

# Off to Africa!

A Midland man and his wife are giving up their jobs, their home, their cars and almost everything they own to teach in one of the poorest countries in Africa.

Citing a love of travel, John Lister says this is just another in a series of world-wide adventures he and his wife have embarked upon.

"It's rewarding," Lister said in an interview last week at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, where he is the chief fundraiser.

"We have a love of expanding our horizons," he said. His wife Donna is a computer programmer at TRW.

When they leave Canada behind in January, they'll leave behind successful careers and comfortable living for life in the impoverished nation of

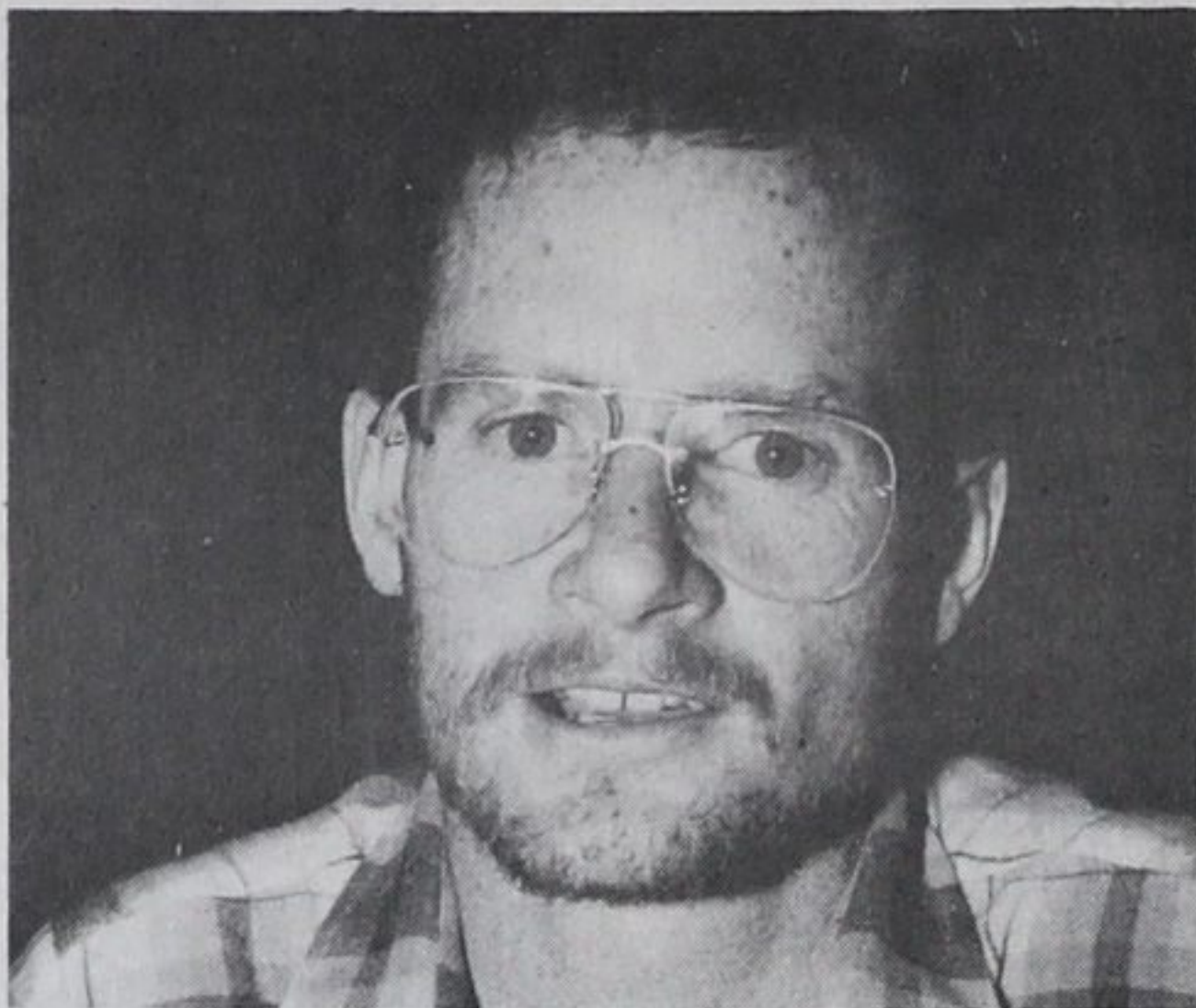
Lesotho, a life full of unknown quantities.

"We may be living in a house without water, heat or electricity," said Lister. He said he wasn't sure exactly what things will be like in the tiny country. "We're trying to go with not many preconceived ideas, so we don't get disappointed."

But he added "we have reasonable expectations. We realize it will not be a picnic."

Lesotho is a mountainous area, a mile above sea level with a population of about 1.5 million. It has a moderate climate, much like Canada's. "It even snows in the winter," says Lister. "It's not the Africa you think of, with safaris and that sort of thing."

It is also totally surrounded by South Africa, a



**John Lister**

country famous for its violent racial struggles.

But Lister says he's talked to people from South Africa and does not fear the violence. "The press does a great job of blowing

things out of proportion," he said. "It's no joke, the problems that they are having - but we'll be in a reasonably remote area. Besides, in Canada you might get hit by a street-car."

In Lesotho the couple will both work as teachers, with John handling Math and English and Donna passing on her Math and Science skills.

They will be volunteers with World University Services Canada, a group funded by the Canadian International Development Association.

Although Lesotho is a poor nation, Lister says the children he and Donna will teach will be among the more well-off.

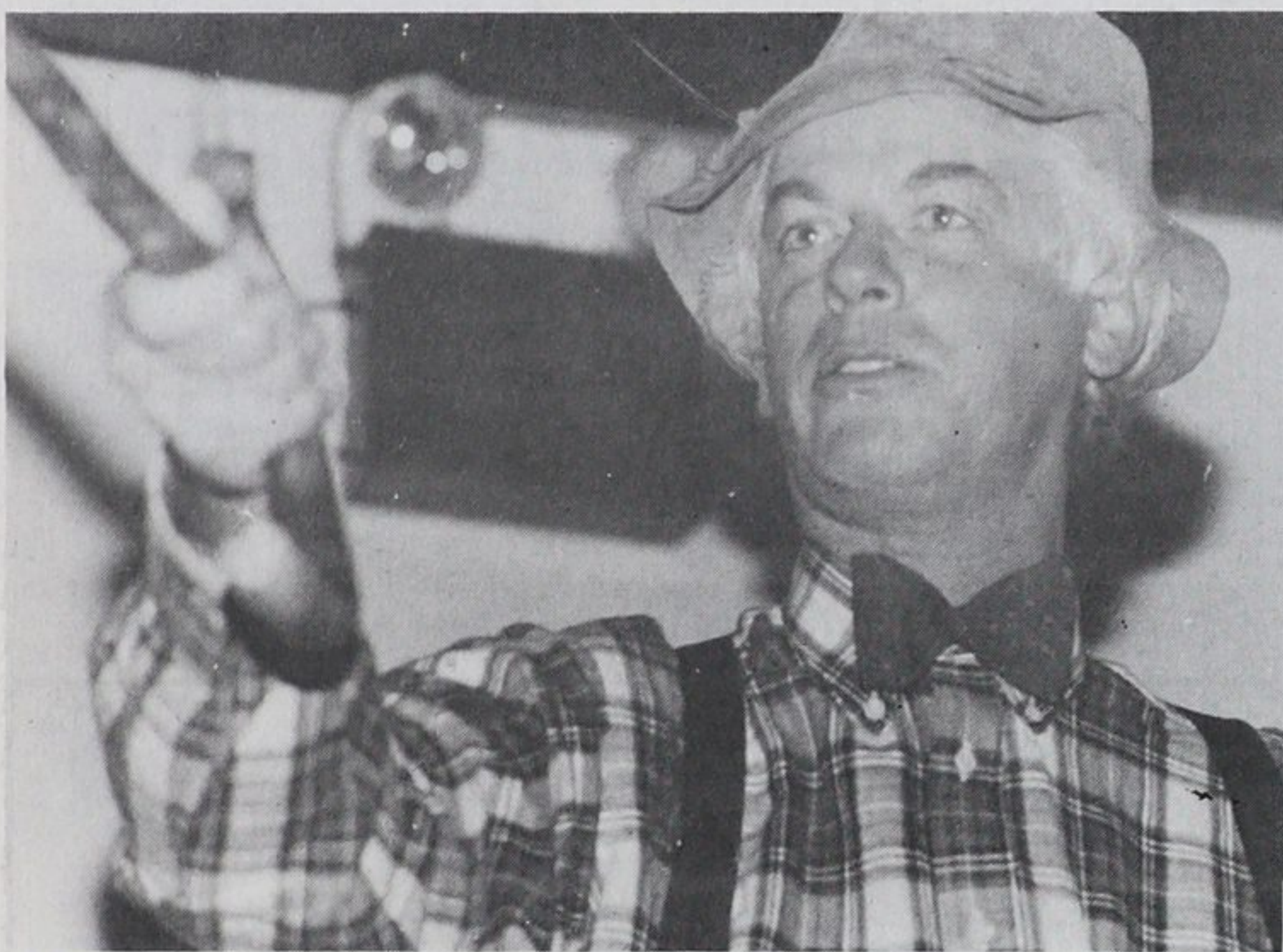
Lister says he and his wife had to undergo strict testing before being selected by WUSC. "It's difficult to get in," he said.

But traveling is nothing new to this couple. After working several years at IBM in Toronto, they gave up that lifestyle and lived as vagabonds for two years. "We spent four months hitch-hiking across Canada, two months in the South Pacific, three months in New Zealand and five months in Australia."

"We were just traveling along, meeting people," Lister said. "It's an extremely interesting process."

They will miss Midland and all that goes with it, he said. "I'm disappointed in leaving the Wye Marsh. It's been very rewarding." Some day, after their two-year stay in Africa, they may come back here, he says.

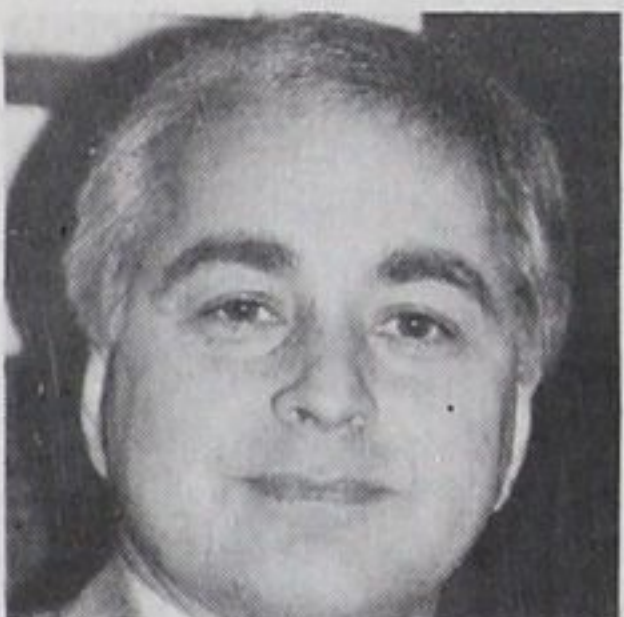
Then again, maybe they'll just keep moving along.



## What am I bid?

Midland Y's Man Jim Worts took his auctioning responsibility seriously. Worts was one of a number of Y's Men who

together offered 105 items for sale to the highest bidder last Friday, during the Y's Men's annual art and antique auction.



## Critic's corner by John Stoddart

### Whoopi returns

Whoopi Goldberg returns to the big screen as L.A. narcotics detective Rita Rizzoli. Her job is to rid the streets of a deadly concoction of cocaine called Fatal Beauty and all those responsible for trafficking it.

During the course of her attempts we are treated to a travelogue of the seediest parts of Los Angeles and more killings than a small Central American war.

Sam Elliott who makes

one of his rare movie appearances (one every two years) plays a bad guy, turned good guy.

Brad Dourff is excellent as the creepiest of all the creeps who pushes the stuff.

In Goldberg's other roles, she showed her abundant acting abilities. Here except for fleeting moments, that ability is obviously missing.

She plays it as sort of an adult Beverly Hills Cop. The film has lots of ac-

tion, filthy language, and violence, all of which will make it a smash at the box office.

But Goldberg can do much better being the highest paid actress in Hollywood today.

She could have demanded a better vehicle. Rating: \* 1/2



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