Thanks, Gordon!

This issue of the monthly newsletter of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison marks a change in leadership. Gordon Malaise, Editor for five years, has decided to focus on other volunteer tasks and has turned over the editorial reins to Earl Bricker. There are many sorts of contributions that people can make to this organization, but Gordon has provided consistent and dependable leadership in this critical area of communication. His newsletters have always been interesting and wide-ranging. If you see him, and you will because he’s not going anywhere, be sure to thank him for his hard work over the years.... and then ask him what he’s going to do next for the group!

Post-Retreat Planning Group Going Strong!

It all started with the suggestion of doing a survey, which then led to the complementary suggestion of a day-long retreat. So far, 62 people have returned the survey (thank you!), and 20+ people spent a beautiful day in the basement of the Wil-Mar Center (thank you, thank you!!). The end result was lots and lots of information, but the work is far from finished.

A smaller group of volunteers met for two consecutive evenings (Sept 18 & 19), and after finally determining the best process for us to follow, we started the work of identifying some critical goals for the coming year.

But none of those involved felt that simply coming up with a list of recommendations would be sufficient, because we want YOU to become part of the decision.

There are a number of social events coming up in the next few weeks, and we’ll be out in force, informing you all of what’s transpired and asking for your feedback. Check out the President’s Message on Page 3 to get a sense of what we want to hear from you.

We set two more meetings for the near future, and you are welcome at either or both of them. Yes, YOU. **Monday, October 7, and Thursday, October 17** -- both will be held in the WARC Building on campus (the corner of Observatory and Walnut, between the Natatorium and the UW Hospital) in Room 132, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more info, call Earl Bricker at 244-0289.

We don’t want to exaggerate the importance of these gatherings, because we’re committed to bringing things back to the group for decisions.

**BUT, there’s no doubt that we’re charting the course for the future of the group, and wouldn’t you like to be part of that?**

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**Calendar of Events**

**Saturday, September 28** -- Harvest Moon Celebration at Dan & Mary Grace Ott’s; W971 Hwy 92, Brooklyn; 455-1426

**Friday, October 4** -- General Meeting and Potluck, John & Mary Frantz’s in Monroe (see back page for directions)

**Saturday, October 5** -- Picnic at Tower Hill State Park, Spring Green, 11 a.m. Precedes the trek to American Players’ Theatre to see Measure for Measure; call Sharon Lewandowski for details, 241-2392 (tickets may still be available)

**Monday, October 7** -- Retreat Follow-Up work group meeting; 6:30-8:30 in the WARC Building (see above)

**Sunday, October 13** -- Sunday Brunch! 10 a.m. to ??? Memorial Union’s Lakefront Cafeteria

**Monday, October 14** -- Calendar Steering Committee, 7 p.m.; 2714 Oakridge Avenue; 241-0845

**Thursday, October 17** -- Retreat Follow-Up Work Group meeting; 6:30-8:30 in the WARC Building (see above)

**Saturday & Sunday, October 19 & 20** -- Elroy Sparta Bike Trail Ride, organized by Mike McQuestion; 238-5458

**Saturday & Sunday, October 12 & 13** -- Canoe Trip on the Kickapoo River, organized by Buck Tracwicky; 241-2392

**Saturday, October 26** -- Halloween Bash, 8 p.m.; 2406 Sommers Avenue; 244-8609
I'm glad to be back in the Editor's "saddle" again. As the first person to hold that distinction, fifteen years ago, I've enjoyed the work of others and have appreciated the time and energy that's gone into this important part of our organization. But I feel that I can make a contribution to the group again in this way... although I'm not sure I'm prepared to commit myself to more than 1-2 years. I'll try to follow Gordon's example in many areas, particularly in regard to diligence and hard work, but not in terms of longevity.

I do plan to try out a few different things. For example, some of the more avid readers will notice that the President's Message is not on Page One. Quel horreur! While it's important to know what our current leader is thinking, I think that her (or his) message can be adequately transmitted on Page Three. Luckily we always seem to select Presidents with manageable egos. For the same basic reason, I've moved the newsletter subscription information from the "valuable" space above the label -- I'd rather use that space for information about the next meeting, for example -- after all, it's probably the first thing you see, so why not take advantage of it?

I'm also planning to play around with layout and design. This issue I'm using PowerPoint, but if we ever get that package from NPCA, I'd like to use the desktop publishing component rumored to be part of it. I intend to take the title of Editor at face value, you see, and that may mean some real cutting and pasting.

I hope to get some feedback from folks, in person or in writing. If you're interested in helping me build on the work of my predecessors and make this communication even better, I hope you'll consider being part of a Newsletter Advisory Committee. What I most want from this group is likely to be:

*open and creative minds to help brainstorm improvements and/or new directions;
*some assistance in tracking down articles or information; and
* (maybe) some help in getting it stapled and mailed once a month.
(I've developed a schedule for the next year, so you can plan far ahead!)

Is this you? Give me a call at 244-0289: if you have e-mail, write to: dbricker@students.wisc.edu. I'll be approaching people, as well, and I'm especially interested in getting some newer folks involved. We can have fun doing it, don't forget.

Earl Bricker

The list of officers and various contact people will return in a future issue of the Newsletter. This is a time of change, quite a bit of it, so many names and numbers need to be revised. At this point, if you need more information than you find in these pages, you can call either Earl Bricker at 244-0289 or Deb Stapleton at 244-8609.
Official Ballot
RPCVs of Wisconsin, Madison Chapter
Election of Officers to Serve from 10/96 to 10/97

President (vote for one)
___ Deb Stapleton
___ Write In: ________________________________

Vice-President (vote for one)
___ Melanie Brooks
___ Write In: ________________________________

Secretary (vote for one)
___ Buck Trawicky
___ Write In: ________________________________

Treasurer (vote for one)
___ Rose Ann Scott
___ Write In: ________________________________

Members-At-Large (vote for two)
___ Don Sauer
___ Rochelle Goedken
___ Write In: ________________________________
___ Write In: ________________________________

Elections will be held at the General Meeting on Friday, October 4, at the home of John and Mary Frantz in Monroe. If you would like to vote but are not able to attend the meeting, you may use this ballot. Mail it to P.O. Box 1012, and make sure it’s mailed in time to arrive by that Friday; the box will be checked by someone on the way out of town.

Since we’re always trying to get new members, we’ll send three copies of our Newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, they have to pay to stay on the mailing list. One exception to that rule is that contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter, as long as they send us a copy of theirs.

From the (acting) President....

"I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do." -- Willa Cather

Think back to what was going on in your head as you returned to the States after your Peace Corps service: What plans did you have? I believe many/most of us had at least a notion of not losing the momentum, of continuing in some capacity to serve, to teach, to "bring the world back home." We had new ways of looking at our world, and wanted to share them. We had changed, and we were passionate! Our passion was evident to our friends & family as we told our stories. Our passion compelled us to explore ways of running with the momentum. For many of us, the passion has led us to this community of other RPCV souls looking for an outlet in which to share the marvelous change wrought by our experiences.


We’re all still involved for a reason, and I’ll bet passion has something to do with it. Take some time to think about what moves you now and where you get your energy. Then think of what our RPCV community does and can offer you to keep the passion for change alive, growing, and directed.

The Retreat and survey provided forums for exploring what moves each of us within our group. They supplied momentum and direction for future planning. Several members are riding this momentum to further action: read more about it in the report on Page One.

You’ve given enthusiastic input — now what can you do with that enthusiasm? Get involved in whatever moves you — there are lots of ideas that merit follow-up. I look forward to seeing you at the many events coming up, and to sharing the energy.

Peace — Deb Stapleton

SUNDAY BRUNCH -- REVISITED!

Let’s revive the Sunday Brunch -- kind of a drop-in at your leisure, Memorial Union’s Lakefront Cafeteria, 10:00-ish, and on. Some of us will be there on Sunday, October 13th.

Bring your kids, newspaper, gossip and ideas -- you'll get a great view, wonderful company, and a cheap breakfast!
Minutes of Meeting  
Thursday, September 5, 1996

The meeting started with 15 members present. I counted 19 after some stragglers arrived. Our President, Deb Stapleton, did a commendable job chairing the meeting. To start out, she asked: Of projects started in-country, what do you hope remains? Erik Jensen was sure that the zucchini plant he started is still growing. Don Sauer built a fence, and Ken Coffeen caused a blissfully unknown cave to become a commercialized tourist trap. Rose Ann Scott hopes that Sieera Leoneans, especially kids, have more protein in their diets, and John Elder knows that some of his students in Peru continue to teach.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Treasurer’s Report was in the Newsletter.

The special $4 member price for calendars expired after the meeting.

Other Calendar Matters: (Editor’s note: for a very detailed report, see the ICSC Minutes elsewhere in this newsletter) Barbara Chatterjee informed us that the Calendar would be advertised in the next issue of World View, the NPCA magazine. Walt Zeltner related that he continues to file responses received from donors, thus addressing a concern raised at the Retreat. Walt would like to be given any thank-you letters or informational reports received from recipients of calendar donations. He’ll collect them and make them available for viewing at monthly meetings. Sheila Przesmicki may work on summarizing selected such responses for future newsletters.

Elections: The elections will take place at the next General Meeting on Friday, October 4. John and Mary Frantz have graciously agreed to host this potluck. The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for all positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members-at-Large.

Odds & Ends:
Buck offered to organize a canoe trip sometime in October. (Note: See related information elsewhere.)

Mike McQuestion is organizing a bed-and-breakfast bicycle trip along the Elroy-Sparta Trail the weekend of October 19&20. Between Madison and Chicago, about 20 people have already signed up. It’s in the heart of Amish country, and you can make it an outing for kids, for dawdlers, or if you’d like to try and keep pace with Patrick and Diego, you can attempt the hilly (Ironman) route. Contact Mike at 238-5458 if interested.

Retreat Follow-Up: The Retreat that occurred on August 10 generated a lot of information and enthusiasm. Earl Bricker would like to form a planning group to use that momentum and make a series of recommendations to be presented to the entire group. (Note: See related article on Page One.)

Community Thrift Store: Earl B. also shared information about a new non-profit venture beginning in Madison, a resale store that serves and strengthens the community. The RPCV group could be a Non-Profit Partner. It was decided to include information in the next newsletter and then have a more detailed discussion at the 10-4 meeting.

More Odds & Ends:
Lori Merriam informed people of tickets available to attend the Edgar Degas (post-impressionist) art show at the Chicago Art Institute on November 16. Lori has tickets, which cost $33.50 (round-trip bus fare and entrance fee). Tickets will go fast, so call Lori at 257-2271 if you’re interested.

Don Sauer reported on the National Peace Corps Association’s (NPDA) annual general meeting that he attended, along with Deb Stapleton, from August 16-18, in Pennsylvania. He had wanted to determine the interest in the Calendar and found that the interest was high. He also wanted to begin the process of identifying individuals who might be able to assist by taking on certain functions (marketing and distribution, for example). He cautioned that this is only the start of a long process, but that we need to base future calendar-related decisions on sound information.

Deb Stapleton reported that the NPCA is working hard to strengthen their relationships with local RPCV groups and with Peace Corps itself. The NPCA wants to recruit more members, increase the WorldWise Schools effort, and focus on the Third Goal. She also mentioned that the NPCA will give free copies of Microsoft software to local groups.

Gordon Malaise gave an update on what is needed to have a presence at the Willy Street Fair on September 15.

Gordon also announced that he was stepping down as Editor of the Newsletter, effective immediately, and that Earl Bricker was taking up the position. It is worthwhile to note that Gordon served as Editor for five years! Wow! Thank you, Gordon! (It is also worthwhile to note that Gordon continues to serve as the group’s Registered Agent, by providing insightful legal and other advice, by warehousing pallets of calendars in his garage, by allowing loud and boisterous group members to invade his house on a weekly basis to fill Calendar orders, etc., etc. My goodness, Gordon, what would we do without you?) Our sincere appreciation, Gordon, and try not to spend your Editor’s pension all at once.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Stark, Volunteer Transcriber
Committee Reports

International Calendar Steering Committee
MINUTES, Monday, September 9, 1996

Present: Walt Zeltner (WZ); Rose Ann Scott (RS); Alan Weiner (AW); Dean Jefferson (DJ); Buck Trawicky (BT); Barbara Chatterjee (BC); Prudence Barber (PB); Don Sauer (DS)

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

Inventory status as of meeting: 5396 (of 20,350) calendars were out; of these about 3891 were sold, 1049 have been used for production and schools, and 456 are out on consignment (for future sale). BT reports sales at 4 times ahead of last year.

Finances: RS reported that all bills for printing calendar and brochures and refilling the postage meter have been paid. (See Treasurer’s report on Page Two for more information.)

Distribution Management: There is a Packing Party scheduled for 9/12 to catch up on orders on hand. BT is mailing out prepaid orders as they come in. The plan is to set up operation in Gordon Malaise’s basement with clearly specified work stations where a worker can do clearly-defined tasks. AW, as packing master, will lay in supplies and oversee operation.

Computer purchase decision: The ICSC will benefit from the RPCV group getting a free copy of Microsoft Office software via NFPCA. It was agreed that DJ can purchase a computer so invoicing and other tasks can be done on-site; $1000-$1500 was authorized for the purchase. ICSC already owns a printer that probably can be used with the new computer.

Local Marketing: PB has last year’s records and will begin contacting local vendors by letter. Fourteen Madison stores carried the calendar last year; a few new sites will be approached. The per calendar price to stores is as follows: (a) $5.50 if they buy, unless they take larger quantities entitling them to discounts per our brochure; or (b) $7.50 if left on consignment. The suggested retail price is $9.75 per calendar.

National Marketing: Jim Schelly will handle contacts with PC groups; much of this is being done via the Minneapolis recruiting office. BC will follow up on an ad with the United Nations Association, per materials that AW had received. The full-page ad for the fall World View has been submitted to NFPCA. DJ would like to put the 1997 Calendar cover on the RPCV-WI web page; BT will check with the photographer, Scott Faia, and Julie Olson for permission to use their work in this new format not covered by previous agreements.

Feedback from Retreat: The ICSC felt that the calendar issues raised at the Retreat dealt primarily with the disbursement of gift funds and the desire for feedback we are getting from recipients of funding, rather than with production and sales operations. The first area is not part of the charge to the ICSC. However, we are concerned about monitoring our operations to be sure we have individuals to manage and carry out the work.

Staff Openings: We need one or two people to help DJ with invoicing and records keeping of sales. This job is a very big one, especially in the sales season and we should have a few persons to share the work and be able to give him backup. Also, BC will step down as Steering Committee Chair in February 1997; interested parties can call her for more information and begin coming to the meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month to learn about the job.

Next meeting: Monday, October 14, at RS’s house, 2714 Oakridge, Madison WI. Topics will include holiday ads in the Madison Papers and replacing staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Chatterjee, Volunteer Transcriber

Help Wanted on the International Calendar Project

Several positions are open or will be available soon on the International Calendar Steering Committee:

Invoice / Data Handlers
This job includes entering calendar orders into computer database, printing out invoices and labels and similar tasks. Right now one person is doing it all, and he would welcome some help. Estimated time required: 4 hours/week during the fall; much less after January. Dean Jefferson will be happy to give you more information – call him at 245-0606.

Calendar Steering Committee Chairperson
This job includes arranging monthly meetings of the management team, preparing the agenda, running the meeting, and working with team members to maintain smooth operations. Estimated time required: 3-4 hours/month - every month. Barbara Chatterjee will step down in February 1997; she welcomes your call at 271-2405 if you’d like to know more about the position.
For Your Information

A View of Vietnam in the 90s

A University of Wisconsin-Madison study seminar to Vietnam will be held in January for Americans who want to explore the culture, history, current business climate, and politics of this small nation that was engulfed by a war that devastated its people and countryside and divided Americans as few events have in American history.

The study tour, which leaves Chicago on Jan. 9 and returns February 1, begins with a two-day visit to Hong Kong on the eve of its historic return to being part of China. The group then flies to Hanoi and visits the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature and other sites in the capital.

Following 11 days in Vietnam, the group will spend six days in Thailand visiting Buddhist temples, Meo hill tribes people, the Mae Saa Valley and Doi Khun Tan National Park. They will also meet local residents and learn about the changing life in the Northern provinces. The tour ends with a short visit to Bangkok.

The total cost for the tour is $4,400. Reservations must be made by October 8. For more information, call (608) 262-3152 or fax (608) 265-2475.

Canoe Trip! on the Kickapoo! in the Autumn!

Our annual canoe trip didn’t happen this year. (Shame on us: we belatedly scheduled it for August instead of July, and no one could attend.) So here’s your second chance:

Canoes the Kickapoo River, Saturday & Sunday, October 12-13, under arching autumn branches. Put in at Ontario, take out at La Farge (or earlier, if you only wanna paddle only on Saturday). There’s camping along the river, at one of many cleared bare-bones, FREE (I think) but legal campsites. The Kickapoo is a scrumpitiously intimate river. And the trees in their autumn colors will be incandescent: the Grand Architect of the Universe will doubtlessly be there in the background, all agog at our planet’s improvement on her work; as will many aliens (this is why Wisconsin has so many UFO sightings at this time of year).

Canoes are rentable from Drifty’s Fast Trip Canoe Rental (we hope to prove them wrong) in Ontario. We’ll do a group order and pay on arrival. Cost is $16/canoe/day = $32 per canoe, or $16 per person if you’re 2 per canoe. We put in at Ontario, and they pick us up wherever there’s a road-crossing takeout: perhaps 20 miles in 2 days. Nice and competent-sounding guys.

This is Wisconsin: bring cold-weather camping gear in case of the worst.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual RPCVs Gathering

A few years ago, the idea of organizing lesbian, gay and bisexual RPCVs for socializing and supporting political causes was little more than a dream for several RPCVs in Washington, D.C. Now there is a mailing list of over 600 LGB RPCVs in all major metropolitan areas, including Peace Corps staff and current volunteers.

There will be a picnic potluck in Madison, Wisconsin, at Tenney Park on Sunday, October 20, beginning at 1 p.m. All lesbian, gay and bisexual Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in Wisconsin and northern Illinois (except Chicago, which will form a separate affiliate chapter) are invited to attend. Anyone from northwest Iowa and southwest Minnesota are certainly welcome, as well. Call Earl Bricker at (608) 244-0289 to RSVP or for more information.

It’s almost that time again....

Feel that chill in the air? That’s our reminder that the 16th Annual Freeze For Food is just around the corner, and it’s time to start gearing up for the 25th of January.

The first order of business is designing a really cool (cold?) t-shirt. We’ve found a place that does silk-screening at a reasonable cost with no minimum order required. Let your imagination and creativity flow!

The Freeze raised $5,100 for Oxfam America the last two years; a yearlong commemorative t-shirt certainly would help to keep a good thing rolling (or is that running?). Call us, or write us if you have any interest in helping with the design -- concepts, ideas for logos, art work, or just your random thoughts are both welcome and needed. You can reach us at 873-5437, or at 1160 Washington Road, Stoughton, WI 53589. We're looking forward to another banner year!

Dave & Deb Hamilton, FFF Co-Directors

I need to know whether this is go on non-go by Monday, October 7, at the latest. And some of you have to call earlier, so we’ll have critical mass. (Though arrangements are possible for even one canoe, so call if you wanna go: I guess 1 canoe is critical mass! And I guess the renters will rent an extra canoe at 1 hour’s notice; few others will be renting canoes.)

Call me (Buck) at 241-2392 for more information, to become part of the critical mass or for a ride.
Olympic Drive Time

The Olympic Games are more than sports. They bring the people of the world together in a cooperative effort for a common purpose. I was part of the 1996 Centennial Olympics in Atlanta. I had responded to a call to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, seeking interpreters. I thought my language skills might be needed, so in 1995 I filled out several forms. Months passed; I though I had been forgotten. Then in May 1996, I heard from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), asking if I would like to be a "VIP motorpool driver."

So on July 10, I found myself in downtown Atlanta, standing in line to get my official ACOG badge and studying the map of MARTA, the local subway system. The accreditation process took about three hours, including clearing security and waiting out a fire alarm. A card for free Coca-Cola products and a MARTA pass came with my badge, labeled "Driver-Transportation."

Volunteers received an official uniform (khaki pants, colorful shirts with a rings-and-flowers design, straw hat, blue belt, brown socks and shoes) thanks to Hanes and Reebok, among the official sponsors of the 1996 Olympic Games. This required a few more hours and two more subway rides. I was worried that it was taking much too long and was taking time away when I could be doing some work, but I realized later that there was no need to be in such a hurry, and the key to survival, sanity, and enjoyment during the Olympic experience was PATIENCE.

I was assigned to the motorpool at the Olympic Stadium, but I also spent some time at the fleet headquarters near the Georgia Dome. I took an orientation tour of the various Olympic venues (hotels, offices, studia, etc.) that I might need to drive to in the course of my two-week volunteer stint. I rode along with others before I went solo. I carried maps and other instructions with me like a bible. I reported for a daily shift, averaging about eight hours, but some as short as five hours and once as long as twelve. The 12-hour shift was the day of the Opening Ceremonies. We needed to arrive early, as we were to be locked down for security purposes, and we needed to stay to the very end to see if we were needed to drive people who had attended the show.

Volunteers were not paid, but the perks were nice, and people were helpful, friendly and competent. We found things to complain about, but I was impressed with the organization and pride of the local people, and the enthusiasm of the volunteers. Our motorpool lounge, where we spent time waiting to be called, was quite comfortable. We got a meal each shift, and of course all the Coke, Sprite, Diet Coke, and PowerAde you could drink. We had two TVs, which besides regular channels, had the direct feeds from NBC at each venue; we could choose from several events, commercial-free and commentary-free. We could avoid some of the hype and US-centered bias of the regular NBC coverage. Although I had no tickets to see events in person, on TV I enjoyed watching team handball, rowing, equestrian events, beach volleyball, and even weightlifting. We watched the Opening Ceremonies on the direct feed, without interruptions.

The shifts included a lot of time in the motorpool waiting to drive. I read and watched a lot of TV. (I also had time to write a draft of this essay.) Our supervisors often apologized for the downtime, saying that "soon it will get busy." I returned home just before the Centennial Park bombing. A few days later I called the motorpool to see how they were doing, and no, they were still not busy. It was hard to know just how many drivers would be needed, and clearly they had to guess on the high side.

Most of our passengers were Olympic officials and workers, not celebrity VIPs. (But the evening of Opening Ceremonies the assigned drivers for Celine Dion and Mark Spitz were hanging around our motorpool with their beepers.) Highlights were when I drove passengers such as a Mexican sports official and three Cuban journalists. Through driving and other contacts, I spoke Spanish quite a bit, along with some French and Portuguese. Of course, at an international event such as this, you hear a dozen languages in a day.

I highly recommend this volunteer experience. Anyone with the time could do it. I would do it again and might try to stay longer. I am thankful that my status as a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer got me into it. Over 500 RPCVs were involved in the Olympics, out of some 42,000 volunteers and 4,000 paid staff.

Who were the drivers? I met volunteers from California, New Jersey and Germany; teachers from Illinois, Georgia, Texas, New Orleans, and Minnesota; Filipino- and Korean-Americans; retired and semi-retired people; helpful and gracious folks from the area; Atlantans who needed my help to deal with their own subway system. (For many local people, the Olympics were the first time they used their own mass transit.) Two students from Barcelona, site of the 1992 Games, were in our motorpool. There were other college students and recent graduates. ("Olympic Volunteer" will look great on a resume.) Some were borrowed from Olympic sponsors, such as BellSouth. We established a comfortable routine and transient camaraderie. Our motorpool included fluent speakers of French, German, Spanish, Catalan, and Korean. (continued on next page)
I am not a sports person; it did not bother me that I had no time to be a spectator. I enjoyed the Olympic-related activities and exhibitions at the museums and churches, and hanging around Centennial Olympic Park. I wish I had brought along a friend or relative, but it was fascinating to feel the atmosphere and to watch as Atlanta transformed itself. We volunteers filled the stadium for the final dress rehearsal of the Opening Ceremonies; the mood was incredible: ordinary people do extraordinary things. I enjoyed being part of international cooperation, a celebration of the best qualities of humanity.

I heard the mood changed after the bombing, but people seemed determined not to allow a mad bomber to ruin a wonderful effort. I had been in the bombed part of the park just a few days before. I was impressed by the friendly and joyful atmosphere -- people of every color and continent mixing and moving about freely and confidently. After the bombing there was less petty complaining; things got put into perspective.

I never got into the trading and buying of pins, but I passed out a few Peace Corps pins, and I was given some pins by those I drove. I will treasure the Cuban Olympic pin from Sigfredo. The pins seem to symbolize the best and the worst of the diversity of the Olympics: pins represented the various countries, particular sports, official sponsors like UPS and AT&T, and at least twenty different CocaCola pins. They could be cheap, extravagant, commercial advertising with onion rings replacing the Olympic rings, mini-works of art or kitsch, and national flags. My favorite pin-related joke goes like this:

"Did you hear about the problem with the Xerox Olympic pins?" "No, what happened?" "Well, they're just copies."

Submitted by:
Jim Oakley, RPCV Grenada (1971-74, 76-80)
President, West Bend Education Association
Spanish teach, Badger Middle School, West Bend

From the Editor:
The above article is the sort of contribution I hope more people will feel free to offer, especially folks who don't live in Madison and can't make it to meetings or events as regularly as those of us who do. And, I'm extremely open to suggestions about what to call it. I don't know where "Open Mike" came from, other than it was getting late and I was being obsessive about form. In any event, share your thoughts -- I can't guarantee to print everything, but I'll try to be respectful in my editing.

In 1976, a group of community members entered into an experiment. Could a community sustain their voices in the media? For the last twenty-one years, WORT 89.9 FM has been a thriving community radio station in south-central Wisconsin. Located in the heart of Madison, WORT is home to eclectic, diverse news and music.

Of particular interest to people who have spent time overseas, perhaps, are the myriad of programs with an international focus.

News and Public Affairs:
Third World View -- Sundays, 5-6 p.m. News and voices from "third world" countries that you won't hear in the mainstream media.

Hmong Radio -- Sundays, 6-7 p.m. News, culture and events from the Hmong community (in Hmong).

A Public Affair -- Monday-Friday, 12-1 p.m. Live noon call-in talk show with various guests on issues ranging from local to international.

BBC News -- Monday-Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. International news, culture and sports from London.

Music:
From Mombasa to Bombay -- Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon. Folk music from the world over.

Diaspora -- Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Music from the uncharted regions of the record library.

Tropical Rhythms, Part I: Reggae -- Saturdays, 12-2 p.m.

Tropical Rhythms, Part II: African -- Saturdays, 2-4 p.m.

La Junta -- Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. Salsa, latin, jazz, etc.

On the Horizon -- Sundays, 2-5 p.m. World music.

If you'd like a schedule for the entire week, call WORT at 256-2001 and ask for Nancy. If you are interested in volunteering, give Margo a call at the same number, or stop in at 118 South Bedford Street in Madison.

Anyone want tickets to Shakespeare?
Barbara Chatterjee cannot attend the outing to Spring Green on Saturday, October 5. It's possible other tickets might be available, too, so if you're interested, call Sharon Lewandowski at 241-2392 to find out.
**Announcements**

**Babies are being born, and born, and.....**

_The following comes from Julita and Ryszard Zolnik, proud parents:_

On Monday, September 9, 1996, at 5:55 p.m., a baby girl was born in St. Mary’s Hospital in Madison. She will be called _Weronika Aleksandra Zolnik._

When a baby is born, it is impossible to describe all the emotions that are floating within someone’s soul. Besides the obvious needs and wants (whaaah... change the diaper, or whaaa!!! I want some milk, mom...) that the baby has, there is also the emotional side which reaches indescribable spheres of human life.

As the sun caressing your skin is certainly a pleasant experience, the baby has the power to tell your senses that the feel of its skin far exceeds the pleasure of the sun touching you - even in the most pleasant environment. If you add the knowledge that the new creation is a composite of two bodies that were at some point in the past united in screaming ecstatic unity, it is even more mind provoking. The moment of birth can be easily comparable to a description of the taste of a delicious apple. You can imagine what it tastes like, but you will never know the taste until the moment you place your teeth in the flesh of the apple. The birth of a baby is an overwhelmingly joyous encounter.

As time passes I realize what a happy creature I am. I would like to share that joy with you, thus I hope you will get a glimpse of that raging exultation and frenzy that is with us these last few days. I am sure that that event sounds exuberant, but after all it is an incredible joy that is far outreaching the successes of professional accomplishments. Life is not quite full without the dot above the “I.” I think that in our life, that dot has just been added.

Julita and Ryszard Zolnik

In addition to Baby Weronika, we received notice that Pat Smolenski Crowley, partner Walter and son Kazimir welcomed a daughter/sister into the family: _Lyrica Sophia Sojourner Crowley Smolenski_, born on August 14 in Plainwell, Michigan. Pat was one of the first members of our RPCV group back in the early 80’s. The announcement was particularly notable in that it contained an explanation of the various names. Lyrica is based on imagery associated with the lyre. Sophia means wise. Sojourner honors Sojourner Truth. Crowley is Gaelic, originally O’Crualadhlaoch. Smolenski is a Polish habitation name derived from Smolensk. This baby has an identity already established! Congratulations!

**Good Job, Mike Read!**

Mike Read, a long-time member of the RPCVs of Wisconsin (and long-time Pig Roast / Picnic host, along with life partner, Marcy), was a candidate for the Democratic nomination in Assembly District 47. While Mike was not successful in this venture, he ran an issues-oriented campaign and was very creative in his approach. Mike represented us all, in a sense, as an RPCV, and he did so admirably. Hopefully he will run again because we need honorable, decent people like him in office, people who are more interested in making a contribution than in holding office.

**Wedding Announcement**

Dave Hamilton (Atkinson) called to let everyone know that he was married on August 24. His partner/spouse is Debra Hamilton, and he has changed his name to Hamilton. _(Note: Future Officers & Committees listing will be updated for the Freeze For Food to show that Dave Hamilton and Deb Hamilton are Co-Directors.)_

**Project Application**

**Amount Requested:** $400

**RPCV/WI-MAD Sponsor:** Pam Crutchfield

**Project Title:** Education Center for the Deaf (school for deaf youth), Costa Rica

**Project Description:** The school provides educational services to deaf youth in Costa Rica, ages 14-22. The residentially-based program allows each student the opportunity to explore his/her academic potential, through literacy training, basic education, and vocational orientation. The objectives of the school are to provide students with clean and safe facilities and equipment in which to work and live and to provide students high quality services without prejudice or economic hardship. The school is funded mainly by private donations, which go to sponsor individual students. The money requested would be used to purchase a sewing machine for student use and to help pay for a basketball court.

**Halloween Bash**

Saturday, October 26
Deb Stapleton’s Home
2406 Sommers Avenue
Bring your ghoufriend and kids.
Costumes are the best part.
Liquids & edibles are welcome.
Call (244-8609) with questions or for costume consultation!
October General Meeting -- Friday, October 4
A Potluck in Monroe!

John and Mary Frantz are hosting the October Meeting at their home in Monroe at 815 22nd Avenue. This will be an excellent opportunity for Madison folks to get out of town, and Monroe will offer a nice drive (about an hour) after a long week. John and Mary pass on the following:

- The charcoal will be ready for grilling any time after 6 p.m.
- Bring your own “grill-ees” plus a dish to pass and a table setting.
- The hosts will provide beer (Hmmm? I wonder what kind?), juice/soda and coffee.

In addition, the Frantz’s suggest that Monroe is a nice place to spend some Saturday time, so everyone should feel free to bring a bedroll and spread it on their rec room floor. There are many neat bike routes (Will anyone be so hardy as to bike down there?), or a walking tour of historic Monroe. They’ll even provide breakfast for those who stay over!!

There will be business to conduct, as always -- most notably the Agenda will include the election of the officers for the next year (see Page 3 for the slate of candidates), so come prepared both to listen & participate AND eat and enjoy yourselves.

Directions:
- Take State Route 69 south from Verona to the bypass just North of Monroe, where it becomes 18th Avenue.
- Continue straight under the bypass for a few blocks to the end of 18th Avenue -- this will be 6th Street.
- Go left on 6th Street to 22nd Avenue (4 blocks).
- Go right on 22nd Avenue to 812, which is 2-1/2 blocks on the left-hand side.
- Questions? John & Mary’s phone number is 608-325-3242.

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1/97