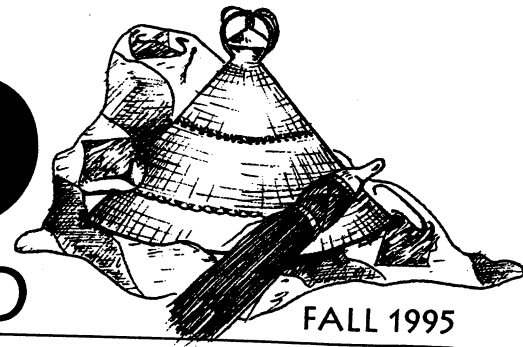


FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

METSOALLE EA LESOTHO



FALL 1995

2801 Spencer Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 ■ 301/589-4236 ■ George Fanelli, Editor

LESOTHO: ON THE ROPES (AGAIN)

The government of Lesotho, in what seems to be a recurring event, is on the ropes again and sliding into chaos.

Basotho Congress Party (BCP) Prime Minister Mokhehle was sent a letter (also sent to King Moshoeshe II and Presidents Mandela, Mugabe and Masire) by unnamed politicians demanding his resignation.

The Prime Minister's problems seem to have started in February with an approved increase in teachers' salaries. The government decided in March that salaries would be reduced at the end of April due to financial problems. The Lesotho Teachers Trade Union (LTTU) and the Lesotho Association of Teachers (LAT) are determined to either take the government to court to force the reinstatement of the salary structure approved in February or stage a strike if their demands are not heard by the court.

Prime Minister Mokhehle's problems were compounded by a rouge band of National Security Service (NSS) officers. The Lesotho "Mirror" has named this group the "Ninja National Security Service". This rouge band of NSS junior officers has kidnapped and interrogated, so far this year, the District Secretary for Quthing, Sekoala Macheli, two (2) senior

officers of the NSS itself, and Thabang Khaue, a Maseru attorney. Mr. Khaue is the attorney who sued the government earlier this year (see the last issue of FOL, Summer 1995, for additional details about his suit) over the abdication of Letsie III and reinstatement of Moshoeshe II. Mr. Khaue was apparently forced at gun point to accompany three (3) assailants to the Maseru Central charge office where he was beaten and held for 12 hours without any charges being filed (as an aside to this, it was reported in the 19 April issue of "The Mirror" that Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Sekhonyana did not object to the NSS incidents described above).

Additionally, there seems to be a problem with the police. The Royal Lesotho Mountain Police (RLMP) went on a work slow down in May. A RLMP spokes person said officers would only work between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and not work on weekends or holidays. There were reports of looting in Maseru and Mafeteng shortly after the slow down began. The apparent cause of the work action is a demand for an increase in salaries. There had been a prior police work action (see Summer 1994 issue of FOL for additional details) which was settled by a

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NOTES FROM LESOTHO

YOUR ASSISTANCE PLEASE

The Peace Corps Gifts in Kind Program in their May 1995 Volunteer Project Needs publication listed a request from Reo Cheshire. Reo is working with the Sehlabath-ebe Health and Recreation Complex. The complex will serve as an arena for social, health and recreational participation by the community. Group sports will be the primary attraction of the complex, but in order to participate in any of the recreational programming, individuals will be required to attend health education classes. Topics on the schedule include AIDS education, proper nutrition and injury prevention. Reo is looking for contributions to help defray the cost of the three (3) basketballs (\$54), two (2) basketball hoops with nets (\$84), two (2) indoor soccer balls (\$46) and a pump with needles (\$8). If you would like additional information about Reo's request, or any PCV's request, please contact Alexandra Willson or Taylor Houck at the Gifts in Kind office. You can reach them at

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MEMBER NEWS

Christine Madaio and Carmine DiStasio recently attended (19-22 June) a reunion of sorts at Snowy Mountain Ranch in Colorado. Many volunteers who began their service in June, July or November 1976 gathered to relate personal histories about the intervening 20 years and re-view slides and pictures taken during their service. Presumably, a lot of this just confirms our children's opinions that we are _____ (please fill in the blank with your word(s) which best describe your own children's view of your past and current behavior).

There was much time for swimming, hiking, golfing, laughing but hardly enough time to catch up on twenty years.

However, there seems to be a move underfoot to schedule another reunion for the year 2000. Christine and Carmine have opened with the position that it should be held on the East Coast but the smart money is going on they will cave in to no further west than Wisconsin.

Please contact Christine or Carmine if you are interested.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

You may recall an article in the Summer 1994 issue of FOL on a "Destination Lesotho" video produced under the auspices of the Peace Corps World Wide Schools program. Many FOL members (Nthakoana Peko did the translation of the video) helped on the production of the video.

Well, the boys and girls in the back room have been very busy (with apologies to Dr. Suess) and submitted the video to the Telly Awards. The Telly Awards was founded in 1980 to give recognition to outstanding non-network and cable television commercials, film and video productions.

The Telly Awards is truly a national competition with entries from 47 states and Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. This year, for the first time, there was a separate international division in the Telly competition. And... **We Won, We Won, We Won!!!**

The "Destination: Lesotho" video was selected as a Telly Awards winner in March 1995 (as an aside, "Destination: Cameroon" and "Destination Lithuania" were selected as finalists). Congratulations are in order to all who worked on the production.

You may obtain information or a VHS copy of the video by contacting the Peace Corps World Wide Schools National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The NTIS order number for the "Destination Lesotho" video is A19530. The NTIS phone numbers are 800-788-6282 or (703) 487-4650 or (703) 487-4639 (for the hearing impaired) or 800-234-8861 (computer bulletin board).

You may also obtain a study guide for the video on the World Wide Web. The Web site address is: <http://www.clark.net/pub/peace/PeaceCorps.html>

The Peace Corps World Wide Web site also offers information on the Peace Corps, World Wide Schools study guides, anecdotal information on countries and cultures, video uplinking, and video purchasing information.

ON THE ROPES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

general increase in the salaries of the police and military. The RLMP claim that prior increase only brought their salaries up to the level of other civil servants.

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME EFFORT ON THE PART OF DISSATISFIED MEMBERS OF THE PARTY TO BREAK AWAY AND FORM A NEW PARTY, THE BASOTHO NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY (BNCP), WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO UNIFY THE BNP AND THE BCP.

The army and private security firms have attempted to provide coverage in lieu of full police protection. Ominously, the BCP offices in Maseru were raided by several policeman in June.

Mokhehle's problems are compounded by dissension within his own party. There seems to be some effort on the part of dissatisfied members of the party to break away and form a new party, the Basotho National Congress Party (BNCP), which would attempt to unify the BNP and the BCP.

The Deputy leader of the BCP, Molapo Qhobela, wants the Prime Minister to retire (he is now 75), so that he (Qhobela) will assume the party leadership. The Prime Minister has shown doubts about his Deputy party leader. Mr. Qhobela had been demoted (there really is not any other way to look at it) earlier this year in a cabinet shuffle from Minister of Foreign Affairs to Minister of Public Works.

Regardless, Qhobela's problem is

FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

HOW THE WEATHER WAS

Another season has come and gone and I am late again in setting down to work on this issue of FOL (completely understandable this time as I have been intently following the Yankee pursuit of, it makes me sick to say it, a wild card play off position). Since it is more probable that the sun will rise in the west than I will get another issue out before January, let me wish everyone a frightful Halloween, a good Thanksgiving, myself a happy birthday, a joyous Christmas and/or Hanukkah and a very Chivas New Year.

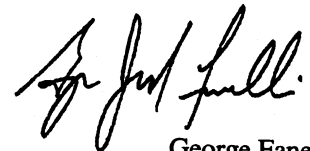
One article in this issue is on the untimely death of former Country Director, Mimi Austin. Unfortunately, we, actually only some of us, are now approaching that age where some of our friends and family do pass away. Should a request be made, I will make every effort to include such news in the very next issue of FOL published. Please remember, however, to send these requests directly to me. The news of Mimi's death in May reached me in a very round about way and was not able to be included in the last issue of FOL.

Also in this issue is an article on a RPCV reunion held this summer in Colorado. I will include any such news, or the announcement of a planned reunion, if it is sent to me, in the next issue of FOL as well. However, please remember to include a contact person, address and

phone number for those who may be interested to contact and request additional information. I can only promise to be responsible enough to include such news in FOL — those familiar with jaunts to Lake George know I can not be held responsible for planning anything.

Things seemed to have changed dramatically in Lesotho since the last issue of FOL (keep in mind, the reports I use tend to be approximately three months prior to publication date, so this issue of FOL is actually on events from February/March through June). You may recall the last issue did not include much on political upheaval and, instead tried to focus on economic developments. Nevertheless, it is a very dynamic political situation and, on the bright side, there was not another coup.

FOL President Spicer has informed me that the newsletter has been entered into the 1995 National Peace Corps Association Newsletter Contest. Since I know that I did not enter the contest, I would like to thank who ever did (winners were allegedly to be announced in August at the National Conference of RPCV's and since I have not been contacted by the Academy, I presume we did not win).



George Fanelli



that he is not only opposed by the same faction mentioned above opposed to the Prime Minister but also by the Deputy Prime Minister, Pakalitha Mosisili, and the Prime Minister's brother, Shakhane Mokhehle who both know their own political positions would be weakened by the Prime

Minister's retirement.

The Prime Minister himself seems to have ascribed to the "take two and hit to right" philosophy and will let his fate be decided at the party conference in December. There will, obviously, be much more on this in future issues of FOL.

NOTES FROM LESOTHO

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

1-800-424-8580, ext. 2227 or (202) 606-3360.

Please keep in mind you do not have to fund Reo's or any PCV's request completely. Any donation you make will be greatly appreciated and, of course, is tax deductible.

FOL has also received a request for assistance from the principal of Sebelekoane High School for the construction of a Science Laboratory.

The principle (unfortunately, I was unable to make out his or her name from the signature) wrote to inform us the school has a total enrollment of 200 for Forms A-E, only five (5) classrooms and no lab. The school board has approached many organizations for help in the construction project without success. The principal also wrote PCV Sandra Freeman is on site.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$8,000.

Obviously, the total cost of this project exceeds the entire FOL budget and we can not provide this type of assistance. However, should you wish to make an independent donation, you may write to either the principal or PCV Freeman at: Sebelekoane High School, P.O. Sebelekoane 925, Makhakhe's, Lesotho, Africa.

FOL also received a request from a Mohaleshoek High School mathematics and science teacher, Tsekiso Mpeete, for financial assistance. Ntate Mpeete received a strong recommendation from the Ministry of Education that he upgrade his educational qualifications. He is in the process of applying (or has already done so) for a Bachelor of Science Education degree from NUL.

Ntate Mpeete has requested financial assistance since he would not be employed while pursuing his degree at NUL.

Once again, FOL would be unable to provide the kind of assistance requested (there was not a dollar figure mentioned in Ntate Mpeete's letter), but you may wish to make an independent donation. Please write to: Ntate Tsekiso Mpeete, Mohaleshoek High School, P.O. Box 21, Mohale's Hoek, Lesotho, Africa.



FUNDING SET FOR 1996 LESOTHO STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

by Scott Brumburgh

Friends of Lesotho supported five tuition scholarships in 1995 through the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), established by Peace Corps Volunteers in Lesotho. As we did last year, \$1,000 will be provided to help another five worthy students selected by this organization. Each student receives \$200 towards their high school fees based on both academic potential and financial need.

The five students FOL supported in 1995 were:

Rakose Lekoko: He is Head Prefect at Qholaqhohoe High School, leader of the debate team and consistently among the top in his class. His financial situation is that his mother alone has been trying to both maintain the household and pay school fees for four children. This scholarship enables Rakose to finish his high school education. He aims to become a doctor in Lesotho after attending the University of Lesotho for studies in medicine.

Molikoane Mohloai: He is an ambitious student, active in class with requests for extra assignments

in math and science, and works also with the local Church Youth Group, serving as an apprentice conductor. This scholarship kept him from dropping out of school because his father's miner wages are not enough to cover all expenses for his family of five children. Molikoane plans to continue his education in television management after high school, hoping to become a director.

Letsielo Mabitle: Teachers call him dedicated, motivated and consistent at Sefaleo Secondary School. This scholarship has enabled Letsielo to reenter school after sitting out a year due to financial problems. On session exams this year he attained over 80 percent in English and science, second in his class of 34. He is striving to attend University if possible and become a teacher. he says, "I am a boy of about 17....I always work hard and my aim is to attend school until I finish my Form B without any mistake."

Manyabeane Phatlana: She is a Form C student at Sefaleo Secondary School, receiving this scholarship because of her scholastic achievement to date and inability to pay school fees, living with her brother because of family difficulties. Now married and a mother, her primary school teacher husband supports and encourages her schooling. She is attempting her JC exams this year. She says, "I am here to tell you how I felt after getting the scholarship. I am very happy more than one can think."

Kelello Moroke: Her hopes are to be a bank teller in Lesotho. As a Form B student at Sefaleo Secondary School she says, "I am very pleased to know you paid fees for me this year. I will never forget the

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

fact of what you have done for me the year." Kelello has excelled in her studies this year, ranking high in her class, especially in English and science. Her father is deceased and her mother is unemployed. Kelello, who recently won a Save the Children Fund scholarship for next year struggles along with her three siblings to stay in school on a regular basis.

Scholarship awards for 1996 will be announced in a future newsletter. Your additional support for these scholarships is now critical if FOL is to continue to help worthy Basotho students complete their educations. Just eight contributions of \$25 enables us to provide a year's tuition to a student.



CELEBRATION AND MOURNING IN LESOTHO

Thousands of people gathered in Sesotho Stadium in May to mourn the death of 54 Basotho on 10 May in a mining disaster at Vaal Reefs, South Africa. A total of 104 men lost their lives in this tragedy.

Lesotho had great cause for celebration in July when Nelson Mandela, president of the Republic of South Africa, visited the nation. President Mandela, who arrived on 12 July, addressed a joint session of the Senate and National Assembly and told the members that closer cooperation between Lesotho and South Africa was a priority of his government. The president also said he grieved the loss of the 54 Basotho men at the Vaal Reefs mining accident. Mr. Mandela also stated the dispute over existing boundaries between Lesotho and South Africa would be addressed in the near future.

IN MEMORY OF MIMI AUSTIN

I am saddened to report the much too early death of former Country Director, **Mimi Austin**, on 28 May 1995. This news reached me in a round about way soon after the last issue of FOL was sent for publication. I would like to express my condolences to her family. I have also included a letter Tim Austin, Mimi's brother, sent to her friends and a copy of the front page of the pamphlet from the Memorial Mass.

George Fanelli

June 12, 1995

Dear "Friends of Mimi",

Thank you all so much for your calls, your cards, your notes of sympathy and condolence and your contributions to Mimi's memorial. The outpouring of love and the sense of loss has been beyond anything I could have imagined. I know Mimi was special and that she touched people's lives but even I underestimated her impact on so many with whom she had crossed paths.

I have enclosed some things I thought you might like to have as a remembrance of "Mimi". There is her obituary, her Mass Card, and a pamphlet of her Memorial Service which, in typical Mimi fashion, she organized. I hope you will share these with friends and acquaintances of Mimi's, as you see fit, so that we will not miss any of her many compatriots.

We were so lucky to have Mimi back in Sterling for a few years. It was if God wanted her to come home after sharing her with so many in this world for the previous thirty years since she left here for college. Our time together was too brief, but so special.

On behalf of my sister Anne and both our families, I want to express our deepest appreciation to all of you for your kindness and love for Mimi throughout her illness. She was most thankful for her many great friends and, as you know, she deeply cared for you all.

So say a prayer, raise a glass or have a chuckle for Mimi. We will miss her terribly, but remember her always.

Warmest personal regards,

Tim

*The celebration of a Memorial Mass
MARY JOAN AUSTIN
June 3, 1995
St. Mary's Parish Chapel*

Dear friends of "Mimi",

We appreciate your coming to help us give Mimi a special send off. She loved to "have people over" and she had a way of making everyone feel right at home. We hope you have that feeling here today.

Three years ago on June 3rd, our Mom, Jeanette Austin, left this world to be with her Creator. At that time Mimi put together a Mass Celebration of readings, intercessions and songs that were especially dear to Mom. Mimi asked that her own memorial celebration be essentially the same.

Today's Mass is a reflection of Mimi's deep belief in God and her fellow human beings. It is, also, one of thanksgiving for the 53 years God shared Mimi with us.

So, thank you for coming to Mimi's last "get together" here on earth. We're sure she already has something going in the eternal life she now enjoys.

With love for you all,
Anne, Tim and our families

MICHAEL D'ADAMO

NOVEMBER 25, 1956 – OCTOBER 5, 1995

"Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown again into flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner light."

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of our best friend and brother, Mike D'Adamo. Mike died of AIDS on a rainy October morning, in the company of friends and family.

Though Mike had known of his HIV status for many years, he lived a vital and active life until the end. With a house full of people in his final days (a la D'Adamo villa, aka Ha D'Adamo), Mike left in much the same way he always lived...with grace, humor and dignity (and an appetite!). Still concerned for others, that there were enough sandwiches or enough places to sleep, Mike died at home as he had requested.

A poignant and moving memorial service was held at Catholic Relief Services (where Mike was the Deputy Director of the Office of Project Resource Management) in Baltimore on October 14. Officiated by the Most Rev. John H. Ricard, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, the service was a tribute to the love, friendship and service that defined Mike's life.

Following the memorial service was a reception (mokete!) that Mike, himself, would have loved to attend! Gathered together were friends, family and colleagues, the old and the young, eating, drinking, dancing, exchanging stories and exchanging addresses. It was the kind of coming together that Michael lived for. Present at the reception (among many, MANY others) were Mike's parents, Betty and Cliff Olsen, his brother Steve, his sister Renee and their families,



many of his old Lesotho gang, Kirk and Marie Peters, Bill Boddiker, Dave Ruch, Lisa Labella, John and Linda Johnson Ferrick, Janice Sabetta, Jeff and Barb McEwen, and friends and colleagues from work, Bill and Jenna O'Keefe, Tom and Corinne Dart, Peter and Diana Shiras, Sister Ann Duggan, and Fred Anang and his family.

Michael will be sorely missed by all of use whose paths he crossed, whose inner light he re-

kindled. Tsamaea ka khotso motsaalle oa rona.

Lisa Labella and John Ferrick

Donations can be made in Mike's name to either of the following places:

Catholic Relief Services
209 West Fayette St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
Whitman-Walker Clinic
1407 S Street, N.W.,
Washington, DC

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

The mailing label affixed to this and every issue of FOL has a month and date designation next to your name and address. This date is actually your membership expiration date.

Please, if you have not already done so, submit your membership renewal fee. It is important to keep in mind, all dues and/or fees paid to FOL (and any additional contributions) are fully tax deductible.

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP



RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP

The Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, announces half-tuition, two-year scholarships for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who enter in the 1995-96 academic year. All applicants must have completed, or be in the process of completing, a minimum of two years of college academic work or the equivalent to be eligible. These scholarships are competitive, based on a personal essay, recommendations and academic achievement. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on the applicant pool.

The Monterey Institute is located on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, 130 miles south of San Francisco. For forty years the Monterey Institute has provided a unique alternative to students who wish to pursue an international course of study. Language training of the highest quality, combined with wide-ranging area studies, has given the Institute a reputation for excellence and imagination. Graduates have proven to be highly competitive candidates for positions in the global job market.

The Monterey Institute offers fully-accredited language-based master's degree programs in International Management (MBA), International Policy Studies (MAIPS), International Management (MPA), International Environmental Policy (MAIEP), Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MATESOL), Teaching Foreign Language (MATFL), and in Translation and Interpretation (MAT&I). In addition, students who have completed their first two years of college may enter an upper-division undergraduate honors program in International Studies (BAIS). The Monterey Institute also offers eight- and nine-week summer intensive language programs.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers have been among the Institute's finest students. In previous years, the crosscultural experience and language skills of RPCVs have enabled them to excel in all of the Monterey Institute's programs.

The RPCV Scholarships are for tuition only (1996-97: \$16,200). We estimate annual living expenses for a student to be \$7,500. To be eligible for a RPCV Scholarship for the 1996-97 academic year, a student must apply both for admission to a degree program and for a scholarship through the Admissions Office by February 23, 1996.

Please contact the Admissions Office (phone 408-647-4123, fax 408-647-6405, or Internet E-mail: admit@miis.edu) to request a brochure about the Institute's programs, to inquire about the application process, or to schedule a campus visit.

The Monterey Institute also offers a full range of financial aid based on need to US citizens and permanent residents. Write: Admissions Office, Monterey Institute of International Studies, 425 Van Buren Street, Monterey, California 93940 USA.

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