

ICWA LETTERS

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THE CRANE-ROGERS FOUNDATION
4 West Wheelock Street
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

JBR-12 1997

SUBSAHARAN AFRICA

John B. Robinson is an Institute Fellow studying the struggle of the people and island of Madagascar to survive.

Echoes of August

ANTSIRANANA, Madagascar

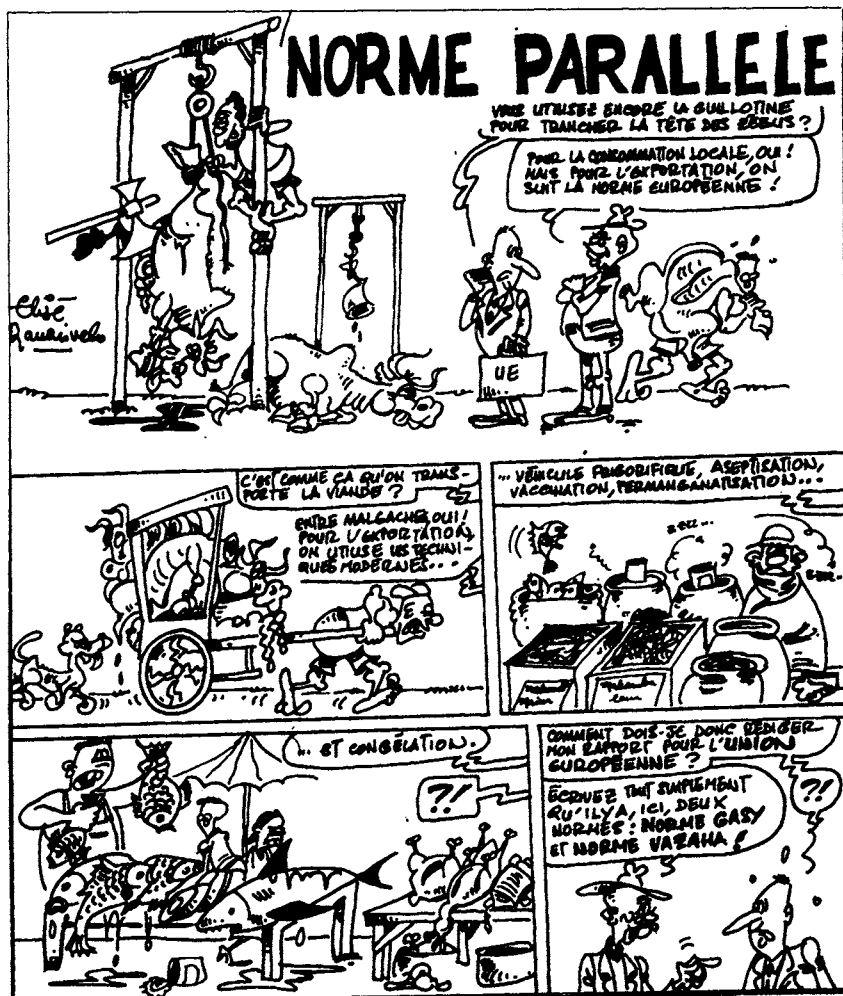
September 15, 1997

By John B. Robinson

Words, cartoons and pictures assembled during August 1997.

Following The Visit Of A European Health Inspector, All Treated Food Products From Madagascar Were Banned From The European Union

The way it's told, the European Health Inspector who closed down 40 percent of Madagascar's export economy on the strength of a bellyache had a rough visit. When he checked the national slaughterhouse in Antananarivo he watched



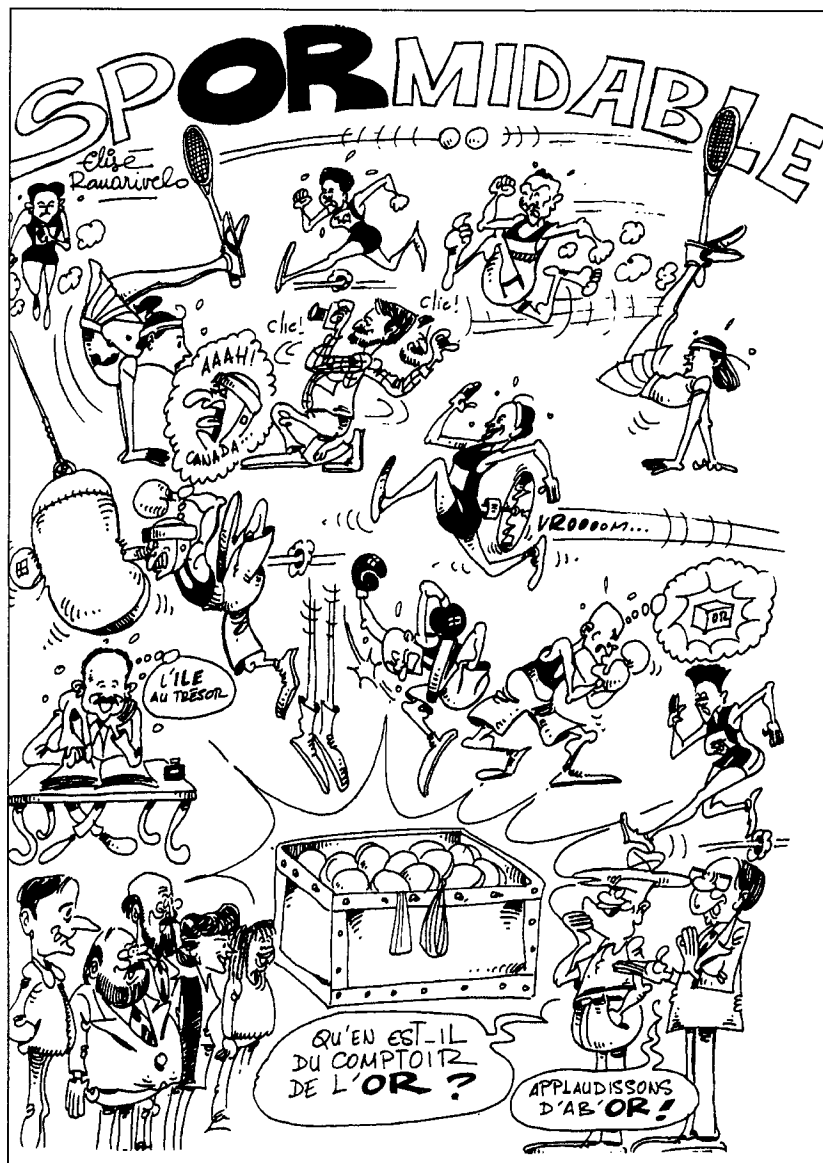
terrified animals being garroted for two hours before the local inspector showed up late for the scheduled appointment. The Belgian inspector then asked the Malagasy inspector how he could certify the good health of animals he had never seen and would never see again. In response there was a rambling answer about a low salary, a state-owned apartment never received, the car that was supposed to go with the position, etc.

The rest of the island-wide tour went about the same: Malagasy health officials fighting with each other over protocol, an attempt to hide a list of 40 shrimp processing sites, an incensed government minister who ripped into the Inspector for finding fault with a friend's factory, the sides of beef (transported by pousse-pousse) blocking the man's taxi. To top it all off, the harassed inspector came down with a severe case of food poisoning and had to be admitted to the hospital on his return to Belgium.

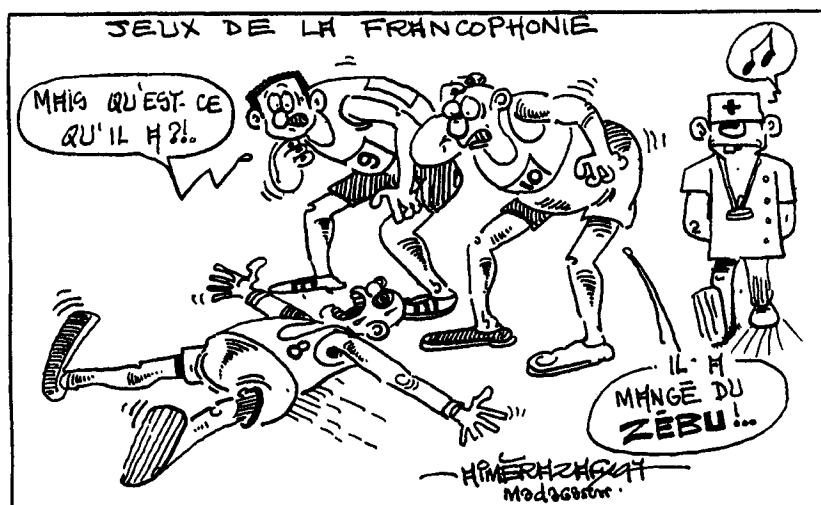
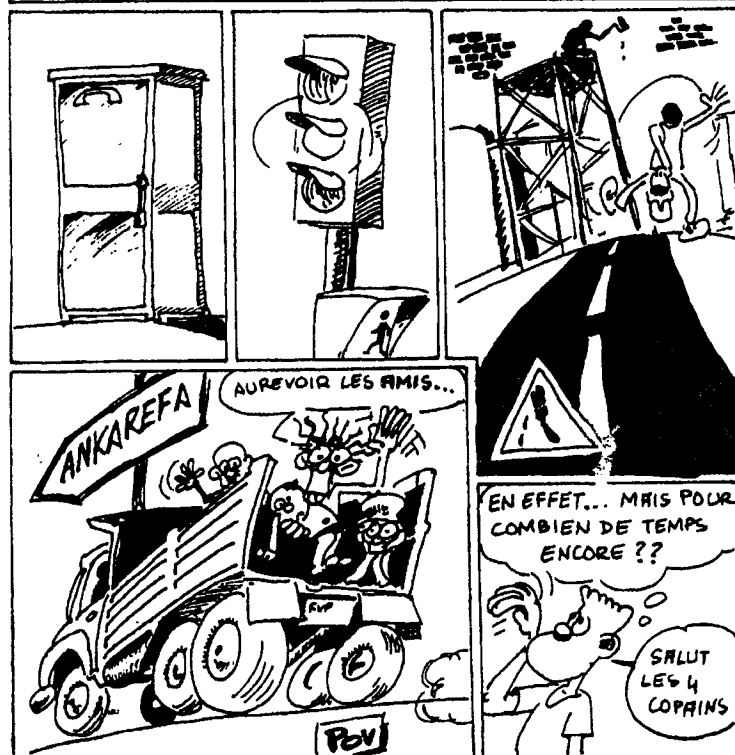
With the closure of the tuna cannery in Diego Suarez, the lack of protein in the regional diet has become an issue. Before now, mutilated tuna rejected by the factory, or given away by dockhands, could be found for sale 100 kilometers from town. With no large game animals to hunt, and zebu too precious to kill, lemurs are now the only possible source of meat. The optimum time to kill a "tarzan" lemur is October – November, when the females (larger than males) are slower, covered with fat, and have just given birth to a saleable pet. Nobody even wants to talk about the loss of the country's external tuna revenue. □

Jeux de la Francophonie

Madagascar hosted the world's Third Francophone Games at August's end. All Antananarivo celebrated the games in grand fashion and Madagascar surprised everybody by winning fifteen gold medals — including one for best story by David Joamanoro, a writer from Antsiranana.



Since all political discussion was officially banned for two weeks, the television showed nothing but sports, sports, sports.



Plenty of jokes made the rounds on how to feed European athletes the food they are banned from eating in their own countries.

Antananarivo underwent a major cleanup just before the games opened. The huge outdoor market (the notorious Zoma) was closed and paved over, telephone booths were installed, traffic lights imported, and street children shipped off to the countryside.



Official symbol of the Jeux de la Francophonie. Note the symbol of Merina Royalty (the recently burned Queen's palace) on top of the customary burial totem pole of a *cotier*. The zebu's horns on bottom signal *riche*, as well as a tribute to the ancestors.

Sombila

Since the cold blooded rape and murder of a Peace Corps volunteer 18 months ago, the American diplomatic community in Antananarivo has been transfixed and paralyzed by the capture, condemnation, imprisonment and now escape of the convicted murderer. The Malagash, on the contrary, have a hard time believing anyone would offer a \$1000 reward for a violent criminal.



SOMBILA né vers 1965 à Antsakobeaba FKT Ambahikely, FRS Ambahikely, FVR Morombe, Taille - 1,65m ; Corpulence moyenne ; Nez épaté ; menton arrondi ; cheveux crépus ; teint bronzé ; front saillant ; oreille équerre ; yeux marrons ; visage ovale ; Dernière adresse : Angarazy - FKT Ambahikely

Récompense de 5.000.000 Fmg

à qui rapportera des informations pouvant conduire à l'arrestation de
Sombila

Meurtrier de Nancy Coutu, évadé

Veuillez contacter le Bureau de sécurité

Ambassade des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Antananarivo Tél. 212.57

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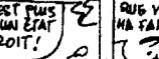
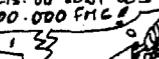
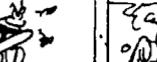
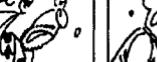
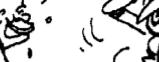
Sombila

Nahafaty an'i Nancy Coutu, lasa nandositra

Ho an'izay mahafantatra dia antsoy an-tarobia

Ny Bureau de sécurité, Ambasadin'i Etazonia ao Antananarivo Tél. 212.57

The widely distributed Wanted poster

<p>TEINT BRONZÉ ... C'EST ANTI- CONSTITUTIONNEL !</p> 	<p>ORGILLES ÉQUERRÉS... ON N'EST PLUS DANS UN ÉTAT DE DROIT !</p> 	<p>VRAGE DUAL ... RUE VA DIRE MA FAMILLE</p> 	<p>TOUTS VOS CRITIQUES SONT EMPLIS. OU SONT LES 5.000.000 FHC ?</p> 
			

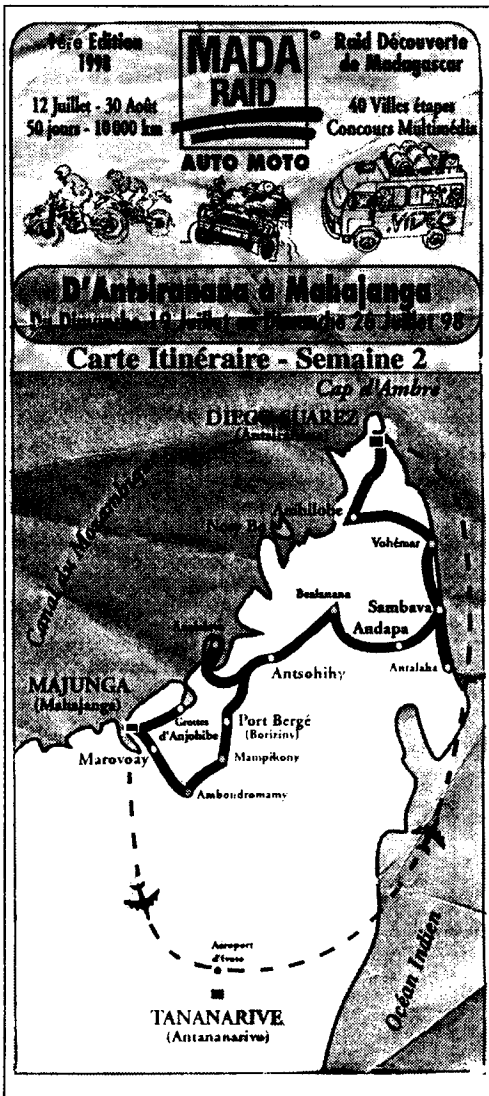
WANTED
SOMBILH
5000.000 FRAG

MONTRE-TOI!
CONNARD...
ON VA PARTAGER LE
MAGOT!...
FIFTY, FIFTY
LETY!

— HINTERZAF 97 Modagorator —

Vacation

When Madagascar's French expatriates went home to France for their August vacation, all Malagash (the political class) who work with them breathed a sigh of relief. For our own part, Delphine, Nicolas, Rowland, and I went on a 1000-kilometer dirt-track exploration of northern Madagascar.



Crisscrossing the North in Four by Four is proposed as "The Adventure of a Lifetime" to foreigners. For the Malagash, impassable roads, stream fording, and days of walking are routine.



A whole village along the way went up in flame when the wind changed direction during traditional grass burning at the height of the dry season.



Non-existent bridges raised the cost of transportation but benefit the local community. To cross the river in a dugout ferry it costs a passenger 1000 fmg (25 cents), cars and trucks from 25,000 -100,000 fmg (U.S.\$5-\$25 dollars).



Despite tourism potential of the region, the tourist infrastructure is virtually nonexistent. In Vohémar there is one hotel, in Sambava 3, Antalaha 3, Andapa 1.

Vanilla

High-quality vanilla is the basis of northern Madagascar's wealth. Two-thirds of the annual crop is purchased by American companies.



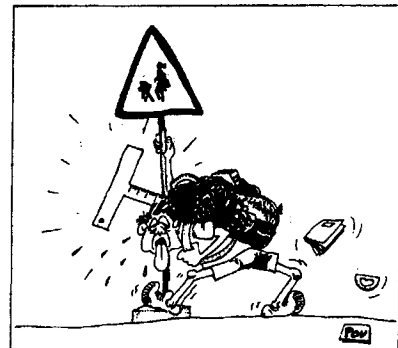
The waxy green leaves of the vanilla orchid



Rowland (age 3½) next to pods of green vanilla still attached to the vine. Each unharvested vanilla bean is tattooed with the owner's "brand" to prevent theft.

School

The return to school, and the preparation of books and school fees, is a national event in a country where 50% of the population is under 16 years old.



MADAGASIKARA

PREMIER QUOTIDIEN NATIONAL
D'INFORMATION DE MADAGASCAR

13^{ème} ANNÉE n° 4269
Samedi 23 Août 1997

1000Fmg

EPICERIE

ALIMENTATION GENERALE
-MACHINES A SOUS-

AIR MADAGASCAR, 40 A 100 % DE HAUSSE

SUR LES LIGNES INTERIEURES A PARTIR DE LA MI-SEPTEMBRE ④

MACHINES A SOUS
ILLEGALES DANS
LES EPICERIES A TANA
2 ETRANGERS DERRIERE L'OPERATION ④



Privatization

In anticipation of competition, Air Madagascar doubled all its prices on internal flights, and the telephone company raised domestic prices to make users pay realistic prices. Airline offices, once jam-packed, are now virtually empty.

MADAGASIKARA

PREMIER QUOTIDIEN NATIONAL
D'INFORMATION DE MADAGASCAR

13^{ème} ANNÉE n° 4269
Vendredi 22 Août 1997

1000Fmg

TSY JOSSY VERBEKA ITY
FA SOSY VERYBE K'ITY!!!

HAUSSE DE 400 % DU TELEPHONE !

* L'AUGMENTATION FRAPPE LES COMMUNICATIONS INTERIEURES
* BAISSSE DE 45 % PAR CONTRE DES APPELS INTERNATIONAUX ③

The Institute of Current World Affairs

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HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03755

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Institute Fellows and their Activities

Adam Smith Albion. A former research associate at the Institute for EastWest Studies at Prague in the Czech Republic, Adam is studying and writing about the republics of Central Asia, and their importance as actors within and without the former Soviet bloc. A Harvard graduate (1988; History), Adam has completed the first year of a two-year M. Litt. Degree in Russian/East European history and languages at Oxford University. [EUROPE/RUSSIA]

Christopher P. Ball. An economist, Chris Ball holds a B.A. from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and attended the 1992 International Summer School at the London School of Economics. He studied Hungarian for two years in Budapest while serving as Project Director for the Hungarian Atlantic Council. As an Institute Fellow, he is studying and writing about Hungarian minorities in the former Soviet-bloc nations of East and Central Europe. [EUROPE/RUSSIA]

Chenoa Egawa. An enrolled member of the Lummi Indian Nation, Chenoa is spending two years living among mesoAmerican Indians, studying successful and not-so-successful cooperative organizations designed to help the Indians market their manufactures, agricultural products and crafts without relying on middlemen. A former trade specialist for the American Indian Trade and Development Council of the Pacific Northwest, Chenoa's B.A. is in International Business and Spanish from the University of Washington in Seattle. [THE AMERICAS]

Marc Michaelson. A program manager for Save the Children in The Gambia, Marc has moved across Africa to the Horn, there to assess nation-building in Eritrea and Ethiopia, and (conditions permitting) availing and unavailing humanitarian efforts in northern Somalia and southern Sudan. With a B.A. in political science from Tufts, a year of non-degree study at the London School of Economics and a Master's in International Peace Studies from Notre Dame, he describes his postgraduate years as "seven years' experience in international development programming and peace research." [sub-SAHARA]

Randi Movich. The current John Miller Musser Memorial Forest & Society Fellow, Randi is spending two years in Guinea, West Africa, studying and writing about the ways in which indigenous women use forest resources for reproductive health. With a B.A. in biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a Master of Science degree in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho, Randi is building on two years' experience as a Peace Corps agroforestry extension agent in the same region of Guinea where she will be living as a Fellow with her husband, Jeff Fields — also the holder of an Idaho Master's in Forest Resources. [sub-SAHARA]

John B. Robinson. A 1991 Harvard graduate with a certificate of proficiency from the Institute of Kiswahili in Zanzibar, John spent two years as an English teacher in Tanzania. He received a Master's degree in Creative Writing from Brown University in

1995. He and his wife Delphine, a French oceanographer, are spending two years in Madagascar with their two young sons, Nicolas and Rowland, where he will be writing about varied aspects of the island-nation's struggle to survive industrial and natural-resource exploitation and the effects of a rapidly swelling population. [sub-SAHARA]

Daniel B. Wright. A sinologist with a Master's Degree in International Relations from the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University, Dan's fellowship immerses him in southwest China's Guizhou Province, where he, his journalist-wife Shou Guowei, and their two children (Margaret and Jon) will base themselves for two years in the city of Duiyun. Previously a specialist on Asian and Chinese affairs for the Washington consulting firm of Andraee, Vick & Associates, Dan also studied Chinese literature at Beijing University and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary of Pasadena, California. [EAST ASIA]

Teresa C. Yates. A former member of the American Civil Liberties Union's national task force on the workplace, Teresa is spending two years in South Africa observing and reporting on the efforts of the Mandela government to reform the national land-tenure system. A Vassar graduate with a juris doctor from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Teresa had an internship at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies in Johannesburg in 1991 and 1992, studying the feasibility of including social and economic rights in the new South African constitution. [sub-SAHARA]

Chosen on the basis of character, previous experience and promise, Institute Fellows are young professionals funded to spend a minimum of two years carrying out self-designed programs of study and writing outside the United States. The Fellows are required to report their findings and experiences from the field once a month. They can write on any subject, as formally or informally as they wish. The result is a unique form of reporting, analysis and periodic assessment of international events and issues.

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Executive Director Peter Bird Martin
Program Administrator Gary L. Hansen
Publications Manager Ellen Kozak

Phone: (603) 643-5548
Fax: (603) 643-9599
E-Mail: ICWA@valley.net

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