FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good Job! to Kitty Thuemer on the March issue of Development Education Exchange.

As RPCV's we know we have different feelings about world than does the average American. Often it is difficult to distill these feelings into simple words.

Development is one of those areas. We know it's not working, we know changes need to be made, and we know it is needed.

'Playing the Aid Game - German Style' from Der Spiegel explains failures in development aid and points out that aid programs keep development workers and the elite in the Third World countries wealthy.

'Piece of Mind' by Doug Siglin cajoles us into making sure the U.S. government stays on the right track with development. He wants to know why Wisconsin RPCVs are not knocking on Congressman Obey's door - or flooding his office with letters? He is the single most important Member of Congress in deciding how U.S. dollar is spent overseas. Siglin heard Obey disparagingly ask Alan Woods if AID should get any money at all in this tight budget year.

So thanks Kitty and Doug and the National Council. You have helped me get a better handle on development, informed me of what is happening, and aware of the fact I can even do something about it.
We met at Meredith's estate at six for our normal quinquennial Friday Potluck. There was a blizzard, and only the darkest appeared. The very unencumbered were Brent, Buck, who was driving to Daveport, slowly, Buck saw green lightning, just one flash. Weird. And when they returned, they heard about how many came to the meeting.

Now, these minutes have to deal with that night's (ahem) attendance. Once the recording daton had this difficulty with the exact truth, versus what should have happened. As you'll remember, you should no longer trust anything in parentheses. (But it was an excellent meeting, one we'll sav in our old age, when no one listens to us anymore.)

The food, as ever, was superb. (Most memorable dishes included shrimp, crab, pastridio, and Kalamaki Gewri with grilled chicken livers, macadamia quiche, and pancher heart. Less popular were the grilled Yorkshire terriers, and the Golden Eagle beer. But all agreed that garlic ripple ice cream, with white pepper, is much better than you'd expect. And the kids loved toasting the organic mallows from the local marsh.)

(Tom Sbury and Jerry Hayard were there, and several others from Buck's famous PC group, Nepal/17; all wore that distinctive fuffle after shave. Kathleen was delighted: she just feels they are a very stimulating group of men. Jerry revealed that he has gotten in good job in the environmental law here in Madison, and will be returning after our group's spring round of vacation experiences. Muffy, Bob, and several others have also scored desirable jobs since the last meeting.)

(The Draft and Enrolments Committee reported that our state lottery investment strategy has already succeeded, 18 months ahead of schedule. Our group was one of February's big winners, and several others were in the mix of aramically satisfying stocks and bonds. (Pendleton Hills, Icelandic Government Bonds, and walnut groves, mainly, with a small position in Victory) (Morano Hemp Traders, and Rockin' and Rollin' Security.) The income will yield a yearly return of about $10,682 per year, for the indefinite future, and will also allow us to acquire our vacation clubhouse and retirement center in Sitka, Alaska. Furthermore, we should be able to donate approximately $31,415 to each of 5 sister villages, and assure regular air (and surface) transport for our members who wish to visit and work there for brief or extended periods. Furthermore, the lively discussion about the selection of the 5 sister villages, Nepal, certainly, should provide one, from the Eastern Hills; the Nepal wallahs will find this one. Certainly, there should be one from Bahia, preferably in the hilly western, in the chapada: western Africa, indeed: the other two are undecided. Submit your recommendations to the Premature Largesse Committee, via Lee Sabados, Sharon Lewandowski, or Kathleen Quin. We also have funds enough to subsidize frequent visits by our sister villagers to our local village. Keep this in mind: we want strong partners.)

(The Unsought Honors Pursuit Committee reported that, in recognition of our outstanding contributions to world conversation, we have all been awarded honorary doctorates by the Union of Experimenting Colleges and Universities, with lifelong tuition for those who want to actually do the work. We all must now respectfully address each other as "Doc."

(The Adventure and Safe Return Committee reported that the Christmas trip to Bahrain is mostly arranged. We are staying at the Ilunde Hote, and are not flying on Royal Nepal Airlines. (Cheers and hoots of relief.) And the 2-week trek in Shatan is approved, with trekking permits to Kachungya likely, and a site near the waterfall nearby on the Tali Gandakin.)

(Those wanting to participate in the St John's Day caving and geology trip to Inner Bahia should sign up soon.)

(The Fortuitous Results Committee reported that Muffy does indeed have an Indian Hound on her land. It's in the shape of a pachyderm of some sort, and is quite rare; only dragon mounds are less common. The lab boys have reported back that the bronze bust is dateable to 2500 B.C. /-1200, which tallies with the Shang Dynasty features. The skull, however, is much older: 72000 B.C. /-1600. And it's indeed a fully-developed Homo sapiens sapiens skull. And yes, that was a Bahian fiddle on the wrist bone, and a pack of dessicated bids among the grave goods.)

(We decided to have our group's horoscope done by Doves of Perception, Inc., using our moment of incorporation as the natal point. A minority of the conception school wanted to use the moment when Brent, Ron, Pat Crowley and Doug Brown ordered their third pitch at the Avenue Bar, and decided to form us. But these are mere mystics, and the more hardheaded majority voted them down. As a sop, though, we agreed to mount a modest bronze plaque over that historic table.)

(We have been approached by the local Boy Scout Council, who hope we can provide several counselors for the Citizenship in the Galaxy merit badge. A local group of Scouts from this age is leaving soon for a Jamboree at Navel, and need a couple of adults; at least one must be an adequate soccer mechanic. Those interested should contact Wade.)

(The Nightime Frivolity Committee, metted by Julie, presented its suggestions and schedule for upcoming nude meetings, and reported on costs for dance instruction.)

(The Internal and Organic Education Committee's treat for the night was an unusual slide show and demonstration by a visiting scientist, a S. E. Germain, who spoke on "Salve at Cogula: above-top chemistry for everyone. The discussion that followed mainly dealt with the application of these principles to esoteric local development, with emphasis on meta-political structures.)

(By now, it was after 10, and we moved outside for new air. Though the snow was still falling lightly, there was no wind, and we were able to ascend above the clouds in the dirigible, and view the Northern Lights. Everyone saw green lightning, also called "St Vitalis' Fire." We returned to earth for a sauna and cupcakes, and were ensconced by the hearth in our p.s. by midnight.) When we woke up, it was Saturday.
Gina Cowell, new (bossun'a) chair of the Adventure Committee, proposes that we participate in a High Ropes Challenge Course. Rope climbing, rappelling, all kinds of neat experiences. The stress is on team building as well as personal growth. Gina took the course with her fellow State workers, and it was very enriching: she strongly recommends it. The course lasts a day, and is available at the Oregon Correctional Institution. One of the facilitators, Dave Phillips, is an RPCV, and he'll do it cheap for us. $20 each; 20 people maximum. We loved the idea, and everyone wants to come. We'll probably do it in June. Call Gina at 231-1694.

We next discussed our donations wish list: we have about $2000 of calendar profits to give away. Nominations included these: $35 for a sewing machine for a refugee family in Madison; the Peace Corps Partnership; $500 to the Kandy Children's Center in Sri Lanka; $1000 to Ashoka; $200 to the Handicapped Children's Center in Mexico. (Lena, our small Mayan, comes from nearby, and they have to have a birthday party for her yearly, for as long as we send money). $150 to the School for Untouchables in India.

Come with your proposals to the May meeting, when we'll vote on all of them. Isn't it fun to give presents?

We then adjourned to the Red Oak Grill, for folly.

-- Buck and Meredith

EDITOR'S CORNER:

1. I apologize for sending out last month's newsletter so late. I can't blame anyone else since it was my fault for not coordinating everything correctly. Hopefully, it won't happen again for a while. Could this be a sign of incipient old age in your editor?

2. The larger newsletters you've been receiving in the past few months are a result of Peace Corps' decision to more actively support local RPCV groups by allowing them to use postage free mailers. Unfortunately, a budget crunch may prevent us from getting more mailers for the next few months. If this does happen, we'll return to our earlier six page maximum format. "Loose Lips" may take an occasional month off to help us out and to avoid burn-out!

Deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Tuesday, May 16.

* * * * * * * NEXT MEETING! * * * * * * * *

Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, May 2 in Union South at 7 PM. Check the "Today in the Union" sheet on various bulletin boards in Union South for the room.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

Wednesday, June 7
Thursday, July 6 (Malawi's Independence Day!)
Friday, Aug. 4 (POTLUCK time!! Will we celebrate by having another ice storm??)

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
### DATES TO NOTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>22 Sat</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-30</td>
<td>FSS</td>
<td>Regional President's Meeting Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2 Tue</td>
<td>General Meeting - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Wed</td>
<td>Christine Drennon &quot;Land Tenure and Land Degradation in Uganda: Agricultural Encroachment in Reserved Areas&quot; 12:00 Noon - 1418 Van Hise Hall - UW - Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Wed</td>
<td>Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 Sat</td>
<td>Parent's Brunch - 11:00 am THE GREAT HALL - MEMORIAL UNION Advanced reservations for brunch required see inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Tue</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 Sat</td>
<td>Kite Fly - Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29 Mon</td>
<td>JFK's Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29 Mon</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>4 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Wed</td>
<td>General Meeting - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Wed</td>
<td>Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Fri</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>FSS Camping Wyatusing State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>2 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Tue</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Thr</td>
<td>General Meeting - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 Wed</td>
<td>Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Sun</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21-23</td>
<td>FSS National Conference - Kent State, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 Sun</td>
<td>Brunch - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Brunch on Sunday is where the discussion on the group business occurs between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Go left after paying.
Hard Bodies in Hot Countries will be the name of our 1990 calendar, so we can sell lots in bookstores.

For spring break we sent Gordon to spy on Don. Well Gordon found him at Whitecap Mountain skiing with a lovely but little did Gordon know that Don would also spy on him with 2 lovelies, one on each arm. But it doesn’t end there! They both saw Ken with an undeterminable number of lovelies and none of them Floozies!

Julie has decided that Costa Rica is the most beautiful country she has ever visited. She went there for her spring break and to visit Scott. He’s beautiful too, but...

They rode the train, visited beaches on both coasts, and admired the toucans in a rain forest. Scott we have not gotten anything for the newsletter from you yet. What is your major problem? You do get our newsletter free!

Julie did have a layover on the way home. She meet this Costa Rican on the plane, and they both missed their connecting flights, and it seems the only room left in the hotel had a double bed. Just shows people get their wishes but not always at the desired time.

Deb escorted 450 teenagers to Mexico as a learning experience for her job. She learned lots.

Meredith lost her chance to go to England on a frequent flyer ticket. We extend our condolences.

Buck’s accordion file enforced with duct tape has taken on a life of its own, traveling around Madison, visiting strangers, then Peter, then a very special courier took it home.

Buck has his AIDS free certificate hanging above his bed.

Paul and Elana are going trekking in Nepal.

Kalya has this fantastic chicken which thinks it is a person. It follows her around, sits on her lap, attempts to snuggle under her arm and other avian behaviors.

Rudy came home from the Sudan for Katay’s birthday, and thought he was escaping the chickens of the third world. Little did he know he would have an intimate relationship with one.

Deb got the highest score in the state on a bilingual social worker test. So when she gets a new job John wants her old as a travel agent.

Ruth is hobbling around on crutches. Seems she really got into clogging.

Dave asked Bob why his books were no longer arranged according to the colors of the rainbow. Well Bob disarranged them because too many people harrassed him too much. Put them back Bob. It’s your house!

Don now delivers the New York Times to Wade. What hours that guy keeps! He goes to bed at 9, gets up at 2, goes back to bed at 5, and gets up at 8.

Paul had some errands to run one day, and two days later people got announcements in the mail of Paul and Elana’s encirclement. The M word was not mentioned. Is that why you are trekking in Nepal?

Lee states she got a letter from Meredith that she had gotten from Jerry that had large hunks cut out of it. Hmmm!

Wade escorted a bunch of high school students to DC for Closeup.

Teresa and Abou got married.

Laura was babysitting for Lena, and all 3 kids had diarrhoea. Soon all her supplies were wiped out. Lovely.

Lee had a get together for Dean. He always does enjoy seeing us and us him. He had wedding photos, which we all approvingly checked out. He’s going to Australia and other exotic places before his next stop back here this year. If he has courage he may bring his wife along.

Lee is updating her resume and applying for all the jobs she can for. She really wants to be the next head of AID. Just what the world needs! April is the month that brings green to the grass, the lilac and the irs.
RPCVs of WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

NEW MEMBERS:


JEFFERSON, Dean & Isabel 1909 13th Dr., Rt. 3, Friendship, WI 53934.  
Costa Rica 1976-77

MAYNARD, Jerry 300 Riverfront Park #11 C, Detroit, MI 48226.  

NIBBELINK, Herman 1616 Division St. #A, Manitowoc, WI 54220.  

OTTO, Jodi W2866 Paul Drive, Helenville, WI 53137.  
Home: 414/593-8705 Work: 414/593-8705  Honduras 1981-83


THORN, Robert Paris Caddesi 10-6, Kavaklidere, Ankara, Turkey.  

WRIGHT, Vicki Heichel 11119 Caswell St., Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538.  

ADDRESS CHANGES:

MUSE, Jim & Karen 216 Avalon Rd., Columbus, WI 53925.  

Some corrections in the membership directory information published last month have been brought to my attention. Please note:

Susan Bergan served in Ethiopia, not Bolivia. Her years of service are correct.
Bob Merideth has a new office phone number: 262-6532.

I would appreciate it if you would tell me of any other corrections which are needed, especially if you've told me earlier and the corrections still haven't been made.
Dear Katy,

Over the past twelve months or so the National Council has made many changes in the way it operates and in the way it works with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers groups. The general attitude of the National Council and the many changes it has made greatly disturbs the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Milwaukee. Much discussion on this matter has occurred among the membership of the Milwaukee group and within the Social Committee, the management committee of the Milwaukee group. Much of the discussion was precipitated by the President’s Forum held on December 4-5, 1988 in DeKalb, Illinois. We now feel compelled to write and express our opinions.

Firstly, we want to express our objections with the DeKalb meeting. Our dissatisfaction stems from the following:

1) Great expectations were generated for the meeting by the organizers and promoters for a frank and open dialogue between group representatives and the National Council representatives that much of the meeting would be focused on group needs. These expectations were not met.

2) The issues of greatest importance to groups, such as sharing group ideas and ways for group networking, were delayed to the very end of the meeting when everyone was in a hurry to leave for home, resulting in a brief glossing over of the topic.

3) That a "guilt trip" was placed on groups and individuals who did not espouse the ideals of the National Council, such as universal affiliation of groups and members with the National Council. Our representatives felt very uncomfortable with the general tone of the meeting and felt that their criticisms were unwelcome. As a result, our representatives returned feeling that future participation in such meetings would be useless.

4) The minutes of the meeting are incomplete and slanted. Few, if any, of the negative comments were recorded in detail. The minutes make the meeting appear as if it were very positive, that everyone was happy with the results, and that everyone acted in solidarity. We beg to differ!

Secondly, there are several areas of concern regarding the National Council that we would like to address and voice our opinions on. They are as follows:

1) Since the Milwaukee RPCV group has affiliated with the National Council, we have not received a copy of the National Council’s by-laws, or seen them published in any of its publications. This also holds true for individuals who have joined the National Council. All members and affiliated groups should receive a copy of the by-laws when they join the National Council in order to function properly within the Council.

2) With the exception of the first Group Leaders Digest (Volume 1, Number 1), we have never seen a financial report published for the National Council. We feel it is imperative that every affiliated member and group have an opportunity to see how the National Council’s funds are being managed.

3) In 1988, the National Council more than doubled the dues it received from members of affiliated groups from $6.00 to $15.00. This was done without the general membership knowing. We feel this is wrong, particularly when the National Council is handling its affairs in a way we often strongly disagree with.

4) The National Council has invested tremendous resources in programs, such as the dues collection service, newsletter service, etc. and made major management changes, such as setting up shop in Washington, D.C. without polling the whole membership as to whether it wants such actions or finds them advantageous. We have problems with all these areas and plan to express the details of our opposition in greater detail in future correspondence or at future meetings.

5) The National Council has taken up a political agenda on several sensitive issues, such as considering support for groups such as the ANC (African National Congress) by having Dennis Goldberg address the 1988 annual conference, or by opposing other groups, such as those funded by South Africa (e.g. SWAPO), as stated in resolution number 7 from the 1988 annual conference. We feel that this issue was not thoroughly discussed and that it was required to be political. We feel that this is a good policy which would serve the National Council well. Greg Flukas in his letter to the editor of World View touched upon this issue. We feel that the National Council represents only a very small portion of the total RPCV’s, whose opinions on critical issues such as these are spread across the whole political spectrum, thus preventing any real consensus on any such political issues. Many opinions expressed by the National Council could also be dangerous to RPCV’s in the field, and/or interfere with their effectiveness. To illustrate the danger of this type of policy, the Canadian volunteer group CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) has been supporting the ANC for several years, both financially and politically. During a raid by South Africa into Baborone, Botswana in 1988, a CUSO volunteer was killed. Some feel the CUSO support of the ANC was a key factor in the death. We would not want to see the National Council’s actions contribute to the death of a Peace Corps Volunteer.

6) Gathering opinions of the membership and affiliated groups of the National Council can be done only at annual meetings. For many reasons, only a small fraction of the membership can be present at those meetings. All votes and surveys should be conducted by separate mailings. The World View is also not an adequate method for reaching the membership, in a timely fashion.

7) Members of the National Council’s board and/or committees have put tremendous pressure on individuals to join, and on non-affiliated groups to accept their demands at times of placing a guilt trip on or inferring a lack of commitment to the Peace Corps and its ideals on the part of those who refuse to submit to joining the National Council. We feel this is wrong, a disgrace to the National Council, and totally inappropriate.

In conclusion, the Milwaukee group of RPCV’s is not totally satisfied.
with how the National Council represents its membership or manages its affairs. We refuse to disaffiliate because we feel there must be others who feel the same as we do (refer to the comments from the President’s Forum for Country of Service groups minutes of November 20, 1988), and we have the right to have our opinions represented. That is the democratic way. At this time, we plan to send representatives to future president forum meetings and to the annual meeting in Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Milwaukee

Peace Corps to China

BEIJING — The Peace Corps will dispatch its first volunteers to China this summer, 20 people to teach English in Sichuan province. “The Peace Corps is extremely excited about having people in China,” Kathleen Corey, the American volunteer group’s training director for China, said. China will become the 65th nation and the first socialist country with a Peace Corps program.

INTERNAL EDUCATION

Months ago, a survey asking for opinions on the value of "internal education" was distributed during a meeting. One thing the survey uncovered is that a number of members do not understand what is meant by internal education; it is providing or sharing information on whatever we as a group want to learn more about. Everyone who responded to the survey thought that self-education was an important function of our group. People seem to be particularly interested in keeping informed of current problems and projects in countries where members have served and also in having newly returned volunteers talk about their experiences. Respondents were divided on the question of how and when this information-sharing should take place: we are all busy people and "meetings are long enough already." Based on the opinions expressed in the survey, I’ve got three proposals.

1. We might have a "RPCV of the Month" and one member might spend 5-15 minutes during the meeting enlightening us on their experience wherever they were.

2. We could have 4-6 educational potluck-slideshows or workshops per year.

3. Everyone could make a greater effort to use the newsletter to share the things they think everyone else would like to know. To comment or complain, talk to Laura (246-2818).

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MADISON & NEIGHBORING AREAS
cordially invites you to attend its 6th annual dinner dance to commemorate the 91st anniversary of Philippine independence

"Angkan"
Caring For Our Clan Here and Back Home
to be held
Friday, the Ninth of June, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty Nine

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m.  Dinner: 7:00 p.m.  Cultural Presentation & Dance: 8:00 p.m.
(Cash Bar)        Featuring music by "Pacific Heat"

Sheraton Hotel
706 John Nolen Drive
Madison, Wisconsin
(608) 251-2300
La Selva: The Jungle

We napped in the bunk beds of our study room at the River Station. It is a lowland rainforest. Humid and steamy the tropics leech away the little energy we had. The jungle was just awaking from its rest as we arose and moved down the narrow paths. The leaf cutting ants shared the path, always. Fine lines of tiny green sails hoisted by these small and industrious creatures. The jungle required whispers so we moved together closely and silently, observing in wonder. A light hand on the shoulder—There—a blue and red parrot. Iridescent blue butterflies. A firm grasp of the hand—assistance through the swamp. "Crocodiles," I think, but I do not see them. S stops and pulls me in front of him and points so that his arm is a sight line from my eye to a group of white faced monkeys. Two swing, agile in the canopy, to a tree above our heads. Carefully they break off the dead leaves and fling them down on the path near us. We laugh in amazed wonder and joke about the cool welcome we check the map. We stay until we must move on if we are to return before dusk.

The wilderness of the tropical rainforest becomes overwhelming as the sun sets. A cacophony of screeches and croaking...giant frogs, the bell birds, and locusts. Enormous and surely brightly colored birds call out elaborate melodies but remain hidden. Whispers are no longer required and we stay close, the flashlight our security in the coming darkness. We dined on the fine conversation of the success of 'fig pizza.' The fisheries folks were studying the length of time and region of dispersal of seeds digested by a particular fish. Others were studying the nocturnal habits of mammals—hence the request to whisper at all times. These were the day sleepers. The jungle because of its majestic lushness and hushed voices held a sacrisy that no cathedral can match. This was the Cathedral of Trees. We sleep but the jungle does not.

The morning is hot but we move comfortably in the shade of the canopy. Snorting and a ruckus—wild boar like creatures, no tusks: tapirs they are called. They are less afraid of us than we are of them. The hissing sound of a strange bird—or a jaguar breathing a warning? We do not wait to see. S crouches: a small purple and red frog. "Pick it up!" he smiles. But I know that anything that brightly colored—anything without protective coloring must have some other form of protection. ("Oh yes, very poisonous," we learn at lunch.) Brown spider monkeys playing and swinging. And later the white faced monkeys, and again the toucans—four up high playing and singing. They are very big and very bright. We are on the same path as before. This must be their home. We check the map and find our way back through the Frog Song Pond.

Reflections on a visit to Scott Leclerc—FC Costa Rica. J.D. Olsen
FIVE YEARS AGO -- MARCH-APRIL REMEMBERED!!

Bob Bickner and Ginny Lambert had birthday in April -- who?? Wade, Internal Education Committee-person, arranged for James Gustafson, UW Dept of Psychiatry, to speak at the April meeting about the "Mass Psychology of Nuclear War." Dean Mahon started organizing the Speaker's Bureau. The phone tree was first introduced with 32 names -- about 20 are no longer with us. Buck, our eternal secretary, reported on the Baron Bliss Tropical Heat Wave Party at Kathleen and Brent's house. Jane Mitchell discussed a Publicity Committee to attract new members. Gina Cowell said that she would routinely inform the group of job openings in state government. We start sponsoring WORT. Tony Earl (who was he??) congratulated us on a successful Freeze-for-Food run. Ross Royster began selling Roses for the Lion's Club Rose Day (Ross and Bob Cowell have 1989 roses for sale -- $15/dozen delivered April 24th -- call 231-1694). Chris Zeltner shared her super "Easy Cup" dessert recipe and Walt Zeltner gave us another edition of "Africa Update" -- information and insight that are hard to come by (why did he ever stop -- it could have been a book by now!)

Khaer Refugees in Madison

Three members of our group are having a wonderful time working with Cambodian immigrants who are living on Allied in southwest Madison. Lee Szabados is teaching sewing classes, and Meredith Green and Laura Good are helping a small group of women to learn English.

There are about 9 Cambodian families living on Allied Dr., and many more Cambodians (Khaer people) live in other parts of Madison. This Khaer community is becoming increasingly disturbed by the probability that the murderous Khaer Rouge will regain control of Kampuchea (Cambodia) when the Vietnamese leave that country. Under international pressure, the Vietnamese have declared that they will withdraw by September of this year. Young Khmers and other students at West High School have started a campaign to bring attention to the grim situation in Kampuchea. They are distributing the accompanying letter and asking that copies be sent to President Bush (The White House, Washington DC, 20500). Anyone who wants to offer ideas or help to these students should contact Ms. Manki at the school (267-7000).

Dear

We have a moral obligation to intervene diplomatically in Southeast Asia. Given the current situation in Cambodia, we cannot stand on the sidelines and watch the Khaer Rouge seize power again. We know of their crimes against humanity, their genocide.

It is the bound duty of the United States not to remain silent. I am asking you to take action.

Sincerely,

ALMOST 10 YEARS AGO -- APRIL 1981!!

Our second official meeting (and the first we have a record of) was held in Union South -- Doug Brown, Peace Corps campus rep, chaired. Attendees discussed ways to celebrate Peace Corps' 20th anniversary. Suggestions included speaking to Madison public school kids and setting up a display of artifacts and souvenirs in the downtown public library. The Hoyt Park picnic was scheduled for May 10. This was our first public event and was designed to attract RPCV's and introduce them to the idea of forming a group. Who was there? Doug and Pat Brown, Bob and Gina Cowell, Ralph and Didi O'Connor, Kevin Nies, Karen Silbernagle, Mike and Marcy Read, Mary Hunt, Brent McNabb, Ross Royster, Earl Bricker, Sharon Lewandowski. Did I miss anyone?

ROPES COURSE

This is HIGH ADVENTURE as well as a fantastic way to learn about team-building, trust, and conquering fear of heights. Spend a whole day falling into the arms of friends, swinging through obstacles, and climbing inclines, 16 ft walls, and 25 ft poles. Dave Phillips, RPCV Sierra Leone, will be one of the instructors taking a group of 20 through the course, scheduled for Saturday, JULY 1, from 9am to 5 pm, at the Sprite House near Oregon. The total cost for the course and 2 instructors is $370. Ten RPCVs have already signed up, we need 10 more. Don't miss this chance! Call Gina Cowell for information at 231-1694.
PEACE MEMORIAL UPDATE

On March 29, 1989 a delegation consisting of President Rose Ann Scott, National Council Boardmember Meredith Green, Past Presidents Bob Meredith and Don Sauer and Ordinary Member Gordon Malaise met with the Honorable Fred A. Risser, President of the Wisconsin State Senate, to discuss our proposal for a Wisconsin Peace Highway.

Senator Risser was very helpful and supportive. He agreed that RPCV's deserve some type of recognition and stated that he is willing to help. He questioned, however, whether a highway would be the most appropriate form of recognition, arguing that what this country needs is fewer signs along the road, not more, and suggesting instead a Peace Park, Forest or Historical Site. Senator Risser advised us that there are several available State Parks, Forests and Historical Sites as yet unnamed and that he would inquire with the DNR and State Historical Society to find a venue that would be most appropriate for a Peace Memorial.

We closed the meeting with the understanding that we would meet again towards the end of April to agree on which place, based on Hon. Risser's research, would be proposed to the Legislature as the Peace Memorial. Senator Risser will then assign someone from the Legislative Reference Bureau to draft the enabling legislation and will circulate a memorandum among his colleagues seeking co-authors for the bill. Finally, we were advised that sometime on or about Kennedy's birthday, May 29, would not be an unrealistic time frame for holding a press conference and issuing a press release announcing the introduction of the bill.

Following the meeting the delegation caucused and agreed that a park or forest would be more fitting than a highway in that trees are more associated with peace than is concrete. Further, a park or forest would offer exciting opportunities for growth, e.g., we could start simply with a sign and a plaque and later with additional funds construct a visitor's center with a global education display showing the good work of PCV's working for development.

In sum, the project is rolling. What began as a pipe dream while cruising along the Interstate may yet, with the guidance of Senator Risser and the dedication of all RPCV's and friends, become a reality. What all of us need to do after the bill is introduced is to commence a massive grass roots lobbying campaign consisting of letters to our legislators, letters to the editor and coalition building with other service organizations to send the message to the Capitol and State House that the measure has broad support and is worthy of approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon M. Malaise

Gordon M. Malaise
West nukes pacific
by Esty Dinur

This is the first of a two-part series on nuclear proliferation in the South and Asian Pacific.

The South Pacific, once an islanders' paradise, is being turned by the United States, France, and Britain into a militarized zone and a nuclear playground.

Nuclear testing and deployment in the region began with the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Encouraged by their "success" in Japan, Western military establish-
ments began to develop ever deadlier weapons. The South Pacific became a prime testing ground for many of these weapons.

In 1946, the United States evicted the residents of the Bikini Atoll and forcibly relocated them to nearby islands. In July of that year, the United States detonated the first nuclear device on the island. Over the next fifteen years the U.S. tested over 60 nuclear bombs in the atmosphere over the island.

In March 1954, the United States exploded a hydrogen bomb at Bikini. The radioactive fallout spread over a great distance and reached the Rongalep Atoll. Its inhabitants were not evacuated or warned of the danger.

Bikini Atoll, once blessed with fertile soil, lagoons teeming with fish and a pristine environment, is now a lifeless desert covered with radioactive ash and dust. Last year, an American crew was sent to clean the site. They found that the sparse vegetation on the island contains high levels of radioactive thesium.

BRITS GET INTO THE ACT

The British military conducted atmospheric nuclear testing in the 1950s and 1960s in the deserts of Northern Australia. Last year, Radio Australia revealed the story of the Aborigines who, while celebrating a holiday in 1953, suddenly saw "The cloud of an evil spirit," the mushroom cloud from an atomic blast. Soon after, many tribespeople became sick and died.

A secret 1953 Anglo-Australian project called "Hurricane" was declassified last year. It sought to learn the effects on humans of nuclear exposure.

"Hurricane" required British and Australian pilots to take samples of the air in and around the nuclear cloud. Soldiers were sent to the test site where they found many Aborigine corpses. The soldiers and pilots were not equipped with protective gear. Most of them died. The testing grounds are still contaminated with radioactive plutonium and the Aborigine people are still dying of nuke-induced cancers.

FRENCH TAKE THEIR TURN

In 1976, the French started testing nuclear devices in the Moroora Atoll. More than 100 tests have been conducted to date. According to Frank Seout, president of the French Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the tests have changed the island's geology by shattering its subterranean structure.

Radiation has leaked from the atoll and scientists fear that more explosions would crack it, exposing a huge territory to large doses of radiation. Workers on the island reported serious accidents in 1979 and 1980, which resulted in radioactive leaks.

EXOTIC CANCERS

The effects of nuclear contamination on the region's inhabitants have been predictably horrendous. In his book "Nuclear Playground," Stewart Firth writes, "We hear stories from the atolls of leukemia and other exotic cancers ... of people being contaminated from eating the fish caught in the area." He adds that, before the nukes entered their lives, the islanders had never heard of cancer or any of the other diseases now plaguing them.

Swedish researcher Brent Danielsen has lived and studied in Micronesia since 1947. He notes that an atoll, which is a coral tower on top of a maze of underground caverns, is the worst possible site for underground nuclear tests. Some of the radiation is sure to escape.

Danielsen's research shows an abnormally high incidence of leukemia and thyroid and brain cancers among the islanders. Island women told a Vancouver conference in 1986 about their many "Jellyfish Babies," born without bones or brain. (See Insurgent story, Sept. 5, 1988, "Accidents Will Happen."

FATHER KNOWS BEST

Micronesia, which consists of thousands of small islands, including the Mariana and Marshall groups and Palau Island, was mandated by the United Nations to the United States in 1947. Under that trusteeship the United States was to enhance the social and economic progress of the indigenous populations, and to administer them humanely. The United States also pledged to promote the island nations' political independence.

The U.S. trusteeship of Micronesia has been about as beneficial for the islanders as the South African trusteeship has been for the Namibians. The United States has used the islands for nuclear testing and for military bases.

In the 1960s, the U.S. offered Micronesia commonwealth status. The islanders rejected the offer and demanded real independence. Since independence would surely spoil the end to U.S. bases on the islands, the Americans resorted to pressure tactics.

The case of Palau, an island nation that used to have an anti-nuclear clause in its constitution, serves as an example of American pressure tactics in action. The United States imposed five referenda on Palau in attempts to have the no-nukes clause thrown out. Palauans consistently upheld the no-nukes stance.

The Americans were better prepared for the sixth referendum, held two years ago. Almost half of the nation's civil servants were dismissed and told that they would regain their jobs only if the status of free association was approved and the anti-nuclear clause struck from the constitution.

At about the same time, the Palauan president was assassinated, spurring widespread allegations that the CIA master-minded the murder. The referendum was finally passed with Washington's satisfaction. The Palauans have brought a lawsuit demanding the annulment of the referendum results.

MORE BOMBS

Despite the lawsuit, the United States is planning to build a large military base on the island to be incorporated into the Strategic Defense Initiative. The United States also plans construction of facilities for vessels carrying nuclear weapons.

The rest of Micronesia has been granted, against its will, the status of free association with the United States. This move gives the appearance of political independence. However, foreign policy and defense matters are decided by Washington, which is determined to keep and expand its military bases and its weapons testing programs in Micronesia and other parts of the Pacific region.

Esty Dinur is coordinator of Peoples News Service, which monitors short wave broadcasts and provides alternative news.
Coverdell
To Head U.S.
Peace Corps

Buckhead residents gasped but not with surprise when their favorite son State Senator Paul D. Coverdell was nominated by President George Bush to be director of the Peace Corps.

While Coverdell has yet to meet the U.S. Senate Committee's approval and recommendation for confirmation, he should meet little resistance.

Georgia's "Mr. Republican" who has been the Senate's minority leader for the past 14 years will be sorely missed by his peers and supporters throughout the state. But his fellow Republicans are delighted to see the popular Georgian considered for the $98,500 a year Washington post.

"In a major way, this appointment is a reflection of George Bush's determination to inspire a kinder and gentler world, and I'm proud that he chose a Georgian to demonstrate that profound sense of concern," Coverdell said in a recently released statement.

Until his confirmation as Peace Corps Director, Coverdell will remain in his present Senate District 40 seat. He was, in addition to being the GOP's state chairman, chairman of the state presidential Campaign Committee to Elect George Bush.

Following confirmation of his Peace Corps position, Coverdell, 50, will also be in charge of the Corps' annual budget that runs in the neighborhood of $153 million, along with a 500-person staff plus 6,000 volunteers who serve in over 60 foreign nations.

Politically, Coverdell is a moderate who is highly respected by his Democratic opponents. Coverdell is President of Coverdell & Co., Inc., an insurance firm, as well as its CEO.

In 1980 he was selected as one of the Ten Leading State Legislators. A graduate of the University of Missouri where he received a B.A. in Journalism, Coverdell is an able writer and columnist and has submitted several legislative columns to the Atlanta NorthStar which explained why he had taken the stand he took on various issues.

In addition to opposing continuation of Georgia 400 and the Presidential Parkway, Coverdell has been strongly concerned over drug abuse and the increase in drug smuggled into Georgia.

Miriam Parel

The Death of Chico Mendes

Three days before Christmas, Francisco (Chico) Mendes was shot dead in the small Amazonian frontier town of Nyupi in Brazil. He was killed by hired assassins because of a land dispute. But he died for a cause that may be one of the last, best hopes for preserving the Amazon rain forest and with it the livelihoods of a million and a half rubber tappers and "extractivos."

Mendes labored to organize "extractive reserves" where rubber tappers like himself could continue to harvest the forest without having to compete with cattle ranchers and farmers. He had helped organize about 500 families into Brazil's first rubber tappers' union and succeeded in establishing the first pilot reserves. From this modest beginning, extractive reserves was an idea that took root throughout the Amazon, largely through Chico's efforts.

Mendes, a stocky man with thick, calloused hands, had spent most of his life in the Amazon rain forests tapping trees. He supported himself and his family by harvesting latex and, occasionally, indigenous fruits and Brazil nuts. Throughout the region one finds these families, often living in isolated clearings and along estuaries. They are by and large uneducated, poor, constantly in debt and at the mercy of local middlemen, merchants and land speculators. Until recently the Brazilian government ignored their existence.

In the late 20th century immigrants from the northeast and south flowed into the Amazon, attracted by the rubber boom. At the time, the Brazilian arara or rubber tree, which grows wild in the rain forest, was the world's unique source of rubber. However, seeds smuggled from Brazil in 1876 by the British eventually gave rise to plantations in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and the Malay Peninsula, and in a matter of decades these new sources had supplanted Brazil in the world market, and the region plunged into recession. Despite a brief resurgence of the rubber industry during World War II, Brazilian latex fell once again on hard times with the development of synthetics, and most of the arara trees left the forests. Chico was one of the 80,000 rubber tappers who still remain.

Mary Allegretti, a Brazilian anthropologist and one of the forces behind the "extractive reserves" movement "discovered" Chico and the arara trees in the early 1980s.

During this period, she and Chico developed the concept of the extractive reserves, the vehicle by which the arara trees could establish legal claim accompanied by two bodyguards provided by the state.

I was with Chico last November. He had already visited neighboring states and was optimistic that the extractivist reserves idea would mobilize arara trees throughout the Amazon region. The Brazilian government's endorsement of the idea was a critical step forward.

Now he is dead. However, it seems that the national and international outcry against this atrocity points to increased environmental concern. The accused murderers, two brothers, have been jailed. Others are being apprehended. It is possible that a high-ranking official may also be implicated.

Perhaps it is consolation that his supporters both in Brazil and abroad are already joining forces to form the Chico Mendes Foundation for the continuance of his work. His enduring legacy is the rubber tappers' union, the extractive reserves and the hope he gave us for the rain forest.

The writer is director of Latin American programs for Asoka, a nonprofit international development organization.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1989

Washington Post

10th Anniversary National Conference of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 1989

Reserve A Place Now!

Name 
Address 
Phone ( ) ( )

To register now, return this form with your check made payable to: 1989 National Conference P.O. Box 1184 Cleveland, OH 44120
KANDY CHILDREN’S CENTRE (KCC), SRI LANKA

Kandy has the largest number of beggars in Sri Lanka, the poorest of the poor in the holiest Buddhist city on the island. For years ago, Kandy’s Christian community started a day care center for the beggars’ children. The center is completely supported by donations and provides care for the children while their parents work the streets. For most this is the only time they experience living as other children do: playing, learning, eating regularly, and sleeping inside a house. The older children are given uniforms and sponsored for the national ID card which entitles them to schooling; the younger ones are taught at the center by a teacher hired by KCC’s board. Salaries (when money is available) for the teacher and the cook/janitor are a modest $30 and $18 a month, hardly enough to keep these people off the streets themselves. An RPCV grant of $120 or more to be used for salaries would help insure that the program continues.

PRAGAT SHIKSHAN SANSTHA
P.O. BOX 40, Phaltan
Dist. Satara 415 523
Maharashtra, India. Tel.: 588

$200.00
School for 'Untouchable' children in India.

WOMEN'S CONVOY TO CENTRAL AMERICA

June 10-July 10, 1989
"Entre mujeres no hay fronteras"
"Between women there are no borders"

The Women's Convoy is organizing financial support for a convoy of material aid to be sent to grassroots women's groups in Mexico and Central America. They request contributions of 5.00 or more to purchase specific materials requested by women's community groups for projects in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Contributions must be sent soon as the convoy leave in early June.
The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin (Madison and Milwaukee Chapters) and the Chicago and Minneapolis Peace Corps Offices cordially invite you and your family to join us for a Peace Corps Family Brunch and Special Program Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. Great Hall, UW-Madison Memorial Union 800 Landgon Street, Madison

Brunch at 11:00 a.m. will consist of:
Chilled Juice
Fruit Cup
Scrambled Eggs/Mushroom Glaze
Ham or Sausage Links
Hash Browns
Choice of Bakery Items & Butter
Coffee, Tea, or Milk

RSVP by May 10

Please return your RSVP by May 10 with a check (payable to "RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison") for the number of persons eating brunch: $5.50 per adult or teenager, and $3.00 per child (no charge for toddlers or infants). Send to: Rose Ann Scott, 2714 Oakridge Avenue, Madison, WI 53704.

We will have the tables arranged by country or region with Returned Peace Corps Volunteer hosts assigned to each table. Thus, whether you are a former volunteer yourself, or a relative or friend of a current volunteer, we would like arrange the seating to give you a chance to talk with others who served in the appropriate country or region. In addition, there should be ample time to mingle with other parents, relatives, friends, and RPCVs both before and after the brunch and program.

The program will include presentations from various members of the RPCVs of Wisconsin (Madison and Milwaukee Chapters) and from the Chicago and Minneapolis Peace Corps Offices.

Parking should be available in the Lake Street ramp, between State Street and University Avenue.

If you have any questions, please call Rose Ann Scott, President of the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison at (608) 241-0845.

We look forward to seeing you on May 13.

If you are unable to attend the May 13 brunch, but would like to receive information about other activities and events, please send us the form with your name and address anyway.

Registration Form

Please send this registration form (with your check) to: Rose Ann Scott, 2714 Oakridge Avenue, Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 241-0845. Make check payable to: RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison.

_____ We will be unable to attend, but please send us information about other upcoming events.

_____ We will be attending the brunch and will need reservations for ____ persons.

Number of adults or teenagers _____ x $5.50 = $_____

Number of younger children (no charge for toddlers/infants) _____ x $3.00 = $_____

Your name(s): __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________

Check one below and indicate country:

_____ Relative or friend of current Peace Corps Volunteer(s) serving in
________________________________________________________ (Country)

_____ Returned Peace Corps Volunteer
________________________________________________________ (Country)
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

All RPCW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we would prefer that our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1 a month for each month to December), then pay for a full year membership at that time. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances.

You can also join the National Council of RPCVs through us by paying a further $15. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Council, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCW, Inc. and am enclosing $____.
  ___ Individual - $12 for one year (or $1 per month to next January)
  ___ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
  ___ Overseas Individual - $20
  ___ Overseas Joint - $25

☐ I am also enclosing $15 for National Council membership.

☐ I do not want to join, but I would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover the costs.

☐ I'M MOVING! Please change my mailing address on your records.

NAME: ___________________________ COUNTRY OF SERVICE: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________ SERVICE DATES: ___________________________
TELEPHONE: ___________________________

Please make checks payable to RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCVs OF WISCONSIN, INC. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703

marked ATT'N: MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call me at 608/835-3083 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/262-2470 weekdays and ask for me - Walt.

COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
NCRPCV BOARD
AGENT
FREEZE FOR FOOD
SPEAKERS BUREAU
GLOBAL EDUCATION
CALENDAR DESIGN
SALES DISTRIBUTION
INTERNAL EDUCATION
MEMBERSHIP
NEW MEMBERS
SOCIAL
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
LABELS
THORN TREE
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT
PROPERTY LIBRARIAN
HISTORIAN
ADVENTURE

Rose Ann Scott 241-0845
Hank Drennon 356-3027
Buck Trawicky 256-2672
Peter Joyce 251-0156
Wade DellaGranna 238-5488
Meredith Green 271-0998
Brent McNabb 244-0289
Deb Stapleton 251-4192
Hank Drennon 249-3081
Hank Drennon 249-3081
Julie Olsen 255-7864
Jim Good 247-2818
Bob Merideth 257-1153
Rose Ann Scott 241-0845
Laura Good 246-2818
Walt Zellner 835-3083
Don Sauer 249-3360
YOU? ???-????
Walt Zellner 835-3083
Karen King 256-2141
Meredith Green 271-0998
Lee Szabados 233-6807
YOU? ???-????
Bob Cowell 231-1694
Buck Trawicky 254-2474

NEWSLETTER POLICY:
Since we're always trying to get new members, I'll send three copies of our newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, you have to pay to stay on our mailing list. Details can be found on the back page. ONE EXCEPTION: contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter if they will send us theirs.