanced primates, and today these primitive animals exist only here.

Existing primates are only a fraction of the land animals that once roamed the island. Two thousand years ago large, land-walking lemurs browsed on grasses because there were no competing ground-grazers like the antelope and zebra that evolved in Africa. There were also giant tortoises, and huge flightless birds twelve feet tall that grazed like ostriches, and a species of pygmy hippopotamus. "The island supported a whole community of strange animals unlike any to be seen today," Richard says.

"The aye-aye, for example, a rare nocturnal lemur long thought to be extinct but recently rediscovered, is a Malagasy analog to the woodpecker," she says. This special lemur digs insect larvae from under the bark of trees. Woodpeckers never reached Madagascar so the aye-aye was called upon to fill that ecological niche.

"Evolutionary radiation" – animals adapting to unusual and diverse circumstances – resulted in the incredible variety of lemurs still seen on Madagascar: Some eat leaves, others eat gums and resins; some eat fruits, others insects. They range in size from the mouse lemur, at 60 grams, which flourishes all over Madagascar, to the Indri, at four to five kilos, one of the island's most severely threatened primates.

Although lemurs are not as diverse as they once were, Sussman expects the remaining species to answer basic questions about early primate behavior and evolution.

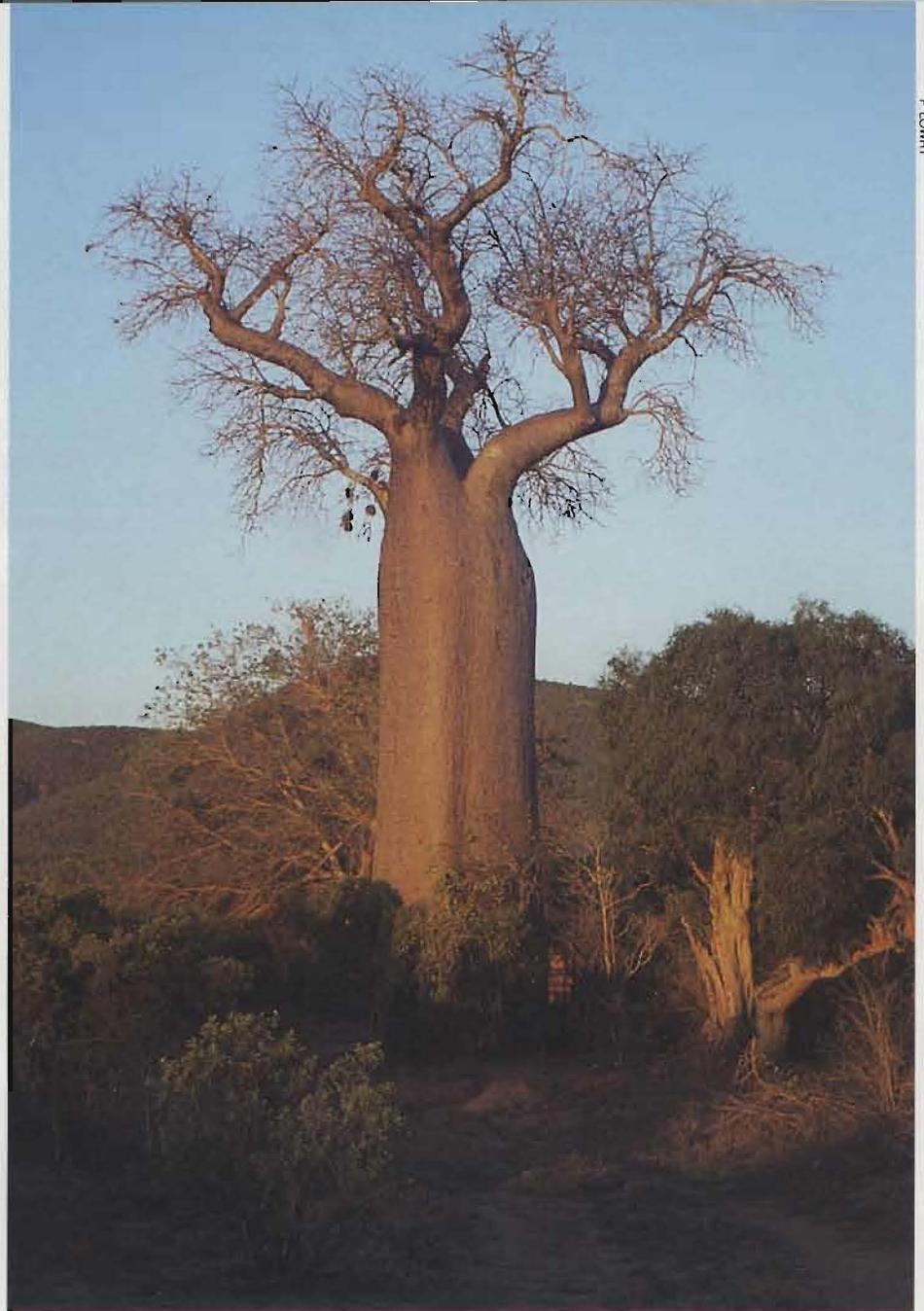
In most primates, for example, males are socially dominant; in lemur populations studied so far, females are dominant. They take priority for food and the best resting-places and also choose males with which to mate. "Many such enigmatic pieces of primate behavior are essentially unstudied and certainly unexplained," Richard says. "We're still searching for answers."

The Sussmans leave in January to spend next year in Madagascar, accompanied by their 18-month-old daughter, Katya, searching for some of those answers. Robert Sussman will study the populations of lemurs on Beza Mahafaly and other government reserves. Meanwhile, Linda Sussman will research ethnic Malagasy medicines and medical practices under grants from the Fulbright Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund. "There have been no comprehensive studies focusing on the medical systems of Madagascar," she says. She will study the use of wild, endemic plants used for food and medicines. "The Malagasy depend heavily on wild plants that have never been cultivated, both for food and medicines," she says. "It is likely that they are using plants no one in the West has ever heard about." She also has received a six-month grant from the National Geographic Society to complete a botanical inventory of the Beza Mahafaly reserve in collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden.

"Cross-relationships between scientific disciplines allow us to treat the whole system – the resources and the people – and that's unique. The object is to find ways to use the resources of Madagascar in a sustainable way," Sussman says.

But Beza Mahafaly is not just a colonial exercise, Richard says, and that makes it all the more successful. Malagasy guards provide security and maintenance, Malagasy scientists direct the project, and Malagasy students use the reserve for field study. As part of the inter-university cooperative agreement, Sussman and Richard also teach field courses for the University of Madagascar.

"Beza has struck a good balance," points out Lowry, who will join the Sussmans in Madagascar early next



P. LOWRY

year. "Setting aside big chunks of land for conservation is hard to justify to the farmer in the field. You have to give something in return to those trying to live off the land."

Sussman believes the time is right for a major commitment by the United States. He and his colleagues have presented a proposal to US-AID to expand Beza's concept to other government reserves across the island.

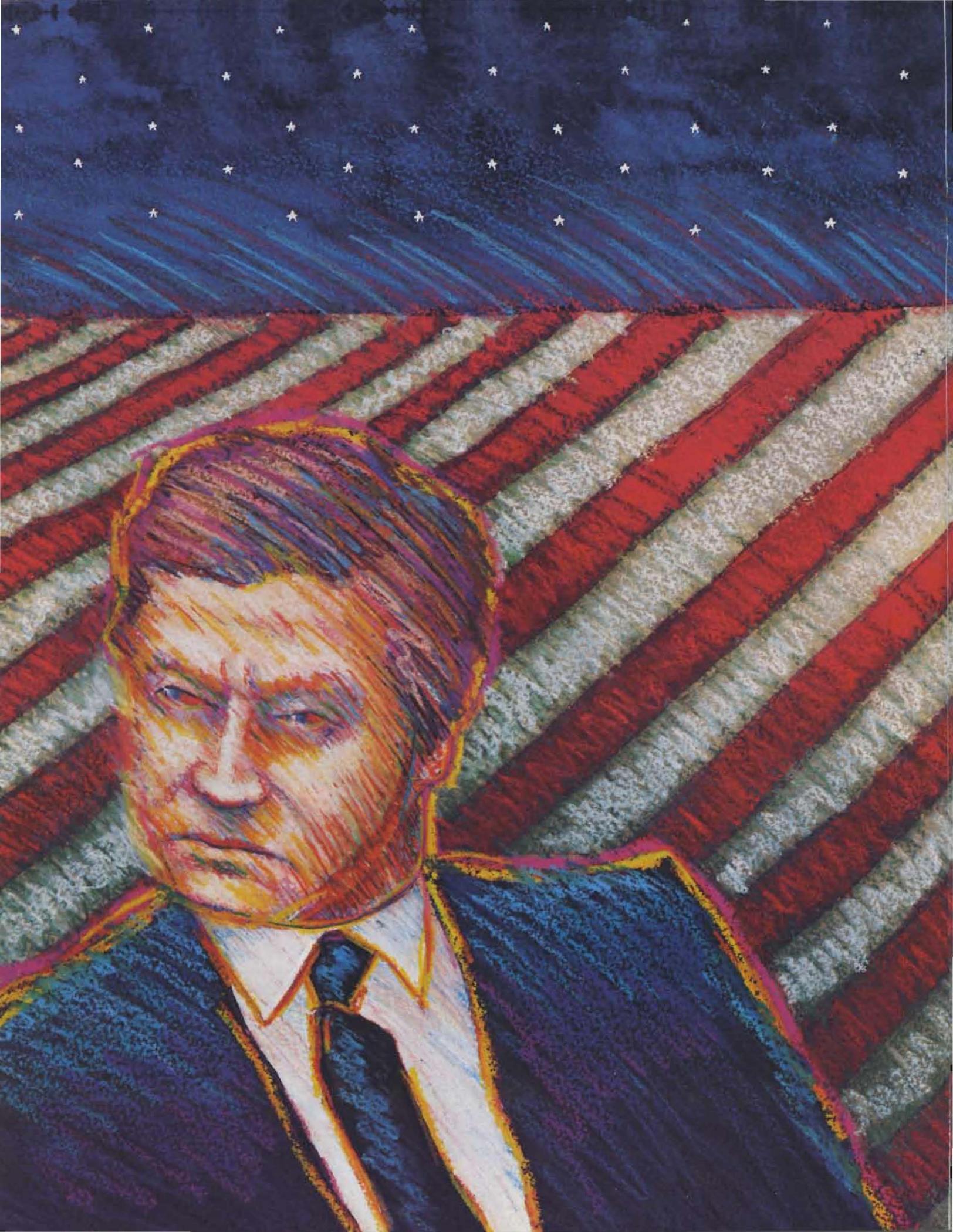
"We have the ground-level data and village support that development agencies need," he says. US-AID, which has earmarked millions of dollars for Madagascar alone over the next decade, has already begun moving in the right direction, he says, by linking U.S. foreign aid to conservation goals.

There is no question that Earth's biodiversity is being reduced rapidly and

will be reduced a good deal more in the coming years, says Sussman. But through innovative efforts like Beza Mahafaly, he hopes to preserve important portions of Madagascar's primitive paradise and at the same time provide a model for conservation in the rest of the tropics. On his success, he implies, depends the fate of our planet. □

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Robert Brock is a free-lance science writer currently based in Denver. His work last appeared in Washington University Magazine in the Summer 1986 issue in an article, "What Price the Stars?," that warned of the threat to scientific research created by the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.





# TYPE A ROMANCE

*Type A's don't mate well with each other, tend to injure themselves, and are more prone to heart attack. Why, then, are we so taken with them?*

*by Susan Hegger – illustration by Jeff Pike*

**A** recent clipping from the Singles column: "Financially successful, professional, Type A male seeks noncompetitive, laid-back, Type B female. Object: a compatible, long-term relationship." Sound farfetched? Well, maybe only a little. The old adage "opposites attract" has found a scientific underpinning, this time with a modernist twist.

This thoroughly 1980s recipe for a successful romance mixes a Type A (a competitive, hard-driving, aggressive person) with a Type B (a calm, relaxed, patient person). "The complementary pattern seems to work out the best, leading to greater satisfaction and better conflict resolution in a relationship," says Michael Strube, associate professor of psychology at Washington University and researcher in Type A behavior.

But before you start administering a Jenkins Activity Survey to your mate or next date, Strube warns that research in this area is still very much in the incipient stages. These studies are still sketching out the broad outlines of the problem; more nuanced details are yet to come.

One limitation has been the focus on new dating relationships. "I'm hesitant to generalize too far," says Strube, "because once a relationship gets beyond the initial setting of ground rules, a more complex



pattern develops.”

Still, the research, though limited, raises tantalizing issues.

One of the most fascinating is the difference between the sexes. The relationship between a Type A man and a Type B woman is not the same as that of a Type A woman with a Type B man. In many ways, a Type A man fits the desired male stereotype. Women may equate his Type A traits with rugged masculinity and perceive his need to control as just part of the masculine package. But a Type A woman shatters conventional stereotypes of femininity, a situation that some men find intimidating. Her need to control a situation jeopardizes socially accepted norms of power and decision-making within relationships.

“It may be that Type A behavior on the part of the female is particularly threatening early in the relationship, because it violates the traditional expectations that serve to guide partners who don’t know each other well,” writes Strube.

Other differences mark Type A men and women. Couples with Type A men tend to be “more jealous of their partners’ time with others.” Type A women are more likely “to blame the male partner for conflict.”

Despite these problems, a stronger sense of commitment seems to characterize A/B matches than A/A or B/B matches. While Strube has no hard evidence to explain this, he suspects that “the A and B combination seems to bring to bear a much greater array of tactics to solve problems.” He also speculates that A/A matches may harbor too much conflict and jealousy about achievement, straining the relationship to the breaking point. On the other hand, he guesses that the B/B match may lack that special spark, leading to boredom.

Strube’s research on Type A and personal relationships is part of the evolution of the field, looking at the impact of Type A behavior in areas of life outside the workplace. He has also done work on Type A runners. Type A’s tend to suppress their medical symptoms.

Because of the reluctance to admit even a temporary disability, Type A’s tend to turn “temporary” injuries into chronic injuries. Type A, Strube says, may be an important variable for other medical problems, such as diabetes, where the individual’s careful monitoring of symptoms is critical to maintaining health. Type A’s, he hypothesizes, are more likely to injure themselves.

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***It’s not surprising to find more Type A’s among university faculty, lawyers, and doctors than among blue-collar workers. But within the corporate structure, Type A’s may get stuck in middle management because they have trouble delegating responsibility.***

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Type A research in psychology grew out of a question first asked in medicine: Is there a coronary-prone personality? It turned out that people who fit the Type A profile are at greater risk. One of the most influential studies looked at more than 3,000 middle-aged, mid-level executives, all of whom were free of coronary disease. Less than a decade later, Type A’s in this group were two-and-a-half times more likely to have had heart attacks. While much Type A research is linked to this medical dilemma, psychological research became more diversified in the 1970s, says Strube, “when psychologists became interested in what drives these people.”

Much of the psychological research on Type A behavior, though, still concentrates on the workplace, because this is the environment that typically triggers the patterns associated with Type A behavior: competition, a sense of time urgency, aggression, need for control, a short fuse. “It’s like the Protestant work ethic gone haywire,” says Strube.

It’s not surprising then that one should find more Type A’s among university faculty, lawyers, and doctors than among blue-collar workers or assembly-line workers. Within the corporate structure, however, Type A’s may get stuck at the middle-management level, “because they have problems with delegating responsibility.” Type A’s, says Strube, are “workaholics, people who like to have control over their work.” Type A’s, he adds, generally have higher incomes than Type B’s and receive more professional distinctions.

Maybe it’s this connection with success that has caused the public fascination with Type A. Given the contemporary preoccupation with careers, advancement, money, status, and the business culture, Type A is a behavior pattern that seems to mesh with the times. “This is a society that fosters Type A behavior,” says Strube. “It’s a society which rewards individualism and competition.”

“More people are identified as Type A’s today than 10 years ago,” says Strube, although, he adds, that might be a function of more extensive and sophisticated measurement. “Still, some people have predicted that Type A research may eventually be hard to carry out, because everyone will be Type A.”

One indication that Type A behavior might reflect the zeitgeist is the growing number of Type A women. While there’s still a “preponderance of male Type A’s,” says Strube, “as more women enter the labor force, especially in positions of responsibility and competence, we’re seeing more Type A women.”

A certain irony is attached to this infatuation with Type A behavior. “A person will show considerable pride in being Type A,” says Strube. “They describe their Type A characteristics with glee. Yet, they’re loathe to admit their high potential for coronary disease.”

Despite the increased risks of coronary disease or working oneself to death, it is difficult to convince Type A’s of the need to alter their behavior. “The pattern develops very early in life; it can be detected by the age of three,”



says Strube. But it's not just that the patterns are so ingrained; often it's the very fact of success that defeats change. "How can you change a pattern that's so successful, that has contributed to a great job and a lot of money?" asks Strube. "You can get a Type A to change, but too often they have to have a heart attack first."

Well aware of the dangers, Strube, an admitted Type A, says he manages his own Type A behavior by rigidly following a schedule, a habit that prevents him from overcommitting himself. "It alerts me when I'm trying to do too much," he says. He is married to a Type B woman, although it certainly was not calculated. But he does say, "I'm convinced I'd go crazy if I were married to a female version of myself. At home, I'm able to shut out competition."

In fact, Strube sometimes uses his own history and background to generate hypotheses. ("More often than not, though," he says, "those hunches don't work out.") His latest research stems from his experiences during the tenure process, "when I was exhibiting more Type A behavior than usual." Reflections on his own response to that stressful situation led to his "self-appraisal hypothesis." This one, though, shows a lot of promise.

Much Type A research, including some of Strube's, has described the need to control as a Type A's primary motivation. In other words, Type A behavior is directed toward maintaining control. The self-appraisal hypothesis is a rethinking of the basic motivational dynamic. In this version, control represents "a demonstration of competence, which is a means to self-appraisal." This new hypothesis harkens back to a critical element of early socialization: the ambiguous feedback given to the child by the parent. Self-appraisal becomes the internal device for the Type A to measure his or her own performance.

Strube, of course, is not relying on his experience to demonstrate this hypothesis. Lately, he has been conducting experiments to evaluate the validity of this approach, setting up

## Tell Me Quickly If I'm Type A

### 1. Ordinarily, how rapidly do you eat?

- a. I'm usually the first one finished.
- b. I eat a little faster than average.
- c. I eat at about the same speed as most people.
- d. I eat more slowly than most people.

### 2. When you listen to someone talking, and this person takes too long to come to the point, how often do you feel like hurrying the person along?

- a. Frequently.
- b. Occasionally.
- c. Almost never.

### 3. Would your spouse (or closest friend) rate your general level of activity as

- a. too slow – should be more active?
- b. about average – busy much of the time?
- c. too active – should slow down?

### 4. How was your temper when you were younger?

- a. Fiery and hard to control.
- b. Strong but controllable.
- c. No problem.
- d. I almost never got angry.

### 5. Do you ever set deadlines or quotas for yourself at work or at home?

- a. No.
- b. Yes, but only occasionally.
- c. Yes, once a week or more.

### 6. When you are in a group, how often do the other people look to you for leadership?

- a. Rarely.
- b. About as often as they look to others.
- c. More often than they look to others.

### 7. I approach life in general (compared to my co-workers)

- a. much more seriously.
- b. a little more seriously.
- c. a little less seriously.
- d. much less seriously.

**Scoring:** Give yourself one point for each of the following responses – 1.: a or b, 2.: a, 3.: c, 4.: a or b, 5.: c, 6.: c, 7.: a.

**0 to 2** indicates a prevalence of Type B behavior, **3 to 4** a mix of A and B, and **5 to 7** a prevalence of Type A behavior.

*This is a sample of the Jenkins Activity Survey (© The Psychological Corporation). It may indicate behavior but should not be used for diagnosis.*

tasks that can result in failure but also "uncertain success." The results have been encouraging.

"The basic question is," says Strube, "how do Type A's and B's approach certain tasks. Both A's and B's are alike in that they're both depressed when they fail. But only A's can find some kinds of success troublesome. They are depressed when they succeed, and they're not quite sure what this success means."

In laboratory experiments, two different kinds of tests were offered to Type A's and Type B's. One test was biased toward the confirmation of known abilities, the other toward uncertain abilities. Type B's were more likely to choose the first option. "They wanted to validate something they already knew about themselves," says Strube. In contrast, Type A's were attracted to the latter option. "They wanted to resolve the uncertainty."

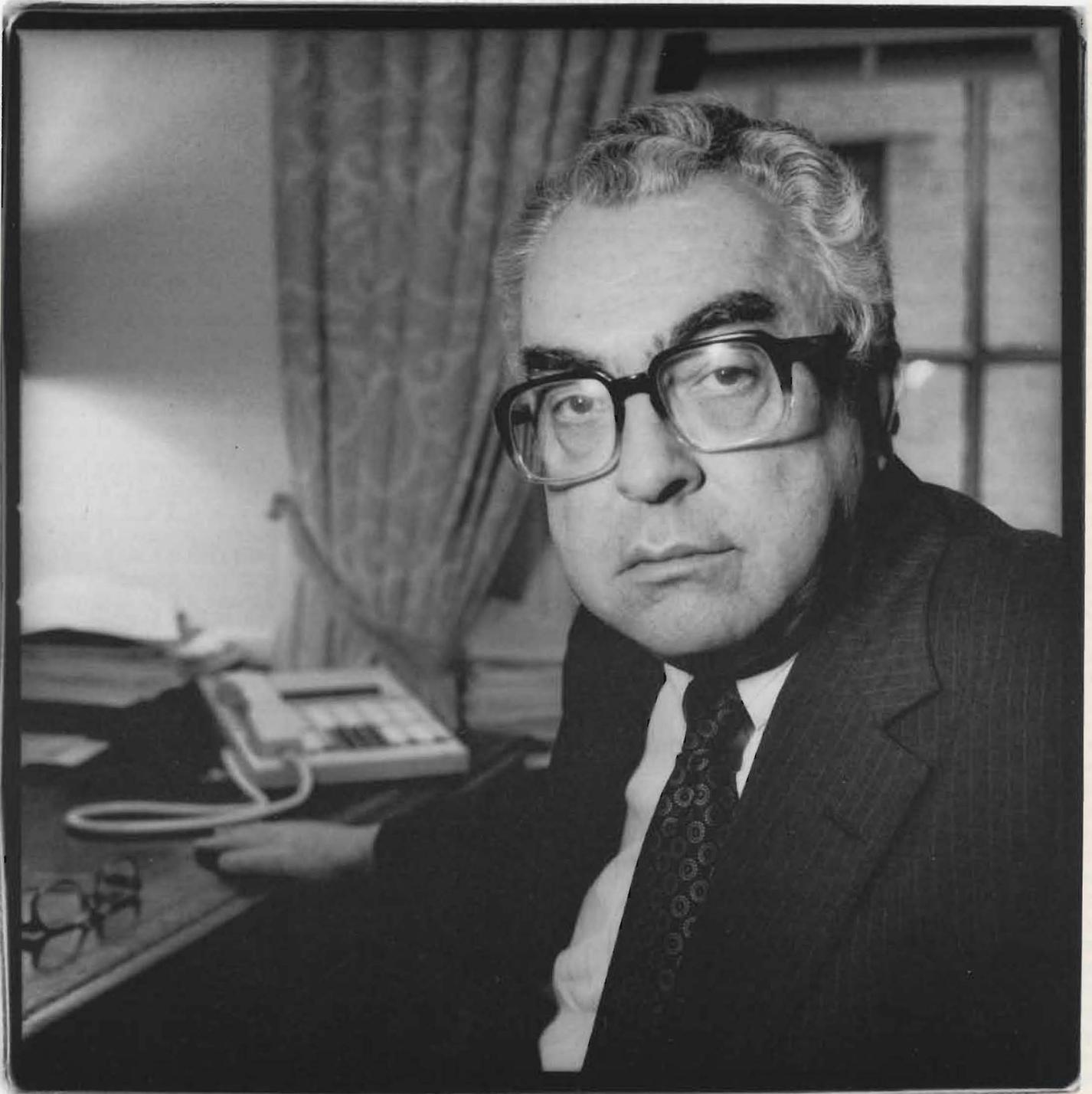
While most of the attention has been paid to Type A's, there is good news for Type B's, who might feel left out of all the hoopla. Their time is coming. One of Strube's recent studies indicates that the lives of Type B's grow better with age. Over the age of 50, Type A's have a tendency to become disenchanted, while Type B's seem to be doing quite well.

Unfortunately, that might just give Type A's something else to worry about.

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Susan Hegger is editor of *The Riverfront Times*, St. Louis' weekly newspaper. She holds a master's degree in anthropology from Washington University.

Jeff Pike is an associate professor in the School of Fine Arts, where he teaches illustration.



*Gray matter: Hyland has a taste for suits the same shade of gray as the magazine he edits.*

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# EDITOR IN CHIEF

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*Certainly not Establishment, William Hyland is the new hand at the helm of Foreign Affairs.*

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by Don Crinklaw — photographs by Sylvia Plachy

Last November, *Vanity Fair* dispensed the secular equivalent of grace to William Hyland celebrityhood. Calling him one of “the stars” of Sovietology, the magazine included Hyland among those rung up whenever the networks feel the need for a talking head on the Soviet Union. Hyland, it said, is much sought after for news shows because, “as one producer put it, he talks in ‘sound bites.’” *Vanity Fair* also reported, almost as proof of Hyland’s position among the elect, that he rides to and from his television appearances in limousines provided by the networks.

Hyland (B.S. in Business Administration, 1950) was appointed editor of *Foreign Affairs*, the publication of the Council on Foreign Relations, in the spring of 1983. His new post as head of the journal, which attracts the adjective “prestigious” in media attention — the way “multitude” attracts “vast” — was reported by *Time* magazine. *Time* offered an encapsulated biography noting that Hyland had been a C.I.A. analyst and an aide to Henry Kissinger, first at the National Security Council, then at the State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

The newly appointed editor was credited with playing “a key role” in negotiating SALT I, and praised as “a scholarly, literate writer,” and “one of the nation’s foremost Sovietologists.” Nearly four years later the compliments have grown even more emphatic. Bernard Gwertzman, a foreign affairs correspondent in *The New York Times’*

Washington Bureau, speaks of Hyland as “an excellent conceptual thinker and a fine writer.” Robert Putnam, chairman of Harvard University’s department of government, insists: “It’s hard to think of anybody in the foreign policy establishment who’s smarter than Bill Hyland.”

Hyland clearly has held posts in and out of government that place him at the top of what Americans, borrowing the British term, call The Establishment. Identifying his exact place among the powerful of the nation, though, is an uncertain business. “I wouldn’t consider his a job in a world of power,” says the *Times’* Gwertzman. “He edits a *magazine*.” But Harvard’s Robert Putnam sees *Foreign Affairs* as not an academic or even an intellectual journal. “It’s a policy journal, existing in the world of public affairs, in the world of power. That’s a quite appropriate role.”

William Hyland in person is leagues away from those corridors-of-power men who walk purposefully at all times, wear thin wristwatches, and carry snap-lock briefcases. At 57 he’s a stocky, bespectacled, round-faced man with wavy hair the color of pewter, dark, woolly-bear eyebrows, and a taste for suits the same shade of gray as the cover of the magazine he edits. His manner, like his voice, is soft and unemphatic.

“I was like many people who came to Washington from all over in the 1950s,” he says, “and until I went to the White House my career was pretty much that of a government civil servant. I have always been interested in the subject of foreign relations, and

as a consequence opportunities came along.”

Such downplaying is the Hyland style; as Robert Putnam says, “That’s one of the reasons he’s done so well. He’s so unassuming and comfortable; he wears well. He doesn’t always speak at the top of his voice.”

The Council on Foreign Relations was founded in New York in 1921, the product of an historical *moment*. Europe was in chaos after the Great War. President Woodrow Wilson’s plan to restore order through the League of Nations had collapsed. An isolationist mood was upon the U.S. And there existed in the East a group of wealthy, educated men — the American Establishment in embryo — concerned with the proper management of America’s foreign policy.

As Hyland puts it, “They felt there ought to be something to educate people, because they believed the defeat of the League of Nations had been mindless and people were misled. They saw a need for a place where foreign relations were discussed and written about. So they formed this organization. It’s been in existence long enough now that many of the government leaders are in fact members. Then you have members *become* government leaders. Council members have often found themselves in my position: Because they’re interested enough to join the organization, chances are they’re going to be active in the field. And the Council, quite frankly, goes out and tries to enlist people in high places to join.”

The membership roster glitters with

names from the country's "Establishment": Adlai Stevenson, Cyrus Vance, Walter Lippmann, W. Averell Harriman, George Bush, Alan Greenspan, Richard Nixon, Caspar Weinberger, George Shultz.

*Foreign Affairs* got under way in 1922 as a publication aimed at the audience it is still seeking 60 years later: government leaders, businessmen with international contacts, academics, and journalists. It was a quarterly then – it's published five times a year now – and the editorial policies promulgated the Council's internationalist position, possible in that simpler time. Free trade was favored, along with military alliances to bolster the free world, and economic aid to developing countries.

The magazine has had only three editors since it began. The first was a sort of archetypical Old Boy named Hamilton Fish Armstrong. He ran *Foreign Affairs* for 50 years, and during his tenure adjectives other than "prestigious" were attached. Like "ponderous." And "impenetrable." Even "dull."

Some titles from the magazine's first decade are indicative: "Fertilizers, The World's Supply," "Political Rights in the Arctic," and "New Zealand's Troubles in Western Samoa."

William Bundy, who had been national security aide to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, took over when Armstrong retired in 1973. Bundy, says Samuel Huntington, director of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, "did lots of things. He expanded the circle of people who contributed to it. He got away from Armstrong's practice of having statements, in almost every issue, by one or more heads of state, which of course never said anything. He opened up a correspondence section. At one point he tried to jazz it up by running photographs of the authors of articles. That didn't last very long. And he ran more controversial articles."

Some of the articles Bundy published were, by *Foreign Affairs* standards, incendiary. In 1976 an article appeared by the 28-year-old British-

born physicist Amory Lovins. "Energy Strategy: The Road Not Taken" was a blast at this country's "bankrupting" over-reliance on fossil fuels and breeder reactors, and the controversy it sparked was continued in the media. Then, in 1983, another depth charge went off when a group of former top U.S. officials known around the Council offices as The Gang of Four – McGeorge Bundy, George Kennan, Robert McNamara, and Gerald Smith – called upon the U.S. to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons. The article provoked a major foreign policy debate, with newspapers across the country taking sides.

These were editorial attempts to pep up the magazine's "striped pants" image, but there was another, underlying reason for their appearance: the collapse of a foreign policy consensus in the wake of Vietnam. What has happened since then is, as Hyland says, "a fragmentation within the country of viewpoints on foreign affairs."

"There's more of a right-left split;



No comment: "I'm not really an Old Boy," maintains the third editor in the 65-year history of the Council on Foreign Relations, an organization established following the demise

of the League of Nations. Hyland's previous positions include a stint with the C.I.A. and a tour of duty in the Nixon White House working for Henry Kissinger.

there is no single font of wisdom. It was easy to have a foreign policy in the 1950s: It was us against the communists, us allied with NATO and Japan: *that* was foreign policy, and what was debated wasn't what to do but rather how to do it. Now you have a much broader debate: what to do at all. Should we be involved in South Africa? Should we keep the troops in Europe? Until the late 1960s the magazine could reflect what the establishment believed, but the consensus collapsed and now there *is* no establishment position. Only a lot of questions floating around."

Bundy announced his resignation when he turned 65 in 1983 and a year later went off to a post at Princeton University. He had taken a magazine regarded as influential and made it more so, although attempts to assess its actual force have a way of foundering. The *Times'* Gwertzman says, "*Foreign Affairs* is subscribed to by the foreign policy mavens, and everyone draws from it certain ideas. An important article that has something to say *can* be influential, but nothing immediately comes to mind."

Robert Putnam echoes the thought: "It certainly represents the best current thinking on all sorts of issues, and it is very widely read by policymakers all around the world. But I don't know how you'd go about measuring its influences." Robert Salisbury, chairman of Washington University's political science department, sums it up: "The case can be made that *Foreign Affairs* has contributed to the way people have thought about one kind of problem or another. But it is extremely difficult, and probably not even profitable, to try to say that it has *x* amount of power, as opposed to someone else with *y* amount."

Perhaps it speaks to the influence of the magazine that the search committee formed to locate Bundy's successor found itself considering more than 60 candidates. Among them were Leslie Gelb, *The New York Times* national security correspondent, and Stephen Rosenfeld, *Washington Post* deputy editorial-page editor. Both withdrew before Hyland was chosen.

Since 1945 the Council on Foreign Relations has operated out of the five-story townhouse built by Harold Pratt, one of the first directors of Standard Oil, on the southwest corner of 68th Street and Park Avenue in Manhattan. A marble entryway opens on the left to a lofty, paneled library, on the right to a



**His editorship:** *Vanity Fair* says he takes limos to network news interviews; Harvard professor of government Robert Putnam says Hyland wears well because "he doesn't always speak at the top of his voice."

series of offices. Middle-aged men talk softly into telephones. Delivery boys, moving with an instinctive quiet through the library hush that attends the workings of the Council, wheel in cartons of paper. There is everywhere the look of expensive materials aged to a patina, and even a hint of seediness. So must Whitehall have appeared at the turn of the century: the den of a ruling class so sublimely sure of itself as to affect disinterest in its trappings.

Hyland's third-floor office, reached by a lugubrious elevator car of shiny black metal, is small and spartan. He edits *Foreign Affairs* from a leather-topped table; a gray sofa, a coffee table, and a few chairs are the only other furnishings.

Hyland was born in Kansas City, the only child of a salesman who died when Hyland was ten. "I went to Washington University because I got a partial scholarship, so it seemed like a good idea. Then I got a job washing dishes in the TKE house, which paid for my

meals. That was even better. I enrolled in the Business School, though I wasn't especially interested in business. I wasn't especially interested in college at the time. I was just drifting. I think I may have gotten one 'A' in four years. In English.

"I was drafted right after I graduated," he says. "The Korean War had just begun, but I spent most of my two years in Germany. That revived an old interest of mine: history. So when I got out of the army I went back home and enrolled in the University of Kansas City. It's now called the University of Missouri-Kansas City."

His M.A. in history was awarded in 1954. "I wanted then to get to Washington in some capacity connected with foreign relations," he recalls, "and the Foreign Service was closed. A friend suggested the C.I.A., so I wrote them a letter. They sent a guy around to talk to me, then they offered me a job, and I went to Washington as an intelligence officer.

"I wasn't a spy; I was an analyst, and

my last assignment was in the Office of National Estimates for the C.I.A. My specialty was the Soviet Union."

In 1968 he published a book, *The Fall of Khrushchev*, co-authored with Richard Shryock. "We thought his fall was a major event and that it wasn't really being given the kind of treatment it should. And in those days the C.I.A. was mildly encouraging to their people; they were coming out of their shell and saying that their people might have something to say, so let them say it. We tried to write a more popular version of the story, but it didn't catch on. It's long out of print; I found one in a secondhand bookstore this summer."

All of Hyland's statements about himself have a way of ending with that downward glide into self-deprecation. His account of his appointment to Henry Kissinger's National Security Council in 1969, the move that brought him into the center of the country's foreign policy elite, is most off-hand. "I didn't know Kissinger then," he says. "I just happened to be working on a subject that he was deeply involved in: relations with the Russians. I suppose, had I been working on Mozambique, that I would never have had much contact with him."

That was, apparently, all there was to it; Hyland's modesty seems genuine, not a mask to conceal the Old Possum of foreign relations. Samuel Huntington notes, "Hyland worked for Kissinger, and I don't think that's hurt him. But it's a mistake to think of him as a Kissinger protégé. He was – and is – a figure in his own right."

"My work for Kissinger was staff work, and hard to describe," Hyland says. "I took other people's contributions and synthesized them, then got the president and Kissinger to focus on it. We'd have a meeting, make a decision, push it ahead."

In the Hyland style, he makes his contribution to SALT I sound negligible. "I wouldn't take credit for anything specific. At the very end I was with Nixon and Kissinger in Moscow, and I did a few midnight sessions on issues that were left over, like submarines. I was just the general staff aide for those subjects."

He was not involved in what he calls "the Watergate stuff; the Kissinger staff was insulated from that." But in late 1974 Nixon was gone and Hyland joined Kissinger, who was also Secretary of State, in the State Department. "Director of Intelligence is a good label for my job there; the bureaucratic title is a pretty long one. I was really the Secretary of State's research bureau, taking intelligence that's com-



**Home decorating:** *There is everywhere about Foreign Affairs' offices the look of expensive materials aged to a patina. Delivery boys wheel in cartons of paper, moving with instinctive quiet through the library bush.*

ing out of the C.I.A., the N.S.A., the Defense Department, and so forth, and distilling it in a way that is effective for the secretary."

Then, in 1975, it was back to the White House. "Kissinger resigned as National Security Advisor," Hyland says. "His deputy, General Brent Scowcroft, moved up, and I took Scowcroft's job as Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security. Ford was president then, and my job was more staff work: expediting papers to the president, preparing for cabinet-level meetings on subjects like, 'How do you treat the Russians? What's the next step in the SALT negotiations?'"

When Ford gave way to Carter, Hyland stayed on for a time at the request of the new Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski. He resigned in

the fall of 1977. "I'd reached a level of government where it is political," he explained. "I was not just a civil servant. When you're working for a president and the president leaves office, hanging on is not the thing you do. So I just left."

Hyland went to Georgetown University. "That's where Kissinger was located. He offered me a job and I took it. I taught a course and worked out of Kissinger's office. I wrote op-ed pieces, chapters for collections, and contributions to other people's books. I helped Kissinger with the research for his two books of memoirs." Then the Hyland coda: "Somewhere in the preface there's a mention of me."

In 1981 he was offered what he calls "a nice job at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington—about six blocks from where I was working. It was a chance to do a little more on my own, so I took it. Carnegie has no members, just a staff of about ten. We were given a salary and allowed to pursue our own interests. They encouraged us to write for publication and participate in study groups. They publish *Foreign Policy* magazine."

William Hyland has been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, his current employer, since the early 1970s. "There is no membership fee," he says, "but one must apply for membership, be nominated by a member, and passed upon by a committee. I was nominated by Henry Kissinger. I wasn't an active member; I just came to meetings."

Hyland has become a Manhattanite since he became the magazine's editor. He lives now with his wife in an apartment three blocks from his Pratt House office. They have two sons, one a lawyer in Tampa and the other a Congressional aide.

"This is really a very good job from which to pursue an interest in foreign relations. You read a lot. You have a lot of contacts on different subjects. If you have interests like I have, this is ideal."

He does not regard this position as one from which to seek consensus: "That's a little deep. We are attempting

to illuminate the important issues by presenting people who understand these issues and can write."

A copy of the Summer 1986 issue sat atop the coffee table in Hyland's office. Most of the articles inside are of a decidedly reflective nature: One wonders what England is going to do about its lethargy; another assesses Philippine president Aquino's ability to sustain public support; yet another claims that Americans shouldn't be surprised to learn that Fundamentalists Muslims don't like them.

None is easy reading, an observation that Hyland is quick to respond to. "One of the complaints has *always* been that it's very hard to get through," he says. "It's 220 pages of densely packed prose. But that's the kind of magazine it is. It's not light reading; nobody ever claimed that it was."

Still, Samuel Huntington says that his reading of the magazine during the two years of Hyland's stewardship reveals that the current editor is maintaining his predecessor Bundy's streak of contentiousness.

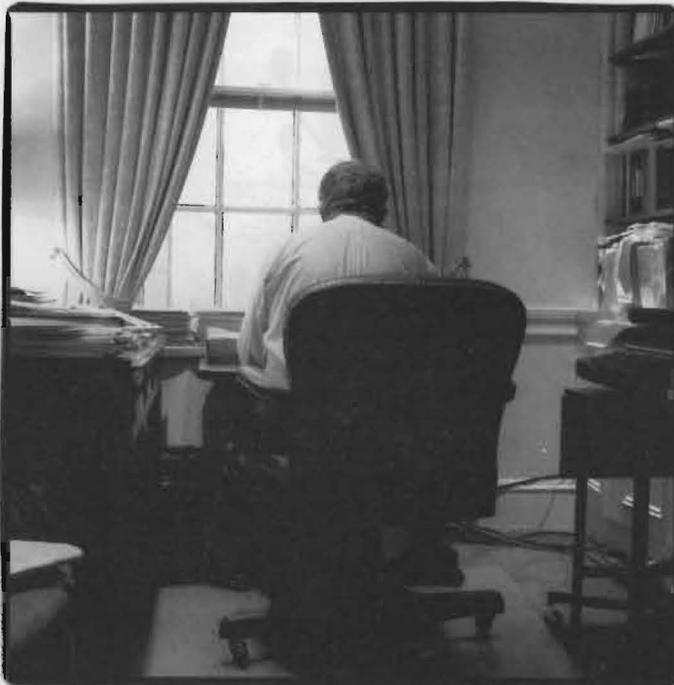
Hyland agrees. "That Gang of Four, the ones who wrote the first-strike article, also did a piece for me attacking Reagan's Star Wars; it was quite controversial. We were very early to address the questions of trade balances and international debt. We published Carl Sagan's work on nuclear winter, which provoked a debate that's still going on in the magazine two years later."

Hyland is not, he says, tied to any policies of the Council; he receives no direction from them. "I have total autonomy; this is not a house organ of the Council—the Council is *publisher*. They make no effort to tell the editor what to publish. That's one of the reasons it's a pretty good magazine: There's no special pleading."

*Foreign Affairs'* circulation stands at 90,000; even factoring in routine library subscriptions, that's an impressive figure. "You must remember that in its field it's almost unique," Hyland says. "I've tried to improve its readability, tried to get people to make the articles a little shorter, a little more attractive.

The magazine began accepting advertising three decades ago, and we sell ads, though we don't push a vigorous campaign."

Hyland agrees that attempts to estimate the degree of his magazine's influence are fruitless. "It's more a part of the landscape in this narrow field of foreign policy. Still, that policy can be affected by concentrating on specific subjects over a period of time, repeat-



The typical Hyland coda: "Somewhere in the preface there's a mention of me." Above, Hyland prepares a report on the 1986 elections for friend and colleague Henry Kissinger.

edly hitting on them until people come to grips with them. That's where you have an impact.

"The subject that is beginning to get a lot of attention, and I think one that's going to be a major concern for quite a while, is South Africa. The whole racial issue that flows out of that area, and what it's going to do to the southern half of that continent, to this country, and to our foreign policy, is an overwhelming one.

"The majority of Americans may have little interest in that area, but they're going to be forced to as the civil war in South Africa reverberates inside our own country. You will have whites killing blacks, and blacks killing whites, making this our first major racial foreign policy issue. We've had Asians against Caucasians, but it wasn't really in racial terms. In Korea and Vietnam it wasn't 'us against Asians,' it was 'us against communists.' The racial

aspects make this most worrisome."

Criticisms leveled at the Council on Foreign Relations over the years have usually taken two forms. The first, and the easier for Hyland to answer, usually comes from the political right and has it that the Council, along with the Trilateral Commission and the Club of Rome, is part of a monolithic conspiracy. "They claim we're out to give away the country. But I don't hear as much of that as I'd expected. From time to time I get hate mail, but I don't think it's as big a deal now."

The other charge, from populists, on the right *and* the left, is one of elitism: The Council, according to this argument, is an exclusive club of wealthy Easterners convinced they know best on matters of foreign policy; no commoners need apply.

"The East Coast is staffed by hundreds of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia graduates," Hyland points out. "That gives a certain strength and character to it, but from time to time it's a good idea to get somebody who has a different perspective.

"There are two aspects to foreign policy. One is the study of other countries, and you get that at Harvard. The second is the conduct of American foreign policy in the national interest, and

someone who comes from the middle of the country may have a better feel for the nuances of the United States.

"The idea that we all went to Harvard just doesn't happen to be true," he says. Then comes the characteristic William Hyland coda. "I'm not knocking it, though. I would have been happy to go to Harvard, but I doubt whether I would ever have gotten in back then." □

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Don Crinklaw is a free-lance writer based in St. Louis.

Sylvia Plachy is a staff photographer for The Village Voice.

William Hyland's next book on Soviet-American relations is *Mortal Rivals*, to be published this spring by Random House.

# History, Come Alive!

*Henry Hampton has a dream. He wants his ambitious documentary on the civil rights movement to evoke a national catharsis.*

by **Kenneth J. Cooper**

**E**very time Henry Hampton (A.B., 1961) talks to any audience these days he recalls the warning his father, for many years a St. Louis physician, gave his only son about the nature of opportunity.

"He said most of us only had three or four good ideas. The first one we're too young to take advantage of, and another too old. The third one, there are a thousand reasons why you don't: You're too sick; you're too far away; you're too tired — some reason," Hampton says, recalling the same words with each retelling. "Then there's one idea that you can't ignore, and you've got to grab ahold of it. You don't let it go because you probably don't have another chance."

Nearly 20 years ago, Hampton grabbed his idea of a lifetime, or perhaps the idea seized him; they have become bound with the kind of obsession that is rooted in a father's compelling words to his young son. Now, Hampton *films* is in his middle years and has finally completed work on what he

believes to be that one good, inescapable idea. He awaits its unveiling this month as, he hopes, much of the nation watches.

*Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*, is a six-part documentary, produced by Hampton's Blackside Inc. The series is scheduled to begin airing on public television stations in January. In six hours, one of TV's rare independent black producers has captured the drama, emotion, and conflict that swept the South and reshaped much of America. The series chronicles the 1955 lynching of Emmett Till in Mississippi; the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama; the 1957 desegregation of Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas; the numerous sit-ins and Freedom Rides; the 1963 March on Washington; the upstart Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; and the "Bloody Sunday" march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

The civil rights movement is a familiar subject on television, but Hampton's

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*Henry Hampton, Jr.*







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**Brute force:** *The Birmingham, Alabama, fire department in the early 1960s turns its hoses on young demonstrators.*

rendering achieves authenticity with original film clips, some never seen by a national audience. The clips were acquired in relentless rummaging through forgotten files, and, in one instance, through an Act of Congress required to secure copies of U.S. Information Agency film of the March on Washington. Much of the series focuses on ordinary people who played uncommon roles in history, and considerable freshness comes from the personal stories of unsung heroes and prominent antagonists who face the camera and speak of dangerous times.

There is a Montgomery school teacher, seated on a lawn in a summer dress, talking about how she helped support the bus boycott. There is a white matron from the same city explaining how some white women, upset at the prospect of cleaning their own homes, gave clandestine rides to their black housekeepers. There is a young woman recalling how, as a young child, she marched to the Selma bridge and, as she scampered away to escape club-swinging deputies, was

picked up by a well-meaning freedom fighter. She demanded to be put down, telling him, "You ain't running fast enough."

Well-known civil rights leaders are also interviewed in the series, which is narrated by Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, himself a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the early 1960s. The late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., appears as a reluctant leader in the bus boycott who at first told another black minister he had to mull over whether to join. Returning the call later, King agreed to help and was informed a meeting already had been called at his Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. The series does not focus on King, yet his ability to inspire with oratory and find universal truths in a struggle of poor blacks sets him apart.

Some of the prominent white antagonists of the time give retrospectives, including former Selma Sheriff Jim Clark and Alabama Gov. George Wallace, who has reformed his racial views since declaring "segregation now, seg-

regation tomorrow, segregation forever." Clark's sentiments have changed little. The only journalists interviewed for the program were two who had been victims in the line of duty. One was Jimmy Hicks, of New York's *Amsterdam News*, a black weekly. He was among several interviewees who have since died, a pattern that underscores the preciousness of some material. Hicks was threatened by a white mob in Little Rock who believed he and other black reporters had acted as decoys while the new black students slipped in Central High's side door. "Hell, naw," Hicks replies in an emphatic denial.

Otherwise, the sideline sages, academics, and journalists are not allowed to intrude and assign meaning to the events. The deliberate omission of analysis is a technique borrowed along with the services of senior producer Judith Vechhione, from the award-winning *Vietnam* series also done for public television. *Eyes on the Prize* is history brought alive with old-fashioned storytelling that develops charac-

ter, shifts voices, and creates drama through conflict and resolution.

Those are appropriate qualities for the work of an English major (who doubled in pre-med studies at Washington University to satisfy his father). A portrait of William Butler Yeats, his favorite poet, hangs above Hampton's desk in a cramped walk-up office in a Boston neighborhood of Victorian brownstones. Hampton founded Blackside in 1968, fresh from witnessing and writing about a few episodes of the civil rights movement as public information director for the liberal Unitarian-Universalist Association, which has its denominational headquarters in Boston. That was the only real job that Hampton, 47, has ever had on someone else's payroll. His conversation conveys a sense of personal independence and mastery that makes it hard for anyone to think of him as "handicapped," even though he is a polio victim who walks with a limp.

His own is not a story of mobility from "want" to "have," the kind of uplift the civil rights movement sought for black Americans. He was raised in a secure middle-class environment. "I had by any definition a very comfortable childhood," he says.

His father, a former chief of surgery and medical director of Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, left a lot to his family when he died in 1979. They lived on the border between black and white neighborhoods in a Richmond Heights house designed by one of the city's leading white architects, who also drafted plans for the medical office where Henry E. Hampton, Sr., saw patients at Jefferson and Market streets, a hub of black activity in the 1940s. His successful practice supported a lifestyle that included parochial schools and private colleges for three children, Sunday afternoons at the Saint Louis Symphony, and weekends playing gentleman farmer in rural New Florence, west of the city. Young Henry was driving his own car, one of the first Ford Thunderbirds built, in high school.

The elder Hampton, like other black doctors during that period, was not allowed to treat patients at Washington University's Barnes Hospital. But he later served on a commission that planned the desegregation of Washington University.

For the most part, young Henry Jr. and his two sisters were carefully insulated from the humiliation of discrimination. "My father's way of dealing with

the world was that if you had enough money and education, you didn't have to deal with that stuff," Hampton explains.

He did attend a segregated Catholic elementary school near downtown and spent a year at a newly desegregated one ("Run by one of the world's most

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*There is a Montgomery school teacher, seated on a lawn in a summer dress, talking about how she helped support the bus boycott . . . There is a young woman recalling how, as a child, she scampered away from club-swinging deputies only to be lifted off her feet by a well-meaning freedom fighter. She demanded to be put down, telling him, "You ain't running fast enough."*

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consummate racists, good Father Tammany") in Richmond Heights. He then passed entrance exams to St. Louis University High. Only one other black was admitted to his class.

"In the middle of my sophomore and junior years, I got sick and woke up one morning and couldn't move," Hampton recalls. "It was 1955, the summer of the great polio epidemic. I was always very athletic and running around, so God knows where I picked it up. I got it in June. I was flat on my back for six weeks. Then I got in a wheelchair and went back to school in September, because my father knew enough not to let me succumb to self-pity. It was for him I got up and kept moving."

Hampton arrived as a student at Washington University through a round-about route. His father wanted him to attend an Ivy League school and he was admitted to several, but changed his mind when invited by Dartmouth to a dinner in St. Louis for prospective freshmen only to be turned away because the Missouri Athletic Club served whites only. Over his father's objections, he chose to study at Holy Cross, the Jesuit college outside Boston. But his freshman year ended

abruptly. "You had to be in bed by 10. I might have lived with that, but you had to have the lights out. You couldn't read. I could not buy not being able to read." So he returned to St. Louis in 1958 and entered Washington University.

He carries few vivid recollections about campus life then. He got his first exposure to a civil rights demonstration as a participant in a brief sit-in at a nearby Santoro's pizza parlor that did not serve blacks. With prompting from the local chapter of the Congress for Racial Equality, Hampton and two white students one evening confronted the manager, who, seeing few patrons present at that moment, capitulated and made a quick decision to serve them.

After graduating in 1961, Hampton was drawn back to Boston, where he drove a cab for a short time, took guitar lessons, and moved into a loft in the same neighborhood where his office is now. He went up to Montreal and took a few medical courses at McGill University, then permanently abandoned the notion of following in his father's footsteps. Back in Boston, he answered a newspaper ad for an editor and went to work at the Unitarians' office on Beacon Hill, the turf of traditional New England bluebloods. It was a turning point in his life.

Soon the cause-oriented Unitarians were drawn into the center of the civil rights movement. One of Hampton's first assignments took him to the 1963 March on Washington. The next year, a Unitarian minister from Boston, Reverend James Reeb, was killed in Alabama. Hampton joined northern Unitarians in marching through Selma on "Turn-around Tuesday," two days after the televised beating of Reverend Hosea Williams, student leader John Lewis, and other demonstrators on "Bloody Sunday" had shocked the country. Hampton calls the Tuesday march, when King avoided another confrontation by turning around before reaching the Pettus Bridge, his "most intimate experience" with the movement as both participant and observer.

Hampton arranged news conferences and wrote press releases for the Unitarians through 1968. Then, with a \$12,000 contract to produce four television spots, he set up Blackside. An enduring lesson he had learned observing the civil rights movement was the media's power to influence social change.

"I'm a cross-creature of sorts when it comes to this business," he says. "I'm



**School days:** Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division accompany members of the Little Rock Nine home from Central High in September, 1957.

not just interested in making good films. I have an equal need to have them seen and have an impact on people."

Sometime during the early years of Blackside, the idea of documenting the civil rights movement occurred to him. He talked, for instance, of producing a teledrama about the Freedom Summer of 1964 when Northern college students invaded the South. But his business was new, his finances short, and his professional reputation as yet unestablished. He carried on, doing media projects for corporations, federal agencies, and television stations. Sometimes he kept his fledgling production house alive, as partners came and went, through "sheer stubbornness."

Then, a decade after founding Blackside, an executive from Capital Cities Communications approached him as he had other black producers. "Cap Cities came to me and said, 'If you had your druthers, if you could do anything else you'd want to do in the world, what would it be?'" Hampton recalls.

"I hesitated for about six seconds and said, 'I'd do the television history of the civil rights movement.'"

Capital Cities put up \$350,000 for a three-hour show but, as production proceeded, he realized the broadcasting concern was looking for a behind-the-scenes exposé, not a documentary of events as they happened. They parted company in 1980. But the concept had taken hold of Hampton, so he set out in search of other funding sources. They were not easy to find. The Public Broadcasting Service signaled interest early. The Ford Foundation and some philanthropies provided support, although many others declined, preferring the subject kept in the past. Mostly, fund-raising has been one grant at a time. Even as late as last October, Hampton was still trying to corner another \$300,000 to round out a budget that has reached about \$3 million. Finally, in December, the Lotus Development Corporation and General Electric came through with the funds to

meet the project's costs.

WGBH in Boston, a leading station in the public television system, is sponsoring the broadcast of *Eyes on the Prize* and helping promote the series.

"In retrospect, no rational man would start out to do this. It's only that you get driven by something and you persist," Hampton says.

A woman on the *Eyes on the Prize* staff puts it another way. "He's carried it so long, it's like it's a child. It's like he's about to give birth."

In 1985, Hampton assembled a staff of about 25. Most were young free-lancers from the broadcast world. A few had participated in the civil rights movement, two in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Associate producer Callie Crossley, who grew up in Memphis, marched in King's last march. To provide a common research base, the entire staff spent an intense week in July 1985 at a "civil rights school," where they listened to prominent movement leaders and then read and discussed written material. Pro-

ducer Vecchione brought the idea for a school from the *Vietnam* series.

Teams were assigned to each one-hour show and dispatched south, with a mission to gather original clips from local TV stations, interview surviving participants, and record them on film. Some hesitant interviewees were swayed once they realized Hampton was trying to produce a documentary that reflected many perspectives, without "cheapshotting" the villains of the time.

One criterion for the title, Hampton says, was that it not be "charged with a particular point of view." Rejected were *We Shall Overcome* and *The Movement and The Resistance*. The ultimate selection comes from a traditional Negro spiritual that was adopted as a movement song, "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize." It also fits with the series' background music, which contains only period pieces from the 1950s and 1960s. The "prize" the title refers to is freedom.

A reason for the care in choosing a title is Hampton's strong desire to attract a large viewing audience. He wants *Eyes on the Prize* to be a shared national experience, like the World Series or, though he does not mention it, like *Roots* was when first aired. His fear is a small audience, a few complimentary reviews, and then — nothing. What he envisions is a national catharsis of sorts.

"The emotional qualities of this period, both the good and the bad, have never been released. There's nothing to do it. There is no comprehensive TV material. Books can't adequately communicate the intensity of the period. I think we have a reservoir of emotion that's yet to be fully released about this period. Surely the celebration hasn't been had, maybe some of the grief."

At several previews, *Eyes on the Prize* has demonstrated cathartic power. As black journalists watched film clips at a Dallas conference, many cried or sobbed. A showing for a small group of Nieman Fellows at Harvard drew emotional testimonials from two former civil rights demonstrators present. *Eyes on the Prize*, though, has ample touches of humor to soothe feelings of anger, hurt, and sadness brought to the surface.

There may be other feelings to tap in white viewers. Crossley went to the state capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, to interview George Wallace, who was nearing the end of his final term as



AP/BLACKSIDE, INC.

**Guiding light:** *The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., at a press conference following his arrest during a bus boycott in 1956 in Montgomery, Alabama.*

governor. The Blackside crew found him an enfeebled man in a wheelchair, a shadow of the symbol of official defiance he once was. He talked and talked, ignoring protective staff members who tried to end the interview. Crossley got the impression that Wallace, late in life, harbored feelings of guilt he wanted to unload while he had the chance.

That is an example of the kind of emotional impact Hampton wants *Eyes on the Prize* to have on a wide audience. That is the prize he covets.

Hampton hasn't tallied how many good ideas he has missed thus far in his life, but he's fairly certain he's

grabbed hold of another one. It's a sequel to *Eyes on the Prize*, a documentary about civil rights battles between 1965 and 1980. It may be that Henry Hampton will have to prove the good advice of his father wrong; it may be that Hampton is someone who can act on *two* good ideas in a lifetime. □

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