When I arrived home this evening there was a message on my answer phone from Gordon. It had to do with the designation of a peace memorial highway. Gordon noticed that Assembly Bill No. 873 was introduced in the legislature this past week to designate U.S. 53 from Superior to LaCrosse as Wisconsin's Peace Memorial Highway. The bill has been referred to the highway committee and Gordon urged me to call for a MASSIVE GRASSROOTS LOBBYING EFFORT to bring this bill out of committee and onto the floor of the assembly for a vote. Here is what needs to be done -- Write a letter to your assembly representative and to the chairman of the State Assembly Highway Committee explaining how you personally would like to see this permanent symbol of peace established in your state. There is no time to loose. For this to become a reality the bill must go through all the steps in the process in just five weeks. Okay, so you share my enthusiasm for this idea. Then why not go and get a piece of stationery and an envelope and write now! The rest of the newsletter can wait. Rep. Cletus J. Vanderperren is the highway chairman. His address is 121W, State Capitol, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708.

Now that you are back from the mailbox, we have to talk about our new constitution. In order to get tax exempt status, several modifications to our constitution and by-laws will be necessary. This will assure that the money we collect for charity and global education projects is handled so that no tax liability is incurred. The constitution will clearly define the purposes of the organization as being charitable and educational. Advocacy of specific legislation and particular candidates will not be among our purposes. Informing ourselves and the general public about broad international issues on the otherhand, is definitely what we are about. A special mailing with the proposed constitution and by-laws will soon be going out to all members. Copies will be available at the Camp Lucerne Retreat, on February 23 to 25th.

At the winter retreat we will be looking for slides for next years calendar. So bring 'em. I would also like to propose an informal story telling contest describing a valuable lesson you learned from a national in your country of service.

I have to say something about the Feb. 10th International Curry Dinner Benefit at the Cardinal Bar. It was great! Everyone who helped out and participated deserves generous praise. A substantial amount was raised for local and international hunger projects.
This is your last opportunity for this year to read my impassioned pleas to send in your dues for the year. If you find an ugly yellow highlight over your expiration date on your mailing label, then I don't have a record of your paying your dues for this coming year. In this case, this newsletter will be the last one you receive until we receive payment from you.

If you cannot make next month's meeting to pay in person, please send in the form on the back page with your check to keep your membership current. If you also want to join the National Council of RPCVs for the coming year, add $15 to your check. We will forward the money and membership information to the NCRPCV. Questions? Contact me - Walt (835-3083).

After the browbeating above, I'll back off a bit to remind you that mistakes do happen. To protect yourself, please keep a copy of a newsletter handy so that, in case you have paid your dues but somehow we either don't receive them or we lose the information, you can contact me. I'm actually a trusting person, and I'll get you back on the mailing list. Also, we will send newsletters to people who absolutely can't pay any dues. Again, you'll have to let me know about this.

I've already heard about one problem that can arise. One of our members apparently renewed his National Council membership in September and was wondering why I had not updated his expiration date. The reason is simple. The National Council has not sent us any information about his renewal! We have complained to them several times about their poor membership record keeping and have been told that they are working to improve that area. However, these situations arise, so don't be afraid to tell us when something has been screwed up.

The deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Thursday, Mar. 15.

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** NEXT MEETING! **

Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, Mar. 6 in Union South on the UW campus 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, Apr. 4
Thursday, May 3
Friday, June 1 (This will be a potluck at some member's home)
Partly RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
OF WISCONSIN
(Madison, actually)
and their conscript friends
General Meeting of 5 Feb.90

We met as normal in Union South, next to a room of UW athletes eating supper; they were all rather large, and we were extra polite. 29 of us were present. We introduced ourselves, with our favorite causes. (All aspects of the First Cause and the Last Effect.) Nepal, properly and at last, outnumbered any other country.

Moolah: we have $1208 in our general account, though we must send the National Council dues for 20-odd people. And we’ve a check for $5000, which is our Global Ed. grant from the NC.

Hot announcements: there will be a conference on “Striving for Peace” in Minn. (Augsburg?) on Feb 16-17. Call Deb Stapleton for details (2514192). Carneal in Milwaukee will be the same weekend as our Retreat.

A 10% Society petition was passed around, re. ROTC.

The Goods (246-2618) know of an ESL job. And Friends of Kenya are offering a very cheap trip to Africa this summer. (Ask Rose Ann 241-0845.)

Deb reported on the Freeze for Food Run. The pledge money is still coming in, but it already exceeds last year’s take. We had 79 runners, (2 less than last year), and about 30 walkers. The weather was very mild (as is this whole winter: as Canadians say when anything good happens: “we’ll pay for this.”) The party at Yvonne’s afterwards was of course fine. Then, we each wrote thank-you notes to the contributors of prizes, to Deb’s relief.

Calendars: Rose Ann reports that we have so far sold 3123 out of 5000, for an income of $16,409. All bills are paid. Expenses amounted to $13,825, including $1000 sent to the Nat’l Council. (To their surprise; they belatedly awoke to the realization that this could actually make money for them, and promised to really push calendars next year.)

There are 500 calendars in Rose Ann’s basement; 250 out with other groups; about 280 out in our group; a bunch out on consignment in local stores; and we’ve given away about 200. We have $11,350 cash on hand. Clearly, more money will come in, from us, and other groups, and from local stores when they settle up with us. And we have met our minimum goal of $2500 profit. (It’s actually $2583.) So, what do we do for next year, and how much more do we send the National Council, and how will the Global Ed work affect the calendar?

As for next year: We all approved a MOTION that: we shall do a calendar; Jim Good shall be Maximum Leader; we shall allocate approximately $8-9,000 for expenses (Jim to have more exact numbers in a month or so.)

As for the Nat’ Council: we feel a bit grumpy with them, because they did not really do all they could to help with sales, and we have leftover calendars. Whether they should get any more of the profits must be discussed. However, we voted to buy 5 PC books which the NC is selling, for a total of $82.90. This will dispose of the excess (current) profit nicely. We’ll give the books to the public library. (Which will definitely accept them.)
As for the Global Ed. aspect of the Calendar: the GE committee and the Calendar committee shall work closely together, to mutual benefit. Some of the grant money may be used to defray calendar costs (free or cheap calendars for schools; or even more daring bookkeeping stunts. But the secretary is dubious of the wisdom of this.)

Sharon again urged us to make a desk calendar as well, but no one except the secretary noted this.

Our Global Ed grant was summarized by Rose Ann. In short, the Nat’l Council has given us $5000 for a project to teach middle school kids about the wide (hot) world. We intend to use the calendar as a teaching aid, and produce a manual for teachers to use. We’ll recruit local foreigners to talk in the schools, and help train the teachers. We’ll attempt to leverage our grant with local donations. And we’ll make our work transferrable to other communities. Hank Drennon will be maximum leader.

The most important matter now is the development of the actual curriculum materials, and the tuning up of the Calendar. Wade will lead this, with much much help.

This will be the principal topic at the Winter Retreat.

We next turned to the Cardinal Bar Benefit, for personal, local and international hunger. Kathleen and Jo are the honchos, and they recruited (again) all of us to cook curry dishes. All the Nepal wallas agreed to wear appropriate costume and weaponry. The proceeds are to go to: (1) the Kandy Kids’ Kenter in Sri Lanka, which the Cowells know well. And (2) REACH (REATCH?) which funds all-volunteer orphanages for street kids in India, Africa, and L.Am.

We will also be collecting food (non-perishable: no crepes, please) at the door, which we’ll pass on to Rev. Ted, Madison’s Hungerman. We rejected the suggestion that we sell stickers saying “I paid but I’m fasting.”

[The morning after report: The Benefit was fabulously successful — we’ll now make fables about it, beginning “once upon a time”: Kevin at the door estimates we took in over $700. This is far more than ever before at the Cardinal. It is surely due to Jerry Minnick’s food preview of the event, in last week’s Isthmus. We should be very grateful; perhaps a letter, and a batch of recipes?

There were over 150 people there, and we had just enough food. We stopped taking money when the food ran low, and turned away cash from only 4 people, at almost 7 o’clock. We were gone by 8:30. Buck tried to interest everyone in going bowling at the WillyBowl, at the Eagles Club, but got no takers. (Just as well, too: it was packed. But let’s have a team next year, wearing our uniforms — loincloths and antlers. Bowling is dangerous, though: last year over 180,000 bowlers were carted off to emergency rooms.)

All praise to Jo and Kathleen, and applause for all of us.]

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
Buck summarized the (licit) pleasures of the Winter Retreat, (23-25 Feb.) with stress on what happens after dark. The official high point is on Saturday night, with a potluck and afterdinner entertainment, mainly everyone's favorite slides. We all vote (by noise) on appropriate calendar slides: bring yours. This is especially important this year. But the secret first high point is on Friday night, with talk and board games around the fires in the cabins. People stay up very late, wearing their bunny suits. Come for this, and bring snacks. Saturday starts with breakfast earlier than you may wish, [followed immediately by a group run in heavy boots through 40 acres of windrowed trees, led by a rather mean and beefy guy with a cigar and a short haircut. The rest of the morning is spent in mandatory zazen meditation; the taskmaster thumps you on the head with an oak cudgel if you stir, so the results are often quite illuminating. Lunch (vegetarian or other) is again served by our charming hostettes, after which we gather for group hymns, on the theme of how bad we are, and how we'll never change.] Those denying this concensus reality often go for walks, sit around the fire in the capacious lounge, play in the snow (but not this year: this year we'll pick spring flowers, probably), go birding (which is to find rare birds with your binoculars, identify them with your bird book, and shoot them with your sling shot) or do their homework. From mid-afternoon on we talk about long-range things: this year it'll be the global ed. program we're to do. Then on to the potluck, slides and other entertainment. [Buck is reading the Bible, and is eager to tell you all about it, at interminable length.] Sunday is existence all over again: food, talk, strolls, weather. If you've not signed up, call Karen King, at 256-2141. It's cheap; bring susceptible children. This is a time when many out-of-town members join us.

Don (249-3360) urged us all to go to the National Conference in Eugene, Oregon this July, and to travel on the Peace Train, with RPCVs from the whole northern half of the country. It'll be 2 days of fine talk, relaxed partying (and no Greyhound smells or sore kidneys), and good scenery. Cost is $269 coach, round trip. But you should reserve early: Amtrack is getting snooty. We'll leave on Tues. eve, July 17, and return on Wed. eve, July 25. The conference itself is on the weekend, mainly.

Gordon reported on the process of tuning up our Bylaws, so we can get tax-exempt status (501c3). He and some other heavies will meet, and report back to us.

2 visitors from the Nuke Weapons Freeze Campaign, who's sat bemusedly through our meeting, arose to urge us to attend a 12 hour dance marathon. Our response was reserved. Then we realized it would occur during our Retreat, and we offered them relieved, warm and distant wishes for success.

Bacon Bliss Day is on Friday, 9 March. (This is a Belize holiday, most important for all to celebrate.) We always have a tropical heat wave party at this time, but who would host it this year? Buck said he owed the world a party, and volunteered, though the tropical heat would be very warm only for a Limbu: subtropical winter heat. Bring food and drink, and light clothing. Music, a very hot stove, and reading material will be provided. 1250 Jenifer, topmost floor. 256-7868. Anytime from 6 onwards.
LOOSE LIPS

TIM REPORTS LAURA WAKES UP MORNINGS AND ADMIRIES THE WALL HANGING THAT SEVERAL OF THE ELDERS OF OUR GROUP MADE A SQUARE FOR ON TIM AND AND JANET’S LEAVING MADISON.

JEFF FELT THE EXPLOSION OF THE REFINERY OIL TANKS WHILE HE WAS IN NEW ORLEANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS, AND HE WAS FIVE MILES FROM THE BLAST.

JIM AND LAURA SPENT THE HOLIDAYS IN TEXAS AND LOUISIANA. WILLIAM SAW DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS AND WALKER LAID IN ONE.

DON AND JANE WENT SKIING IN UTAH. MARGARET WENT TO IOWA TO BE WITH HER FAMILY AND THEN VENTURED INTO NEBRASKA TO VISIT A 97 YEAR OLD FRIEND.

JULIE TRAVELED TO PHOENIX. BUCK TO ALBUQUERQUE. JOHN IS WITH HIS FAMILY IN ST. LOUIS.

MARK AND LEE CAME FROM DC TO BE IN WISCONSIN. MARK SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN MADISON, AND HEADED TO APPLETON FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

LEE WENT ON TO BIRCHWOOD. WALT AND CHRIS WENT TO HAWAII WHERE THEY WALKED THROUGH ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST EXOTIC TROPICAL GARDENS. IT WAS WELL WORTH THE $10 CHARGE TO GET IN. THEY ENDED UP IN NY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

HELENE WENT TO LAKE GENEVA. GORDON WENT NORTH.

ROSE ANN AND SARAH DID THEIR ANNUAL TREK TO SOUTH DAKOTA, WHERE SARAH DOES THE SIOUX FALLS MALLS FOR THE POST HOLIDAY SALES.

PETER’S NEW YEARS EVE PARTY WAS A COMBINATION OF WORLD CLASS FRIENDS HIS SISTER A RPCY FROM GUATAMALA WAS THERE, ALONG WITH HIS MICOR TUBULAR FRIENDS, AND BREN'T WITH SERA AND THE REST OF THE BRAZILIANS.

SCOTT REPORTS THAT PEACE CORPS THE SECOND TIME AROUND WAS ‘A REWARDING 2 YEARS’. HE IS DONE FEB 9, AND WILL TRAVEL HOME THROUGH GUATEMALA AND BELIZE.

BOB AND DIANA HAVE SETTLED INTO THEIR TOWNHOUSE. THEY SPENT NEW YEARS IN NEW YORK CITY AT A VERY NEW YORK PARTY. BOB THEN LOOKED AT THE BIRDS IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY WHILE DIANA DID BLOOMIES.

MEREDITH IS RESIGNING FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL BOARD. IT JUST AIN’T NO FUN NO MORE. SHE IS REPLACING IT WITH SEX AND DRUGS. ANYONE NEED SOME CONDOMS? SHE WILL KEEP YOU SUPPLIED.

KEVIN, GORDON, KEN, KAREN, DEB, YVONNE AND ROSE ANN HAD AN EVENING FULL OF LAUGHS WATCHING ‘THE GODS MUST BE CARZY’.

AND WELCOME TO MICHAEL, WHO HAS A COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY IN SAN JUAN AND A VEGETABLE FARM WEST OF MADISON.

AND ALLAN WAS VERY ENTERTAINING AT MEREDITH’S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH, TELLING OF HIS LIFE IN A KUBITZ. THAT MAN HAS DONE EVERYTHING!

KEN IS PLANNING HIS VACATION IN SOUTHERN TEXAS WITH A BORDER SUPPORT GROUP. ALL HE NEEDS IS FOR HIS BOSS TO ALLOW HIM TO USE HIS VACATION TIME.

YVONNE GETS THE BEST DESSERT AWARD, AS HER BUCKEYES MELTED IN EVERYONE’S MOUTH AT THE LAST POTLUCK MEETING.

MARK HAS SETTLED MILWAUKEE WORKING AS A KELLY GIRL. HE AND MIKE HAVE BEEN PICKED TO HEAD TO NIGERIA TO SET UP A DAIRY FARM.

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sun</td>
<td>BRUNCH - 10 am-12 noon - Lakefront Cafeteria, Mem. Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Mon</td>
<td>RESULTS - 7 pm - Memorial Union RE: World’s Children</td>
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| MARCH 4 Sun | BRUNCH - 9 am-12 Noon - Lakefront Cafeteria, Mem. Union  
NOTE: The president can only attend until 9:45 due to his daughter's figure skating. |
| Also Sun | MINNEAPOLIS - PEACE CORPS FAMILY REUNION 2 - 5 PM  
Hyatt Regency Downtown - 1 (800) 328-8282 (WI) |
| 6 Tue | GENERAL MEETING - 7 pm - Union South - 227 N. Randall Ave. |
| 10 Sat | Baron Bliss Day - PARTY AT BUCK’S HOUSE - 7:00 p.m.  
Tropical Heat Wave. Bring tropical snacks, refreshments and tropical attire. Wear the attire, eat the snacks, drink the refreshments and dance to the music in your soul. Buck says the party will not end until its over.  
1250 Jenifer St. |
| 11 Sun | BRUNCH - 9 am-12 Noon - Lakefront Cafeteria, Mem. Union |
| 14 Wed | Milwaukee Meeting - 7 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950 |
| 15 Thu | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE |
| 18 Sun | BRUNCH - 9 am-12 Noon - Lakefront Cafeteria, Mem. Union |
| 21 Wed | Tree Planting Day - Lesotho - Hank, How do we commemorate? |
| 25 Sun | BRUNCH - 9 am-12 Noon - Lakefront Cafeteria, Mem. Union |
| 28 Wed | Global Ed. Meeting - Location to be announced |
| APRIL 1 Sun | PARENT’S BRUNCH - Great Hall, Memorial Union  
Call Helene Pesche to volunteer to help out.  
238-2792 (H) |

BRUNCH on Sunday is where the discussion of our group business occurs between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Nice days (+50) on terrace.
A Curry Fund-Raiser

BY JERRY MINNICH

Jo Thompson is really into food. For hungry children, that is. Jo is active in the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) of Madison, which is sponsoring an International Curry Dinner at the Cardinal Bar this Saturday night. The dinner, co-organized by Jo and Kathleen Quinlan, represents a rare chance for you to see and taste what real curry is like. (Hint: It's not like that disgusting powder you buy in the supermarket.) At the same time you can also give some children in less developed countries a chance to eat.

The Madison chapter of RPCV is made up of Peace Corps veterans who want to keep a helping hand reaching out to others. The Cardinal dinner is only one of their many activities geared toward helping children. They contribute to OXFAM-America in relieving world hunger, assist home for disabled children in Mexico and a school for "untouchables" in India, and help support a health center for foreign families here in Madison. Proceeds from this dinner will go to the Kandy Children's Centre, in Sri Lanka, and to REACH International, a children's aid society.

RPCV Madison also sponsors the "Freeze for Food" run, held last week in January each year, to raise funds for OXFAM, and members work continuously with refugees in Madison. In the past, they have helped newly arrived Hmong families buy sewing machines, and have assisted other refugees in becoming acclimated to this very confusing Midwestern American culture.

But let's get back to the curry. If it isn't that disgusting beige powder in the spice bottle, then what is it? Curry has at least two meanings. First, it can be a spicy sauce. And second, it can be food that has been spiced with that sauce. So if you are invited to a curry dinner, it doesn't necessarily mean you'll be dining on a bowl of spicy sauce.

Curry originated in India, and its ingredients were developed over centuries not only as flavorings, but also as preservatives, medicines and antiseptics. (If you have ever eaten a very hot curry, you can understand why it would kill germs.) The basic curry ingredients are turmeric, for flavoring and coloring; chili peppers, for pungence and color; ginger, for flavor and to aid digestion; garlic and onions, for their heating effect; crushed cloves, for their aroma; poppy seeds, for their oil and thickening properties; and tamarind, for its mildly laxative properties.

To these, a host of ingredients can be added, depending on tradition, personal preference and region. Nations to which Indians have migrated have adapted curry to their locally available foods. Some common additions include: cumin, coriander, cardamom seed, neem leaves (from India's national tree) and coconut, each of which adds to the marvelous chemistry of the sauce.

Curries vary greatly in their degree of hotness, but there is a strong correlation between the hotness of region's climate and that of its curry. This is a principle of the cuisines of nearly all nations, doubtless due to the difficulty of preserving food in hot climates.

What kind of curry can you expect at the Cardinal on Saturday night? Jo Thompson isn't saying, but you can look forward to an authentic curry experience. Tickets are only $5, and there's a discount if you bring a canned food donation. Curry will be served from 5:30 to 7:30, and the Cardinal (418 E. Wilson St., 251-0080) has assured us that plenty of cold beer will be on tap throughout the dinner.

I guess we can expect a hot time in the old town that night.

If you have questions or news about local restaurants, write to Jerry Minnich, care of Isthmus, 14 W. Muffin St., Madison, WI 53703.

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THE FEDERAL DIARY

1990's Missing Link

By Mike Causey
Washington Post Staff Writer

The period between Christmas and New Year's is usually very slow. How slow is it? Well, it was so slow that some of the government's 1.8 million desk calendars "lost" eight days without Congress, Ralph Nader or the media getting wind. This is what happened in the calendar goof.

Each page of the calendars, which were purchased from a private contractor for $1.01 apiece, featured three small calendars at the top. They showed the previous, current and upcoming month.

The December pages of the 1989 edition—at least on some models—showed Dec. 31 as being a Sunday. Correct. But the January calendar on the same page showed Jan. 1 as a Saturday. That in turn created a bare spot of six days not present or accounted for. It also threw the January calendar on those pages off by two days, making it appear that Jan. 31 will be a Monday, when in fact it will be Wednesday.

Some sharp-eyed government workers spotted the glitch that infected a small but unknown number of the calendars. Three readers sent us sample pages of calendars with the lost eight days. A spot check with other agencies revealed a few had faulty calendars but most were correct.

And yes, the General Services Administration has checked. This year's calendars seem to be okay.

Confession Time

Calendars can be tricky. Several years back, I proofread The Washington Post's annual leave calendar, which runs in this space each year. It was checked, double checked and rechecked. It was beautiful. It wasn't until slightly more than 1 million copies had been printed that somebody discovered the calendar had left out the entire month of August. My defense was that August is also a slow month in government. The editor was not convinced.

Yes, we will run the 1990 leave calendar this month. It will have all 12 months. Trust me.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
1319 F Street, NW, Suite 900 + Washington, DC 20004
(202) 393-5501

February 5, 1990

Rose Ann Scott
RPCVs Of Wisconsin
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Rose Ann:

I just read through the January 1990 edition of the RPCV Madison newsletter, which I always enjoy as a helpful way to keep in touch with news and thoughts coming from Wisconsin's RPCVs.

I am perplexed by the newsletter's report summarizing your Board's Dec. 7 meeting, which seems to say that WorldView Magazine has not honored an agreement to publish advertisements for the RPCV/Madison calendar. On the contrary, the two most recent editions of WorldView Magazine have published an advertisement for the calendar.

Specifically, the Fall '89 edition published the calendar advertisement in a column on the back cover of the magazine, with red color—a free advertisement that would have cost any other advertiser at least $275. The Winter edition contained the calendar ad, in color, on page 16—a free placement valued at $175.

If the National Council has failed to fulfill its agreement with RPCV/Madison in some way, I urge you to make that complaint known directly to our Executive Director. But clearly WorldView Magazine, for its part, has published two prominent advertisements for the calendar. Those ads are out there for all the world to see—did you miss them?

Sincerely,

Jeff Drumtra
Editor, WorldView Magazine
(RPCV Niper, '78-80)

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Bringing The World Back Home
Culture Shock

Nick Voichick lives a no-frills existence.

BY GEORGE VUKELICH

Nick Voichick returned to Zaire last week for his third year as a Peace Corps volunteer specializing in fish culture, helping villagers raise tilapia and niolotica in ponds. Born in Hanover, N.H., in 1963, he moved to Madison when his parents joined the UW faculty. Nick graduated from West High in 1981 and has a degree in geology from the UW-Madison. When he completes his Peace Corps service next year, he plans to return to Madison for graduate studies in environmental monitoring. He's become fluent in the native language, Kikongo, because no one in his village—Kipata Katika—speaks English, and three months may pass before he gets a visitor who does.

"The conditions are very primitive but I don't regard that as a hardship. I don't have a canal system to handle the overflow, the dams just give way and the ponds 'blow out.' " Peace Corps has a system where you direct the water off into a good canal system. We build the pond downstream so it's gravity fed and gravity drained. It takes a lot of work to build ponds this way, but they last a long time. The dams are made of dirt, and it's all done with shovels and wheelbarrows.

"The old ponds were very shallow, so there was a predator problem with birds. They could reach all the fish in the pond. The ponds Peace Corps makes are 40 inches or more deep, so the birds aren't as much of a problem. " Under the old way, villagers didn't always know what they were stocking. Sometimes predator fish would be stocked that would eat out the fingerlings and other fish.

"To avoid that, the only fish we stock are tilapia and niolotica. Peace Corps introduced this particular strain of tilapia here. It was taken from the Nile River and brought to Zaire. The benefit of tilapia is that it grows fast. We stock fingerlings about two inches long, and in six months they're eight to 10 inches. They fit nicely into the fish culture because the ponds reach their maximum carrying capacity in six months.

"Then the ponds are drained, the big fish are harvested, the fingerlings are put into a small holding pond. When the big ponds are filled up again, the fingerlings are restocked there. " Tilapia and niolotica not only grow well and reproduce well, but they eat food that the people raise in their fields. So the fish eat manioc leaves, papaya leaves, termites, which the people find in the forest. The fish themselves are often fried or wrapped in leaves and roasted and eaten, leaves and all. If you can eat caterpillars, you can eat anything.

"Actually, I got so I could eat caterpillars. People in Zaire eat a lot of insects. Flying termites they eat raw. Other insects they boil up in a little saltwater. In fact, I brought some cooked grasshoppers back and my friends ate them—after a few beers. " I remember when a village family had me over for dinner. They served everything in covered dishes. The man set a dish in front of me, smiled politely, lifted the cover and there was a little dead mouse. It was on its back, feet up, hair charred off by the fire. The family was very polite, and so was I. Yes, I did have a little bit of the mouse."

Fred A. Risser
President
Wisconsin State Senate

February 8, 1990

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oak Ridge
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Rose Ann:

We had some discussion last year about the possibility of giving recognition to the Peace Corps by designating some state property as a Memorial to Peace.

As I recall, your original idea involved designating some highway, and I recommended perhaps looking to "a living memorial," such as a state park or forest. I also promised to look into this further for you and then get back to you. I apologize for not doing so sooner.

Since I spoke with you, I have had several discussions with representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and discovered that while their parks and forests are all currently named, it may be possible, upon appropriate recommendations, to set aside a trail, picnic area, grove of trees, or certain buildings as Memorials to Peace. The Department would also be able to set up a public dedication of such a facility.

I don't know whether you are still interested in pursuing such an idea, but if you are, I would appreciate your contacting my office and setting up another appointment with me so that we can further discuss this matter.

Most sincerely,

PRED A. RISSE
State Senator

235 South, State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin 53702; (608) 266-1527
"Maghreb and Mashriq: Africa North of the Sahara" will be the third course offering of a series begun in summer 1988. Titled "Windows on the World," the series is sponsored each summer by the Division of Summer Sessions, the Office of International Studies and Programs, and by one of UW-Madison's several language and area studies centers, in this case, the African Studies Program.

Historically, culturally and politically, North Africa has been an important region of the world starting 4,500 years ago with Ancient Egypt, Carthage, and the Roman Empire; extending through the colonial period (Britain, France and Italy); up to and including independent contemporary Arab Africa. Situated at one of the major crossroads of our contemporary world, the area can be seen as turned in the direction of the East (the Middle East and membership in the Arab League), the South (Sub-Saharan Africa with the spreading of Islam and active membership in the Organization of African Unity), or the North (the Mediterranean basin and Europe with historical Muslim Spain and the recent Moroccan application to join the EEC). Many insights into the contemporary reality and recent history of the nations of sub-Saharan Africa will also be provided as the course goes on.

UW specialists as well as scholars, writers, and artists from off-campus and overseas will provide a stimulating and challenging introduction to a complex and fascinating region of the world in this innovative 1990 "Windows on the World" series. In addition to lectures and discussions of assigned readings, this course will include film showings, cultural performances, and art exhibitions -- all open to the public.

In addition to "Africa 277," a number of other courses focussing on Africa will be offered during the 1990 Summer Session. They include African Poetry and African languages (Hausa, Temne, and Krio or Mende) in the Department of African Languages and Literature, African Philosophy in Philosophy, African Textiles in Family Resources and Consumer Sciences, and History of Africa Since 1800 in the History Department.

For further information on the 1990 courses on Africa, contact Betty Wass, 1450 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Telephone (608) 262-4458.

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.
Maxine Berntsen is an American-born linguist who moved to India in the early 1960s, settled in Phaltan, Maharashtra, and became an Indian citizen. She is launching a model preschool and follow-up supplementary education program for poor small town and rural children, and is beginning systematically to reach out from this base to the dispirited public primary school teachers. She’s also demonstrating better ways of teaching reading and associated skills in the regional language of Maharashtra, a state of 60 million people in West-central India.

The Idea

Poor children need both better teaching materials and approaches, and the sort of support middle class children get before and outside school. And just as importantly, their teachers need help breaking out of their dispirited sense of failure and of being abandoned.

Maxine is demonstrating in her own preschool, school, and system of nonformal education and associated help for poor children how to give these children a chance to succeed in life. Working in the rural area of Phaltan, she began with a preschool program. As these children reached school age with enough of a head start to have a chance, she fought to get them into the primary public schools. She had to overcome bureaucratic barriers (e.g., the requirement to show a birth certificate), various costs (e.g., books), and deep-seated prejudices.

To help her graduates and others like them stay in school, she opened a nonformal school serving several shifts of children two hours a day to supplement the school. And she continued her role as informal champion for the children. More recently, with local financial help, she has opened a nongovernment primary school.

Combining her professional skill in linguistics with her increasingly comprehensive hands-on experience championing and teaching children, Maxine now has developed much of her own model of how to teach, especially how to teach reading and associated skills in Marathi.

Maxine is trying to modernize the teaching of Marathi reading and associated linguistic skills. Typically reading lessons start with a long period during which students learn the language’s consonants and only then go on to add the vowels. This is logical because the Devanagari script (used for Marathi and other North Indian languages) is syllabic, each consonant symbol representing the consonant sound plus the neutral vowel \( a \). Other vowels are represented by abbreviated signs joined to the consonant symbols. The result, of course, is that it’s a long time before students can reach the satisfaction of actually using any but the rare consonants-only words, let alone full sentences. The chief official response to this criticism has been to leap to pictures and sentences. Unable to decode the components of the sentences adequately, the students memorize the sentences repeated in class when the picture appears. Maxine’s approach teaches consonants and vowels together, giving students the satisfaction of using what they’re learning at once. So she gets her students reading and writing about their own experiences as soon as possible.

“There’s been an enormous ferment of educators and child psychologists trying to find better ways of teaching literacy. But that has not been happening here.”

--- Maxine Berntsen

Even though such ideas require a great deal of technical work and cultural adaptation, especially given that Maxine’s approach involves a great deal more than the formal curriculum, she is quick to point out that these ideas would hardly seem new in the West. “In the West there has been an enormous ferment of educators and child psychologists trying to find better ways of teaching literacy. But that has not been happening here. Educational research is almost entirely done by a state Bureau of Textbook Production and Curriculum Research.”

Maxine’s model has now reached the stage where she wants to reach out. In 1989 she will start gathering hard data on reading skills of first and second graders in Phaltan and the surrounding villages. The following year she will be working with select primary school teachers from Phaltan town—using her own educational institutions as a demonstration as well as a research laboratory. Later she’ll extend this outreach to primary teachers in the rural areas. At the same time she plans to begin speaking both to community and professional groups and to prepare both written and audio-visual materials to help others pick up her approach.

Maxine sees her use of her model more than a school as a base for educational extension services, support, and encouragement to the dispirited though well-paid government primary teachers in the surrounding areas as itself a model. The Indian government is just now launching a national program of model schools called “Navodaya Vidyalaya.” She criticizes it as creating a very expensive series of islands with no connection to the surrounding sea of public schools. Why not create incentives for existing schools to reach out?

The Problem

Of the $5 million children who do begin primary school in India, only 25 million begin class 6—leaving only a small proportion of the population with even the promise of becoming effectively literate.

To have a chance, poor children need the advantages middle class children get at home—starting with preschool and extending on to help with homework, the crisis of a lost schoolbook, healthcare, etc. At present, there’s no institutional response that fills this need.

To have a chance, the teachers in government primary schools need help. Often licensed without adequate education, they face large classes of children, many ill-prepared and supported by poor, often illiterate parents. Although relatively well paid now, they feel they are failing, have very low status in society, and are given little support. As their students in fact fail and turn off, their morale falls further.

The Strategy

Maxine is attacking the problem as a whole. She’ll continue building and experimenting with her preschool, school, and school supplement complex and her Marathi literacy methodology development. Now she’ll add a direct extension component, further enriching the development of her model as well as creating a possible model of educational extension. Over the next several years she’ll also be testing how best to reach out beyond her small home community in India’s central Deccan.

Personal Background

Maxine grew up in Northern Michigan, got her MA in English literature, and came to Hyderabad in 1961 to teach English. She subsequently studied linguistics and wrote her Ph.D. thesis on the class differences in the use of Marathi in Phaltan.

She set down deep roots and became an Indian citizen.

Maxine has coauthored ten books to teach Marathi. She also co-authored The Experience of Hinduism: Essays on Religion in Maharashtra.

MAXINE BERNTSEN IS A FRIEND OF KAREN KING. OUR GROUP HAS DONATED MONEY TO HER SCHOOL FOR UNTOUCHABLES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MAXINE LEARNED ABOUT ASHOKA FROM US, AND SHE IS NOW AN ASHOKA FELLOW.
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    ☐ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
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☐ I am also enclosing $15 for National Council membership.

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MADISON CHAPTER

Walt Zeltner, Editor
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703