THIS IS THE LAST CALL FOR 1988 DUES

DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE!! Check your mailing label.

If the expiration date on your mailing label is 1/89, it should be highlighted to remind you that this is the last newsletter you will receive unless you pay dues for the next year. Our dues structure is listed on the back page of this newsletter, as is information on where to send your membership check.

The expiration date given is based on info available to me on Jan. 11, our last meeting. Since several people are involved in keeping these records and we are not located in one central office, some of our info could be wrong. If you feel that the date given is incorrect, please try to contact Walt (my phone numbers and RPCVW address are given on the back page), to straighten out the situation. Sometime in the future we will start enclosing renewal forms along with the newsletter. For now we have to rely on you to take the initiative in rejoining our group.

Those of you who joined us through the National Council should note that the National Council expects us to handle renewals for them, so you will not get a renewal notice from them. Their expiration date for your membership should correspond to our expiration date. You can renew your National Council membership by including an extra $15 with your dues. We will pass that money along to the NC.

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

Next month's meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 9 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:

Friday, March 3 (Potluck at undetermined site)
Monday, April 3
Tuesday, May 2

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF WISCONSIN
Madison chapter
minutes of the general meeting of Wed 11 Jan 89

35 were present, and half stayed after to beer up.
We have $1300 in our general account, w/o Calendar monies.
Calendar: expenses have totaled ca. $10,000. Profit will be
$2000-$2500, which we can give away in controlled splurges. (The
high pleasure of Christmas is the luxury of giving lots of
presents. But we want to prolong this pleasure, so that the
selection of direction may be experienced at each meeting.)

It's time to decide about next year: should we produce
another calendar? And what should we do differently?
Herewith the talk: Marketing was poor. There were lots of
unfilled local niches; and the teachers in Madison weren't
involved. So, a Local Marketing Chair is needed. More
generally, do we want to be a fundraising organization? (Yes, as
part of the mosaic of our complex and richly satisfying group
personality: just ask the Ching -- he'll confirm this. And we
know it's fun to give catalytic presents. But we are a volunteer
organization of friends and compers, and we need from each only
what is satisfying and enough to give. That suffices.)
Jim, speaking with the authority of the bowed-backed, opined that
just breaking even is great, and all extra is gravy. (As in
oxcart gravy train) And always remember the Fourth Goal: amuse-
ments and parties, to increase planetary high-heartedness by
local action. So, AYE, do a Calendar next year.

But, now came a proposal for our consideration, that we
should do future Calendars in collaboration with the National
Council. A self-forming ad-hoc committee of Calendar heavies
had talked and thought through all the aspects and details of
this idea, and written it up for distribution, and delegated Don
to summarize it for us all. This is an impeccable act, just what
we need in situations like this. High praise.

The judgment: The Calendar is a superb phoenix. It is an
elegant artifact. It delights and inspires its owners, it
demands to be purchased, it's an enrichment to make, and each
year we enthusiastically do it again, and are refreshed thereby.
This calendar is so good that it deserves massive sales.

Moreover, other groups desire the pleasure (or the easy
money) of their own calendar, and wonder when we'll stop. And we
know that we may eventually get so good at doing this that we
want to do something fresh. And we love the National Council,
and want to help it do natural national work.

So, let us consider going partners with the NC in doing the
next Calendar, aiming at vaster distribution and a national bank
of materials to use. And, eventually, let's let the NC have the
Calendar, for its own project. The world is full of treats to
work.

The proposal: For 1990, we and the NC will have a joint
partnership, to produce and market the Calendar, under our joint
auspices. We'll plan on an initial run of 3000 copies, and may
go to 8000. (If may go beyond that, and there are provisions for
splitting the monies then.) The NC has final editorial control, but no pettifogging interference in intermediate detailing. If they do not agree with the final product, we both shall dissolve our partnership. We promise to do all we have done in the past: local and out-of-state marketing, and sales pitch at the Annual Mtg. The NC promises to dedicate at least a half-time chap to this project, and to help solicit photos, to hustle group orders, etc. Regarding distribution, we promise to fulfill up to 8000 orders. Of the proceeds, we'll get $2500 profit from the first 3000 orders, and the NC 50 cents per calendar ($1500); after 3000, the NC gets $1.50, and we get $3.50 for costs and profit (selling price is $5.00) After 8000 it's a new ball game. So, we are growing into becoming the publisher, and the NC the marketer; eventually we'll give the whole thing away.

We approved of the sense of this, and left it to a committee to negotiate with the National Council.

Freeze For Food: Deb has all well in hand (though she doesn't trust that this is so). Show up at 11 at the Vilas Park shelter, to take your stations. And come to Wade and Chris's afterwards, for a celebratory potluck. Sat 28 Jan

Our WORT bond has come due; not wanting to bankrupt our local public station, we chose to roll over our bond.

Come to the Winter Retreat, and savor the elder edda of your souls: see elsewhere for details. It's the 16th of Feb. weekend Worldview has become an excellent magazine. Wade is inspired by the article on "the ultimate field trip", wherein HS students, after preparation, visit Africa and S.Am. We should help this happen. Wade will prepare a plan and proposal. Yes. Our pellucid Journals of Peace will go to the Kennedy Library, via Roseann.

And there'll be a potluck and slide show (yours) at Roseann's on Mon 23 Jan. 6 pm start to eat.

We approved up to $200 for slide copying for the library PARTIES: Yamanja Day, thurs 2 Feb, 7 AM: she's the Brazilian goddess of the waters and we meet at dawn at the only free-flowing water in Madison, at the mouth of the Yahara, where the Rutledge St bridge spans it. Bring a candle, flowers, molasses, pieces of mirror, jewels, scent: she loves them all. We'll sail them all downstream to her.

Carneval ("goodbye meat"), 4 Feb, Sat: a monster bash at Eagle Heights Community Center...see calendar for details

Baron Bliss Tropical Heatwave Party: at the Cowell's, 6126 Old Middleton Rd. 231-1694. The heat will be cranked up to the max, so bring skimpy clothing, preferrably translucent. Also nice things to eat and drink. (Shrimp creole, dende oil dishes, passion fruit). Sat. 11 March. After 6:30.

with fondness

Bickles
Meredith and friends had a fine farewell pot luck for one of our past presidents, Tim as he heads West with a pregnant Janet. We wish him great success in building a peaceful world. He was given a quilt wall hanging of blocks made by friends. Each block was of significance to Tim and its creator.

The holidays sent people far and wide. Jim and Laura had a thrill as a semi forced them of the interstate in San Antonio - along with 80 or 90 other cars. Seems the guy was high on speed.

Scott went to New Hampshire, Mark went to Mexico and saw where Mexico puts its sewage, Wade went to NYC, Julie to Denver, Bob and Diana went to southern Mexico, Ruth went to New Hampshire (that's two), Kathleen to Arizona, Rose Ann to SD, Brent to Wade's, Buck to Georgia, Hank to Eagle Heights, Mark and Jo to NYC, Norm to Milwaukee, Peter to Illinois, Norm to Milwaukee, Yvonne & Otto to Lake Geneva, and Paul to Mexico.

Bob is so proud of his Marks and Spencer underwear that he modeled them for a select few. But we may all soon be able to buy them without flying to England, as M&S has bought Brooks Brothers.

Brent hosted the gala New Year’s Eve Party with lots of noise makers, hats, poppers and wordly rhythms. Sera and sons were special guests. She is doing well at Palmer and her sons have the USA school system down. It was good to see some real RPCV oldies like Dan and Mary and welcome to Peggy. Lena gets the most energy award. Peter brought his family, friends and assorted other people and a suitcase of beer.

Gordon has been duly inaugurated into our group with an all nigher by Buck. And he even came to another meeting after that!

Julie is headed to Costa Rica for spring break.

Margaret is working on data that deals with the inputs and outputs for grains. She wants more outputs with less inputs. Now if that has you baffled, don't feel bad, cuz farmers probably don't even know that insecticides and fertilizer are input and corn is the output!

Dean, we expect a write up about your wedding, just like they do in the State Journal.

The slide session was great. We got to see a young Norm, Rose Ann and Mark. Bob showed the 3rd world Lake District of England and Diana's mum's flower garden development project. What a super volunteer! After seeing Mark's slides of Nepal and Fish Tail peak in the background, it is easy to understand why people get addicted to Nepal. And Laura said it right, when she said "You can't take a bad picture in Nepal." Peggy, Julie, Hank, Margaret, Becky, Deb and Dave also showed slides. And welcome to Jeff!!

Pat feels '89 will be a breeze. He is recovering well and is doing a 40K X-country for MS on 2/10/89. How about the Freeze?

Jerry celebrated his becoming an Esquire at the Fess. We wish him luck in cleaning up Motown, starting a satellite RPCV group, and becoming the Michigan outlet for calendars!

Meredith will miss his ability to put things in high places.

Quote of the month "Women should try to increase their size rather than decrease it, because I believe the bigger we are, the more space we'll take up and the more we'll have to be reckoned with." - Roseanne Barr

The hit at the slide pot luck was beans!!

Diana's World Class Beans
1 bag Cuban black beans
soak for 2 hours and drain
In large pot fry
2 onions chopped and
1/2 to 1 # Italian sausage
Add
1 28 oz can tomatoes
6 chopped celery stalks
6 chopped carrots
chili seasoning (dried red chili
minced garlic powder)
Simmer for 2 hours.
DATES TO NOTE

January 22 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

23 Mon GLOBAL EDUCATION MEETING -7 pm - Rose Ann Scoll -241-0845
2714 Oakridge Avenue - Monona (E) bus

28 Sat FREEZE FOR FOOD - contact Deb Stapleton - 251-4192
Our BIG event for OXFAM - everyone helps out. See inside.
Pot Luck afterwards at Wade DellaGranna's 842 Terry Place
Meet at VILAS PARK SHELTER at around 11:30 AM. Bring cookies, etc.

29 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

February 2 Thr YAMANJA - dawn 7:15 am - Yahara River and Rutledge St.
bring molasses, jewels, floatables for the gods

4 Sat CARNIVAL - 9 pm - Eagle Heights Community Center
Call Brent McNabb 244-0289 for updated details.

5 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
8 Wed Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm - 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950

9 Thr GENERAL MEETING at Union South - 227 N Randall Ave

10 Fri Obo Addy and Kukrudu - 8:00 pm Civic Center
Ghana, jazz and African rhythms

12 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Thr Newsletter Deadline
18 Sat CARNIVAL - Lake Park Pavilion - Milwaukee
19 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

24, 25, 26 FSS WINTER RETREAT at Camp Lucerne - see inside

26 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

March 3 Fri GENERAL MEETING and NO COOK POT LUCK - 6 pm at Meredith's
2975 Rimrock Road - 271-0998 - bring fixings for a large
community salad and for sandwiches.

5 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
8 Wed Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm - 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
9 Thr Baron Bliss Day

11 SAT BARON BLISS PARTY & POT LUCK - 6 pm - Cowell's 231-1894
6126 Old Middleton Road - across from Rough Lee Park
Gina will cook the rice and would like complements for
a CURRY, curries, yoghurt sauces, chutneys, fruits,
vegetables. Also bring dance music, beverages, and
wear clothing for a TROPICAL HEAT WAVE!!!!!!!

12 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Thr Newsletter Deadline
19 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
Constitutionally required Board Meeting at Brunch
26 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

* BRUNCH on Sunday is where the discussion our group business occurs
between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Go left after paying.
RPCVs of WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

NEW MEMBERS:

JAMES, Carole  5314 Mathews Rd. #6, Middleton, WI 53562.
   Home:  238-5721       Work:       Brazil 1963-65

SHALALA, Donna E.  130 N. Prospect, Madison, WI 53705.
   Home:  262-9946       Work:       Iran 1962-64

ADDRESS CHANGES:

MALONE, Pat  3201 S. 14th Ave. #203, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

TOTH, Liz  1033 S. Clay, Green Bay, WI 54301.
   Home:                Work:

Pat Crowley sent along her home phone number: 616/629-9889.

If you want to send something small to Sharon Lewandowski and be sure that it arrives (e.g., money), send the item to: S.L., c/o Witness for Peace, P.O. Box 567, Durham, NC 27702. Witness for Peace representatives allot 3 lbs of their baggage to hand carry these items when they visit their members in the field.

EDITOR'S CORNER:

1. Member Dues - Just a reminder! You probably read the front page long ago and realized that, for many of you, this will be the last issue of this newsletter you will receive unless you pay your dues. If you have forgotten, please take care of it now. We'd hate to lose you!

2. Newsletter - Our new historian has been checking back issues of the newsletter and has found that, with four changes in editor over the years, some strange things have happened to our newsletter numbering system. In order to rationalize the system, he has suggested changing to having each volume cover the Jan-Dec period. I will begin this policy with this issue, which will be vol. 9, no. 2 instead of vol. 8, no. 7. Any complaints should be addressed to him.

3. Deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Wednesday, February 15.
5th Annual Winter Retreat

When: We have the site reserved from 5 pm Friday, Feb. 24th until 9 pm Sunday, Feb. 26th. However, people may come or go anytime during that period.

Where: Camp Lucerne, about 70 miles straight north of Madison.

Facilities: We will be staying in winterized cabins with semi-private rooms. There are some cribs and play pens in the cabins and high chairs in the dining hall for children. There are bathrooms in the cabins and hot showers in the retreat center nearby. The cabins are furnished with beds, chairs, desks, fireplaces, and even kitchenettes.

Activities: If there is still snow by then, the camp grounds are criss-crossed with scenic cross-country ski trails and hiking paths. An exciting toboggan hill runs down to a beautiful little lake just outside of the retreat center. If weather permits, some may also wish to try their hands at ice skating.

As for RPCV activities, the Global Education Committee is hoping that some regional groups will be ready to give show slides and give short talks about their regions. Others are welcome to bring slides or other pictures as well.

What to bring: Bring bedding or a sleeping bag, towels and toiletries, warm clothing, a dish to pass Sunday night (note: If you bring a hot dish there are facilities for reheating at the camp). Skis, snow-shoes, sleds, toboggans, ... depending on the weather. Slides, musical instruments, enthusiasm.

Registration: Registration forms must be turned into Karen King (725 W. Washington, Apt. 301; Madison, WI 53715) by Thursday, Feb. 16th with payment (non-refundable) so that she can call the camp to plan meals.

Registration Form for 5th Annual Winter Retreat

Name: 

Phone #: 

Address: 

Number attending: 

Adults: 

Children (1 to 12 yrs. old): 

Check the nights and meals you plan to attend: 

--- Friday night (Adults: $10.00, Child: $5.75) 

--- Saturday Breakfast (A: $3.50, C: $1.75) 

--- Saturday Lunch (A: $4.60, C: $2.30) 

--- Saturday Night (A: $7.75, C: $5.57). This rate only applies if you stay both nights. Otherwise pay Friday night rate. 

--- Sunday Breakfast (A: $3.50, C: $1.75) 

Cost: 

Total (include 5% sales tax): 

--- Will you need a ride? 

--- If driving up from Madison, how many people are you willing and able to take?
Directions to Camp Luceerne:

From Madison: Take Hwy. 51 N. to 22. Go N. through Montello to CTY YY. Turn right (E.) onto YY and follow it past the intersection with Rt. 73. Camp Luceerne is 1/2 a mile on YY.

From Milwaukee: Take Hwy. 41 N. to Fon du Lac. Exit at Rt. 23 and go W. to Princeton. Take Rt. 73 N. through Neshkoro. Turn E. (right) on CTY YY. Proceed 1/2 mile to camp entrance.

From La Crosse and East: Take State Hwy. 21 E. through Wautoma. Turn S. (right) on Rt. 73. Proceed about 3 miles, and turn E. (left) on CTY YY. Camp entrance will be on left in 1/2 a mile.

Once at Camp Luceerne: Turn in at the main entrance and turn left at the first road. At the end of that short road take another left. Stay to your right and follow that road around until you see a parking lot. We will be in the two cabins across from each other to the left of the lot and in the main lodge across from the lot.

Note: Camp Luceerne is a United Methodist Camp and therefore has strict rules against the use of alcohol or illicit substances on the camp premises. As the official organizer and leader of retreats at this camp, I could be held responsible for any infringements of this policy. Therefore, I would prefer it if people leave such substances at home this year. If any feel it necessary to take such items along, I don't want to see or know anything about it.

-- Karen King
**Thorn Tree**

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE DRIVE!!**

Katia is our cookie salesperson
and would like to take orders.
32.25 per box---7 kinds call by
Jan 29th: 231-6807 delivery in
March. Support our local scouts!

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**SWAN WORD PROCESSING**

Providing... Secretarial Support
Tape Transcriptions
Specializing in Legal Services

Call Beth Swan
836-3595

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**WANTED:** Job leads for TV
tenant who is slightly
disabled with GF. He
worked as a file clerk
for the Carley Corp for
8 years, and was laid off
when the Carley’s had
financial problems.

Call Rose Ann 241-0845

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**ROBERT COWELL**

is looking for gainful employment in
communication, information,
or publication management.

Any help or contacts would be deeply
appreciated.

Call 231-1694

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N.I.A.----About 100 slides
from our slide library---
check your whereabouts
for Bob, check your whereabouts
call Bank Brennan 210-C981

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**Farewell Year of the Snake---Feb 29**
From plows to Peace Corps

Tomah couple quit farming, sign up for duty in Ecuador

By LYDA LANIER
Special to The Journal

— Tomah, Wis. — "Joining the Peace Corps is Chapter 4 in our lives," said Hugh Kenworthy, 55, of rural Tomah, after an auction last week that ended the Wisconsin farming career that was Chapter 3.

"We've wanted to do certain things," said his wife, Irene, 55, "and it's time for that now."

At the end of January after seven months of inquiries, applications and phone interviews, the Kenworthys will leave behind their 10 children (all married, seven still living in the Tomah area), 30 grandchildren, and their 80-acre farm for a 27-month tour of Peace Corps duty in Ecuador.

They will spend the first three months living with an Ecuadoran family near Quito, the capital.

"We'll be studying the language, the culture, how to shop, how to use their transportation systems, before going out on our assignment for two years," Irene Kenworthy said.

The Kenworthys expect to be assigned to a rural village where they will live and work. Their duties will be somewhat similar to those of county extension agents in this country. Irene Kenworthy will work with community development projects in nutrition and hygiene, and with young people.

Using his practical experience as a farmer, Hugh Kenworthy will be an adviser to dairy farmers and beef cattle ranchers.

They have been considering Peace Corps work ever since they heard President Kennedy's proposal for the program sharing American know-how with people in underdeveloped countries.

"But we had our family to raise," Irene Kenworthy said. "Now they're grown and gone; we have good health. The time is right to try it."

Added her husband: "Life's been good to us. We just had a desire to pay back and help someone else."

Their youngest son, David, 20, and his wife, Carole, will be living on the farm that has been home to the Kenworthys since 1975. The family moved to Wisconsin from Massachusetts, where they had lived on a two-acre farm.

"We had one cow, a hundred chickens, a few pigs, everything a farm has but on a small scale," Hugh Kenworthy said.

In Massachusetts, he was a foreman for Texas Instruments Co., working on nuclear reactors and thermo-mechanical devices. As a sideline, the family raised and sold vegetables and summer bedding plants for flower gardens.

When they decided to become full-time farmers, they sold everything in the East, explored farmland in the South and Midwest, and finally settled on Wisconsin.

"It looked like New England, and land was affordable," Hugh Kenworthy said.

Two years ago they sold their dairy herd of 30 cows and raised hay and corn to sell. Irene Kenworthy began working as a housekeeper at the Tomah Care Center.

After they decided to apply to the Peace Corps last May, there was a long period of "do this and wait."

The Kenworthys worried about their lack of college education. However, Peace Corps officials told them that their strong agricultural backgrounds made them highly qualified.

"That gave us a good feeling," Irene Kenworthy said.

They had expressed no preference for one country over another, and they accepted Ecuador when it was offered in mid-November. They will be traveling there with a group of 60 other American Peace Corps volunteers to join the 180 already in Ecuador.

On the day of the auction, a couple of retired farmers came up to Hugh Kenworthy to shake hands and wish him well.

"Do you know what it's like down there?" one asked.

"No," he replied, "but however it is, we're there to stay."

"I hear you joined something like the Army," said the other farmer.

"Do you use guns and bombs?"

"No, just my heart."

Oh gentles, Buck and Jerry were in DC for the 20th anniversary of their PC/Nepal group (#17). It was wonderful. About 25 people were there, or found. And of every group we've known (Jesuits, Boy Scouts, field anthropologists, Sufis, even you all), these are still the best. They've turned out well, they talk superbly, and they're hilarious. We guffed with little sleep for 2 and a half days.

And we met with the Nepali ambassador, who would be an impressive man in any company. We spoke with mutual respect and understanding, and he was as frank as diplomacy allows.

Nepali food, beer and fires, talk with the PC/Nepal desk officer, memories and slides and new Nepal stories, catching up on recent histories, wry assessments of the world.... Yum.

It was hard to break up and go back to our villages.
Equal opportunities elude black women, say panelists

By Elisea Miller
Wisconsin State Journal

While black women around the world play a key role in agriculture, education and economics, they continue to struggle for equal opportunities, a panel of three women said Saturday at UW-Madison.

Josephine Beoku-Betts of Sierra Leone, Selpone Seloma of Botswana and Alexandra Burton-James of Dominica described the often dichotomous experiences of women in their countries.

The three, all teachers and graduate students at UW-Madison, spoke to about 50 mostly professional black women from Madison and Milwaukee as part of an all-day conference entitled, "The Black Woman: Being and Becoming More Global."

"My home was headed by my very powerful grandmother, who brought me up to be proud of my heritage and to want to achieve," said Burton-James, who was born on the small Caribbean island of Dominica.

Burton-James, who holds a doctorate in education and curriculum studies and studied at Cambridge University and London University, said women in her country not only control the households, but also have the power to pass land to their children.

Land is a desirable commodity among women and they work hard to obtain even a small plot, she said. In fact, one of her daughters who lives on the island recently told her that she would soon be able to buy land.

Before the island's independence from Britain in 1978, Burton-James said few women were educated. Now, almost 75 percent of Dominica's girls attend primary school and slightly more than 20 percent go on to the equivalent of American high schools, she said.

Beoku-Betts, who is doing post-doctoral work at UW-Madison in rural sociology, said between 5 percent and 10 percent of the women in Sierra Leone are highly educated and hold professional jobs.

"A small percentage of women are doctors, professors, architects and representatives in the top hierarchies of society," she said.

In comparison, many women who live in Sierra Leone, located on the west coast of Africa, are poor, do not have access to their own land and have a difficult time getting credit.

Beoku-Betts said it is difficult to generalize about women in Sierra Leone because of the variety of social classes, ethnic backgrounds and religions that co-exist in her country.

Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital city, was established in 1792 by the British as a refuge for freed slaves. Former slaves from Jamaica, Canada and eventually the United States flocked to the African nation, bringing their own cultures with them.

Beoku-Betts said these African women have always tried to be independent and maintain their own source of income.

"An educated woman would not think of sharing a joint bank account with her husband," she said. "A woman maintains her own money and many have their own property."

But she said women's political power is waning.

"In colonial times, women organized themselves to obtain rights from the British," she said. "Now, with our one-party system, women are playing a more peripheral role, which we need to do something about."

In the southern African nation of Botswana, women see themselves as both teachers and mothers, said Seloma, a Botswana native.

Seloma, who left her three children in Botswana with her husband in order to teach and study at UW-Madison, said long summer vacations from school allow women to farm along with teaching to supplement their meager incomes.

VOLUNTEERISM

THE PEACE CORPS' NEW FRONTIER

White-collar recruits are helping Third World entrepreneurs

In 1985, Michael J. Daly's career was ticking along smartly. An accountant who spent six years as a bank analyst, the 27-year-old New Yorker had just bought a sharp new Honda Prelude. Then it hit him: the feeling that life was passing him by. Befuddled by TV ads for "the toughest job you'll ever love," Daly phoned a Peace Corps recruiter.

Co-workers at Manufacturers Hanover Bank "thought I was crazy," he recalls. Daly walked off his $45,000-a-year job for a $200-a-month stipend plus room and board in the Dominican Republic. There he teaches peasant-owned financial cooperatives to operate profitably and to compete with commercial banks.

The Peace Corps is getting down to business. Health, education, and agriculture are still its main concerns, as they were when President Kennedy created the agency in 1961. But it is also concerned with the lack of capital and grass-roots entrepreneurial knowhow that have condemned much of the Third World to poverty. "We've grown a lot wiser," declares Peace Corps Director Loret M. Ruppe, a 1981 Reagan appointee. To promote economic development, Ruppe is calling for private-sector help and business skills. She is finding them.

DROPOUTS: After years of scraping for volunteers, the Peace Corps now gets five applications for every position. They come from nontraditional quarters: executives yearning for midcareer adventures, financially secure retirees enlisting in the war on hunger, and growing numbers of yuppie dropouts.

Volunteerism is chic again. The agency's image has improved overseas. But it is Director Ruppe who "deserves credit for saving the agency," says E. Timothy Carroll, director of the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

When President Reagan took office in 1981, liberals feared that the corps might be dismantled or forced to promote right-wing policies in the Third World. At first the Administration argued for budget cuts, installed hardline conservatives in top posts, and insisted on reviewing the assignments of country directors. It also enforced a long-ignored provision of the Peace Corps Act requiring volunteers to be briefed on the communist "menace."

Ruppe, a moderate Republican whose husband, a former U.S. congressman, ran George Bush's 1980 Presidential campaign in Michigan, proved a shrewd politician. She isolated the hardliners and weathered a harsh attack from the Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank, for being "out of step with the Reagan agenda." That won her the backing of Democrats such as Connecticut Senator Christopher J. Dodd, a Peace Corps veteran. Meanwhile, Ruppe violated liberal taboos by collaborating with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and openly courting big business. In recruiting professionals and focusing on small-business development, she is adapting the Kennedy-era Peace Corps to the "1980s personality," notes alumni group head Carroll.

That helped bring the White House around. In 1985, with its blessing, Congress mandated the corps to double its volunteer count to 10,000 by 1992. In the
past two years, the corps' budget has grown by 20%, to $146 million in 1988.

Disputing white-collar missionaries is a sharp turn from the Peace Corps' early days, when 60% of the volunteers were liberal arts graduates armed with little more than altruism and a desire to experience the Third World. They taught English or health or worked at "community development."

*IN VOGUE.* Only 7% of all volunteers have been placed in the new "income-generation" projects so far. But the future seems to lie there. Indeed, one reason for Ruppe's widespread support is that "microenterprises"—tiny businesses that can be as simple as a shoe-shine stand—are in vogue in economic development circles. Conservatives like the idea because it promotes capitalism. Liberals see it as empowering the poor. The concept, pioneered by Mahatma Gandhi's cottage industry movement, also is rather cheap.

In December, Congress ordered AID to earmark $50 million for microenterprise loans of less than $300 each. Lending agencies such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development are pushing similar agendas. Even private charities that specialize in famine relief, such as CARE and Save the Children, have begun funding small enterprises.

"It's cool for projects to make money," says Donald Odermann, the Peace Corps' director in the Dominican Republic and a former volunteer in Colombia. "In the 1960s it was almost shameful."

Odermann, on leave from his San Jose stock brokerage firm, keeps cassette tapes of Tom Peters' new book *Thrvng on Chaos* in his Jeep Cherokee.

One-third of Odermann's 140 volunteers work on microenterprise. Perhaps the most successful Dominican project is a lending unit that two volunteers helped found in 1988. It has loaned $1.2 million to 4,674 microentrepreneurs that have created nearly 6,000 jobs. Less than 2% of the loans are nonperforming. One volunteer on the project, MBA Oscar Bernadini—a former Hilton hotels controller in Texas—recently helped a street vendor set up a doughnut business.

SHRIMP MARKETERS. Often, volunteers have great latitude in finding projects. Anthony L. Pinder, a 24-year-old commodities trader from Philadelphia, was assigned to work with the state coffee board of Ecuador in 1987. Pinder—who is black—was more intrigued by an account of an isolated community of black fishermen. He set out for their village by canoe and stayed to help them form a cooperative. Now he is teaching the fishermen bookkeeping and how to market their sea bass and shrimp.

To recruit more professionals, Director Ruppe is urging corporations to grant volunteers leaves of absence. Most companies balk at keeping the jobs open or continuing seniority and benefits during the typical two-year stint. Joining up thus often means temporary impoverishment. Once back home, the usual $4,800 accumulated stipend buys but a few months' rent and a used car.

Nevertheless, Patrick Sheridan, 32, persuaded Texas Instruments Inc., where he is an accounting manager, to grant him a two-year Peace Corps sabbatical. Now he and his wife, Susan, an ex-banker at First City National Bank of Houston, work with a group of Ecuadorian peasants who weave straw goods.

The Sheridans' combined business acumen quickly became evident. First they got a $5,000 grant from AID to buy raw materials and purchase the finished goods. Then they found U.S. buyers. Now they are training locals to do the accounting. In nine months the number of artisans has quadrupled to 1,200.

Retirees are coming aboard. Helen Murphy, a 63-year-old grandmother who ran a flight school near Yosemite National Park, has decamped to Nairobi, Kenya. There she teaches vegetable vendors, seamstresses, and others the rudimentary cash management and bookkeeping skills they need to get interest loans from a Peace Corps trust for women.

The Peace Corps also is trying to get alumni to donate money, or even make another tour in their former host countries, since they already know the language and how to operate in the culture. In response, alumni groups have sprung up. The Friends of Malawi have set up a loan fund for handicapped artisans there and are helping market their crafts.

Ruppe thinks she has barely begun. She wants Corporate America to grant more leaves and heed her calls for donations. "I'd like to get a cadre of businessmen we can count on," she says, "but for some reason the private sector doesn't like to donate services to the government."

JUST A FAD? Not everybody thinks the Peace Corps should cozy up to big business. Some critics fear it could lead to programs that cater to corporate interests. Others worry that the agency is becoming too involved with the local elite. In Belize City, for example, one volunteer works for the chamber of commerce. Washington development economist Stephen Hellinger, co-director of the Development Group for Alternative Policies, calls the microenterprise movement a "fad" that overemphasizes economic rather than social improvement.

Too often, he says, "a handful of people do better, but nothing fundamentally changes for the community."

Still, the 1980s Peace Corps is a vastly more effective organization than it was in its more innocent days. "The Peace Corps was kind of a Foreign Legion for refugees from Nixon," recalls Richard Shafer, a 1978 volunteer assigned to the remote South Korean island of Cheju-do. He estimates that 60% of his colleagues dropped out of the corps, possibly because they were disillusioned with ill-defined jobs and a lack of supervision.

Today's Peace Corps is still idealistic. But it also wants results. In the Dominican Republic, Odermann notes, much of the pressure to succeed comes from the volunteers, "who are demanding a lot more of us."

He makes his point by citing the example of his new recruit: a hard-driving young woman who gave up a $60,000-a-year New York banking job for the privilege of helping the poor.

*By Pete Engardino in Santo Domingo, with Steve Ashkin in Harare, Zimbabwe.*
What if we used the B2 bomber budget to fund the Peace Corps?

WASHINGTON — Differing U.S. foreign policies for creating peace were on display Nov. 22.

In Palmdale, Calif., the B2 Stealth bomber had a coming-out party at which generals, politicians and 2,200 Northrop Corp. workers cheered the $500 million warplane.

Across the country in Washington, an equal number of citizens — returned Peace Corps volunteers and their friends — gathered for a liturgy to honor the memory of John F. Kennedy, the president who began the Peace Corps.

In Palmdale, the vision was peace through the power of military violence. In St. Matthew's, a cathedral named after the writer of the Gospel in which peacemakers are blessed as children of God, the vision was of peace through the non-violent power of service.

In Palmdale, Air Force Secretary Edward C. Aldridge Jr. said reverently that it was “America's enduring hope and prayer that this magnificent aircraft will never fly in anger.” With the expectation that money shovelers in Congress will continue to dig deep, a fleet of 132 Stealth bombers at a cost of $60 billion to $70 billion is projected.

In St. Matthew's, former Peace Corps volunteers also had an enduring hope and prayer: that in the next 27 years at least another 135,000 Americans — the number who have served to date — will go abroad.

AT BOTH SITES, sincere people believed that their form of force was more effective in creating peace. Which group holds the truth?

The two methods of achieving peace are diametrically opposite. Both can't be right. The Air Force says scare our enemies into peace by threatening them with B2-de- livered annihilation. Peace Corps volunteers say go abroad with books, seeds, medicine, ideas and ideals.

One difficulty in getting near the truth is that the failures of the military rarely count against it, while the successes of the Peace Corps rarely count for it.

Five days before the B2 bomber was rolled out of its Northrop hanger to cheers and speeches, a $280 million B1 bomber crashed and exploded on impact at a South Dakota air base. The week before, another B1 bomber went down in Texas. A broken fuel line caused the crash. A third B1 didn't make it in September 1987 when a pelican smashed into the plane.

The three crashes cost $840 million, a sum six times greater than the Peace Corps budget for one year. No Air Force official apologized to the public for the enormous waste of money. Instead, it was on to the air show at Palmdale.

If the $280 million B1 doesn't work, haul out the $500 million B2, the most expensive weapon in U.S. history. For all the public knows, a B3 is flying high in the dreams of some weapons planner awaiting his first R&D outlay.

MILITARISTS have convinced much of the public, and at times nearly all of Congress, that the next weapon, however more expensive or inefficient, will secure peace. In the 1880s, the automatic machine gun was introduced into the U.S. arsenal with the same language of deterrence heard at Palmdale:

This weapon has such killing power that no enemy will dare fight us. Peace is at hand.

Since 1988, the machine gun and a large supply of other weapons of equal peacekeeping promise have been carried by U.S. troops sent to fight Koreans, Haitians, Argentinians, Chileans, Nicaraguans, Chinese, Honduras, Santo Dominicans, Lebanese, Moroccans, Turks, Mexicans, Germans, Russians, Japanese, Guatemalans, Dutch Guianans, Cubans, Laotians, Cambodians and Vietnamese.

To date, the obvious question, asked a few years ago by Dick Gregory, remains unanswered: “If democracy is so good, why do we have to go to other countries and try to jam it down their throats with a gun? Stay here and make democracy work. If it's good, you don't have to force it on others; they'll steal it.”

FEW OF THE returned Peace Corps volunteers at St. Matthew's would have argued with that. They, and the 135,000 others who have served, made commitments to a belief that Sargent Shriver, the program's first director, expressed:

“In the end it will be the servants who save us all.” He meant that “we can begin to liberate (the less developed world) by making economic development and mutual service the hard core of our foreign policy and our defense policy.”

What if the Peace Corps were given the $70 billion in Stealth bomber money and volunteers sent to the Soviet Union? What if mutual assured destruction were replaced by mutual assured service?

Colman McCarthy is a columnist for the Washington Post.
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