

The Real Deals

Author and real estate mogul **Don Peebles** has a savvy partner in his wife, **Katrina**, a former journalist. By Scott Sowers

THE STORIED LIVES OF DC NATIVE R. Donahue "Don" Peebles and his cosmopolitan wife, Katrina, are rising to even more prominence with the publishing of his book, *The Peebles Principles* (Wiley, \$24.95). You may not have heard of this self-made real estate tycoon yet, but if you've ever hung out at the Marriott Courtyard Convention Center Hotel downtown or dropped anchor at the Royal Palm in South Beach, you've treaded on one of his developments.

Peebles also built the residences at The Bath Club in Miami, restored its historic clubhouse, and has development deals under way in the Florida Keys, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York; his feelers are out around the new convention center as well. Although Peebles makes his headquarters in south Florida, his roots are embedded deep in District asphalt. "The first four chapters of the book are all about my deals in

Washington," says Don Peebles. "I bought an office building there before I owned a home." Katrina remembers the transaction like it was yesterday: "He bought the building on our honeymoon," she says.



Don and Katrina Peebles.

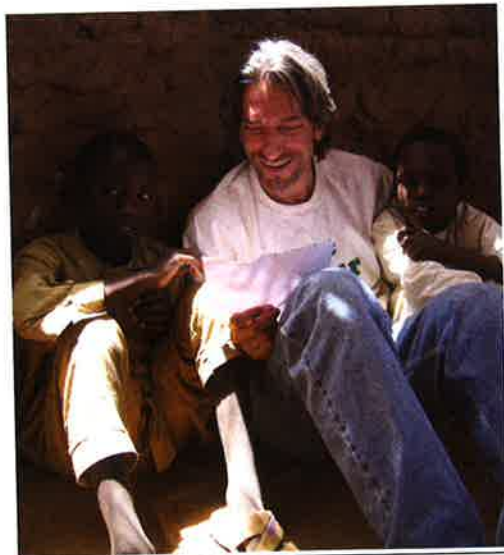
When his romance with the former model and journalist commenced, Peebles had served as chairman of the DC property tax appeal board for seven years. He was appointed in 1984 and met Katrina in 1990. A successful tax appeal business and their party-giving prowess catapulted the couple into the rarefied air of national politics as their influence became a beacon to buddies like Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Don, a conservative Democrat, and Katrina, an independent-leaning Republican, are currently playing their political cards close to their vests and carving out family time while they jet among their homes in the Hamptons, Santa Fe, and Miami. The couple is celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary this year and cherishing time spent with Donahue III, 13, and Chloe Alexandra, four. "We have dinner together every night," says Don. "But sometimes it's not till 11:30," adds Katrina. ★

— JOHN PRENDERGAST | AUTHOR

Putting Action into Words

Taking on rebel leaders and eliminating genocide is not for the faint of heart. Enter **John Prendergast**. By Cindi Cook



Prendergast shares a moment with two youths during a mission in Chad in 2006.

HIS TRIPS REGULARLY TAKE HIM to the far reaches of war-torn Africa. Many times he has come close to dying. He meets deep in the Congolese jungle with rebel leaders with whom the United Nations won't negotiate. Some men would wither in the face of such undertakings. John Prendergast only feels compelled to take up the gauntlet again.

As senior advisor to K Street's International Crisis Group, Prendergast spends his time mediating conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa (the Congo, Sudan, and Uganda) and turning his attention to the ongoing atrocities. "I kept seeing replications of this," he says of issues like the famine in Ethiopia in 1983 and '84. "I feel it's humanity's responsibility to respond to these most unjust situations."

Taking a bold approach, Prendergast has never thought twice about his course during 24 years in international relations at the United Nations, at

think tanks, and in the Clinton White House. He's a policy wonk "who gets attention"—a wonk who walks into war zones and writes books on Africa. His latest, *Not on Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond* (\$14.95, Hyperion), was penned with actor Don Cheadle. He calls it a recruiting tool for those who care about these issues but have no idea how to help. "In the book we say, 'Here is what you do,'" he explains.

When they wrote the book, the death toll in Darfur numbered 400,000. And what about now? "We can only guess," he sighs. "Sadly, it's not a big enough priority to even know the numbers." Although Prendergast professes that what he sees hardly shocks him anymore, his conviction does take hold: "There is no other intellectual issue more profound, especially where millions of lives are on the line." ★

