ABSENTEE BALLOT - 1993
for RPCV's of Wisconsin - Madison

Vote for ONE in each category:
(NOTE - Write-in votes are permissible, but a write-in
candidate may not be able or willing to serve. The
people listed on the ballot below have agreed to serve.)

PRESIDENT
[ ] Jim Smith/Lori Merriam

VICE-PRESIDENT
[ ] Lori Merriam/Conrad Weiffenbach

TREASURER
[ ] Peter Joyce

SECRETARY
[ ] Buck Trawicky

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Vote for two candidates)
[ ] Gerry Ashmore
[ ] Mary Grace Brown-Ott

(Jim Smith can only serve for a few months. When he leaves, Lori
Merriam will take over from him and Conrad Weiffenbach will fill
in as Vice-President.)

Absentee ballots must reach us by the next meeting (Thursday,
Oct. 7) when the election will be held. Please put your ballot
inside a small envelope, seal it, mark it ABSENTEE BALLOT, and
then send it in a larger envelope addressed:

RPCV's of Wisconsin
Nominations Committee
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53709
OFFICERS & COMMITTEES:

PRESIDENT
Walt Zeiter
873-5257

VICE PRESIDENT
Dave Wakeley
255-1339

SECRETARY
Buck Trawicky
256-7868

TREASURER
John Gaska
262-8273

DEADWOOD
Nancy Westbrook
241-5332

AGENT
Gordon Malaise
255-3261

FREEZE FOR FOOD
Gerry Ashmore
222-4166

FAMILY BRUNCH
Helene Pesche
238-2792

SPEAKERS BUREAU
Jim Smith
262-1121

GLOBAL EDUCATION
???your name here???

INTERNAL EDUCATION
Laura Good
246-2818

CALENDAR
-PRODUCTION
Henry Nehls-Lowe
835-9776

-GRAPHICS
Julie Olsen
242-1355

-STEERING COMMITTEE
Barbara Chatterjee
271-3405

MEMBERSHIP
Sandy Moss
246-9605

SOCIAL
Sharon Lewandowski
241-2392

NEWSLETTER
-EDITOR
Gordon Malaise
255-3261

-LABELS
Sandy Moss
246-9605

-SLICES OF LIFE
Ken Coffeen
276-9453

PROPERTY LIBRARIAN
???your name here???

HISTORIAN
???your name here???

ADVENTURE
Buck Trawicky
256-7868

CAMPUS PC RECRUITER
Jim Smith
262-1121

Room 240, Agriculture Hall
Mon. 10-12 Tues. 11-3
Wed. 10 - 12
Fri. 10 - 12

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RPCV IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVE OR TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT NEW PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL BARTZ OR CHIC DEMBACH AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RPCVS OFFICE -- (202) 462-5938

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

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NEWSLETTER POLICY
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, 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.
Dates to Note

Monday, Sept. 27 - 7:00 PM - Reception for Patricia Garamendi, Associate Director for Volunteer Recruitment and Selection for Peace Corps, at Memorial Union, Second Floor Lounge. She will present an Award of Recognition to us for our help in recruiting PCVs. More info elsewhere in this newsletter or call Jim Smith at 262-1121. (If the weather is bad, he'll leave a message on his answering machine to confirm the status of this event.)

Thursday, Oct. 7 - 7:00 PM - RPCVW General Meeting at Union South, 127 N. Randall St. Check "Today in the Union" posters for room number. Elections for next year's officers. If you can't make it, an election ballot can be found in this newsletter.

Sunday, Oct. 10 - 10:00 AM - Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee's, 5102 Coney Weston Place, off of Odana Rd.

Friday, Oct. 15 - Newsletter Deadline. Submit materials to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Saturday, Oct. 16 - 8 AM to about 4 PM - Habitat for Humanity work party. Work site is at the corner of Koster and Sundstrom, a couple blocks west of the Dane County Coliseum. (Many of us helped put in a culvert at this site during our last work party.)

Saturday, Oct. 23 - 10:00 AM on - Board Meeting of RPCVs of WI - Madison at Room 240, Ag Hall on UW Campus. Park in Lot 34. We will probably work through lunch, so bring some money. All members are welcome and your input will be greatly appreciated.

Friday, Oct. 29 - 6:00 PM - Potluck Dinner, General Meeting and Halloween Party at La Casa de Deb Stapleton and Dave Atkinson, 2406 Sommers Ave. on East Side. Feel free to come in costume. Questions? Call Deb at 244-8609.

Sunday, Nov. 1 - Holiday Parade. If she gets some help and we're invited back, Rose Ann Scott will coordinate our participation. We'll probably assemble about 1 PM. More info next month.

Sunday, Nov. 14 - 10:00 AM - Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee's, 5102 Coney Weston Place, off of Odana Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 18 - Newsletter Deadline. Submit materials to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Monday, Dec. 6 - 7:00 PM - RPCVW General Meeting at Union South, 127 N. Randall St. Check "Today in the Union" posters for room number. Elections for next year's officers.

Sunday, Dec. 12 - 10:00 AM - Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee's, 5102 Coney Weston Place, off of Odana Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 16 - Newsletter Deadline. Submit materials to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.
UW / MADISON FALL CAMPAIGN
KICK-OFF

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
7:00PM-8:30PM
MEMORIAL UNION
(CHECK TITU)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
PATTI GARAMENDI
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
PEACE CORPS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN / MADISON WHO HAVE MADE UW / MADISON THE #1 SOURCE OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN THE NATION.
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PEACE CORPS, PATTI GARAMENDI WILL PRESENT AWARDS OF RECOGNITION AND SPEAK ABOUT PEACE CORPS' EFFORTS ABROAD, CURRENT GOALS, AND THE ROLE OF PEACE CORPS IN THE 90'S AND BEYOND.

SPECIAL GUESTS:
RICHARD BARRIOS, ASSOC. VICE CHANCELLOR-UW/MADISON
ROGER E. WYSE, DEAN-COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CHARLES DAMBACH, PRESIDENT & CEO-NAT'L PEACE CORPS ASSOC.

RSVP BY SEPT. 22 TO JIM SMITH, 608-262-1121

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Peace Corps Representatives will be visiting the UW / Madison campus September 28th-30th. Please call the minneapolis Recruitment Office if you will be able to assist at any of the following events:

Information Tables: 9:00 am-4:00 pm Film Seminars
Education Science Bldg., Sept. 28th Union South, Sept. 28-29th, 1:00 pm
Nolan Zoology Bldg., Sept. 29th Memorial Union, Sept. 29-30th, 6:00 pm
Union South, Sept. 29th and 30th
Memorial Union, Sept. 30th

If you are able to help, contact one of the following Recruiters by Sept. 25th:
Shayne LaBudda, Nancy Miller, or Chris Adams. Call 1-800-328-8282.
Habitat for Humanity: (1) Our second workday will be on Oct. 16, 1993. The worksite will be on the corner of Koster and Sundstrom, west of the Dane County Coliseum. (Many of us put in a culvert at this site during our last work party.) I assume we'll park on the street around the site, but car pooling would help as there are not many good spaces off of people's lawns. Remember, we're supposed to start at 8 AM (except for Gordon who has a special exemption from the Gov.), and we should show up a few minutes early to get organized. Feel free to bring your own tools. Label them or risk losing them, which happened to my $3 shovel. If you have not turned in an Emergency Contact form, contact Dave Wakeley to take care of this issue before showing up to work. Join us for a day of hard but enjoyable work and good camaraderie. It's as close as we can get to repeating our PC experiences in Madison! (2) The Tibetan Resettlement Project returned our donation to us as they no longer needed it! After balancing the account, we have $195 left. I move that we donate it to Dane County Habitat for Humanity once we get specific information on how to make the donation. No objections were raised at the last meeting. If passed, it would be nice if we could present the check at the work party.

Freeze for Food: We run this event in January, but it's time to start planning now. Deb Stapleton and Lori Merriam will help organize, but they would like a volunteer to help with publicity. We've done this 10 or 11 times, so much of the work is already laid out. This would be a good chance for interested newcomers to start working with us (and learn just how much fun we really are). If interested, call Deb (244-8609) or Lori (257-2271).

Other Jobs: Helene Pesche is trying to get help running our Parent's Brunch in April since she is back in school part-time. She presented some of the considerations involved in this position in the last newsletter. However, this is another task where most of the details have been worked out over several years, and Helene will work with a new person in putting on the next Parent's Brunch. Again, a good opportunity for a new member to contribute without getting too deeply committed at the start, although we expect you to handle the event on your own in the future. If interested, contact Helene (238-2792). We're also looking for someone to coordinate the production of our Calendar. This position requires considerable attention to detail and a fair amount of paper work and phone calling. Contact Henry Nehls-Lowe (835-5978) for more details.

I know the newsletter has been very businesslike (i.e., dry) recently. That's occurred largely because we're involved in many activities, and I, for one, believe in informing you about what we're doing and why we're doing it. Over the past year I've had to deal with many details involved in putting these activities, primarily the calendar, on a sounder basis at the expense of other important areas, primarily contacts with other RPCV groups in this area. It's been fun; it's been frustrating; it's worked out well because I enjoy detail work more than personal contacts. But it's time for new ideas, new approaches, new philosophies. Thanks to all of you. Your willingness to help when needed made it possible for me to do my job. I'll still be active, but I'm not sure in what capacity yet. We're fortunate to have extremely competent people taking over, but they still need your support.

nearby Deadwood Halt
RPCVs of Wisconsin Membership Update:

**New Members**
1/94  GARTIES, Peggy  
Home: 257-6979  
709 South Baldwin Street, Madison, WI 53703  
Work: Zaire 1985-87

**Address Change**
1/94  NORTON, Nancy  
Home: 257-6727  
1017 Lawrence, Madison, WI 53715  
Work: Ecuador 1988-91

1/94  PEACOCK, Carolyn  
Home: 616/698-2237  
4634 North Breton Court SE #117, Kentwood, MI 49508  
Work: Benin 1987-89

1/94  SMITH, Jim  
Home: **257-8972**  
633 N. Frances St., Madison, WI  
Work: 608/262-1121  
Liberia 1987-90

1/94  MOSS, Sandy  
Home: 246-9605  
Address will remain: 116 Ohio Avenue, Madison, WI 53704  
Work: 263-4340  
Papua New Guinea 1988-90

OTT, Mary Grace  
Correct Home Phone Number: 608/445-1426

**Member Renewals**
Tony Hoyt (exp. 8/94); David & Judy Figi (exp. 8/94); Jesse and Julia Zimpel (exp. 9/94)

HELP! Does anyone have current address information for the following members:
Ruth and Lowell Baltz, Mary Conklin or Duncan Chaplin...

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**CALENDARS FOR SALE**

**POSTCARDS FOR SALE**

The RPCVs of Wisconsin/Madison have Calendars and Postcards for sale. One of the benefits of membership in the Madison RPCVs is the privilege of buying Calendars at special prices.

Members may buy Calendars for $5.00 each through the end of the sales year. Others may purchase 12 copies for $6.50 each.

Postcards are available at $3.00 per 12 pack. Each pack of 12 contains 4 copies of 3 images from the current and past Calendars.

*The prices and shipping charges listed are for orders of 1 through 12 copies of the Calendar and 1 through 12 packs of the Postcards. Call Kevin Nies (608)849-8364 for bulk order information.

Make Checks Payable To:  
RPCVs OF WI/MADISON

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Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin/Madison
Gen'l Mtg. 8 Sept. 1993
Back. 16 Sept 93
(Rosh Hashana (J) / Day of Atonement: For forgiveness from those wronged)
22 were present, including 3 new folks, all fresh back-Eric and Sue from Lesotho, and Jim from Equatorial Guinea. (Both of these African countries the Calendar has made the Sec. want to visit, along with Cameroon and Ethiopia.) We all introduced ourselves with an answer to "At what point did you realize that you had adjusted to your new country?" Our favorite answer was Rose Ann’s (of Sierra Leone), who said it was when she was invited to join the (secret) women’s Bandu Society. But a prerequisite was a clitorectomy, so she declined, with polite regrets. (Mias Manners would have been so proud.)

Money: We have $911, thus: Operating 1158, Saving 5, Global Ed 1906. Cal.Giftsaway unsent 126, Cal.Contingency 1705, Cal.Unallocated 2174. (And see late-breaking “Remarkable Honesty,” below. And Yikes: I haven’t my orig. papers here, but these don’t add up right. I’ve erred somewhat.)

Membership: Walt and Sandy will call a meeting soon to discuss new membership, esp. on better introducing new members to our group, and other topics. Call Walt (679-5257).

Speakers Bureau: This is just Jim at present, serving his own needs as Campus Recruiter. He urges others to join him, and bend the Bureau to other ends. (255-5702). He thereupon recruited us, for recruiting ends, to staff tables etc. for the PC Fall Recruitment Drive at the UW, and for other events. We all signed up. (And see below, for our “Big Honor (with Food).”)

Habitat For Humanity: Dave queried if we wanted to do another Saturday of house-building. We said AYE, and picked Sat, 16 Oct. Pencil this in.

Remarkable Honesty (via Buck): Among our Calendar Giftsaway donations was an “equal share” of $235 to the Tibetan Resettlement Project. Buck called them, sending the mailing address. Skip Kinsey told him that they had brought over all the Tibetan heads of household (86), all had jobs and were settled in, most had already repaid their loans, and the Project had $2000 or so as a cushion for emergencies. Ergo, they did not really need the money, and they suggested that, since all our gifts were hard-earned, it might be better if we gave this one to a more needy group. What a bunch: they walk in the light of good karmas, surely. (And see “Tibetan Party,” below.)

Walt suggested that we assign this gift to Habitat For Humanity. (And if we give $195 instead of $235, our Giftsaway donations will be a round number.) This will be formally discussed at the Oct. mtg.

Calendar (Jon): 3000 sold so far, with orders for another 1000 coming in very soon, and others hard on their heels. We’re doing fine.

Lori Merrian in Monoch for Madison Sales, with John Clark. (Applause.)

(for more Calendar News, see the Steering Committee report, elsewhere.)

Global Ed. and Cal. in the schools (Walt): We discussed trying out a pilot project, working with FTAs in various schools to sell and use the Calendar. The San Diego group, with Rudy Suvine, is doing this for the second year, and FTAs are a whole new market niche for us. Teachers could use the Calendar as a teaching aid in the schools (individual teachers are already doing this—we get warm letters telling us so), we could send in guest speakers if asked, and the FTAs could sell the Calendars to raise money for their projects and programs. The Cal. Steering Committee realized that if we’re going to help other PC groups do this, we should try it ourselves, and know what’s involved. So, the topic was raised, both to explore the implications, and to see if anyone was interested in developing it.

The discussion focused on sales of Cal. by FTAs through schoolkids, and brought out several important points: (1) in some schools (eg, Lori’s own, where she teaches art), the kids produce their own products to sell (even a calendar!); in such schools, they’d have no interest in selling our Cal. (2) In schools which market for income others’ products (eg, magazines or candy), the schools get an entire professional package of forms, guidance, etc. These programs are very well-evolved, and well-connived to use kids with few resulting hassles or mistakes. A very important example is that the kids make only one visit, to sell the product and take orders; the Company takes over from there. We’d have to be just as professional and canny. (It could be done, surely, but we’d have to work out the details.) (3) The kids don’t do this for love of their PCF alone; they get Prizes for massive sales. We’d have to offer the same. Our minds went blank at this problem—a weekend in the CAR, perhaps? (But see Cal Steering Comm. report elsewhere, for later thoughts, though still very tentative.)

Nominations (Dave): See elsewhere for the Slate. Personally, I think it is a wonderful slate, and we are getting a Good Deal—3 superb people working together as Pres and VP—and we are going to have a wonderful year. I hope at our Winter Retreat we get a Hexagram that’s as fine. The last nomination to acquire to fill the slate was for a Director. This, too, was resolved, after-and-forego (several hustled after this low-responsibility, important-looking job, no doubt for their resumes!).

Tibetan Party Invitation: The Tibetan Resettlement Project is having a party, and we’re invited because they love us. It’s Sunday, 28 Sept. 2-4:30 (no other nights for these guys; they’re infused with the Tibetan Work Ethic), with scrumptious food (so-mos, etc.). Call Renata Jensen for the address—it slipped by their proofreader—at 238-8401. Come! Tibetans are lovely.

Quartermaster: For years, Buck has urged that one of the VP’s (tiny) duties be to act as Quartermaster, and know where our Stuff is. None have ever paid attention. We own a Volleyball and net, an exquisite Banner, and a Slide Library. Rose Ann has the Ball and the Banner, Henry has all the Slides, but who has the Net?

Santa Parade (around the Square in late Nov., to validate that Shopping Begins in the new style of Mall Holidays): Rose Ann sorts agreed to sign us up for this again. Last year was frigid, and we were all wearing tropical garb, and felt foolishly near death (except for a few canny folk from Muslim countries, where layered clothing is normal). This year we need hidden longjohns and flashes of rum. But let’s do it, for the Parade—all the students clapped for Peace Corps; we are well-loved!

Rose Ann (241-0645) also offers Flags of your Countries: she has a catalog, and they are not very expensive—depends on size, of course.

Willy St. Fair (the 60s/70s live on): Gordon will sign us up, and he enlisted table-sitters.

Parental Brunch: Helen wants to be replaced by a new leader (her life has gotten delicately complicated). It’s a straightforward job in the Spring. All the details are easy, after so many years. Call her. 238-2722.

Big Honor (with Food) (Jim Smith): We’re each and all invited to an on-campus Appreciation Party with Official Trappings to honor the UW, and our group, and all resident PCVs. UW/Madison has provided a very High Number of PCVs; better than any other university anywhere. This Appreciation Ceremony begins the Fall PC Recruitment Drive here. You’ll each get a personal invitation, if your address is known to PC’s Gray (?!?) mainframe. 27 Sept. Memorial Union. Yes, no physical invitation needed: Just show up. I’ll be the one in the tutu, but barefoot.
November Potluck Meeting: Our meetings are (almost) always in the month’s first week, but cycle through the weekdays, so no one is excluded from every meeting. And it’s a Friday for a meeting, which features a Potluck and less Business Curra than normal. November’s msg. will be on Friday 20 Oct (sic) at Deb and Dave (Stapleton’s), and will also be a Halloween Party. If you need a theme, come as both your parents, but if pressed, come as yourself, which will be scary enough. 6:00 food, 7:30 or so msg; 2460 Sommers Ave. Madison (Near East Side, where the spooks live), 244-8609.

Freeze For Food 10K Run: This has been an annual event in January since our Vey Beginning, honed by Wade Dallagrange, then Deb Stapleton, and now Gerry Anshaure/Baits. It calls out true-hearted (or insane) runners from all over the Midwest, and we never cancel, no matter how frigid the weather; we are a Tradition. Gerry said he wants to be replaced. The response was dandy: Deb and Lori will honcha, and Dave and Julie will help; these are all signing up for Logistics. Needed is someone to do PR—send notices to the runners’ journals, newspapers, etc. Call Deb 244-8609 or Lori 257-2271 for PR, or for smaller jobs.

And that was it: done by 9:10. We felt so proud. And thirsty—we adjourned to the Red Oak Grill, and sat outside, denying Autumn and smoking cigarettes, until much later. But this conversation is Secret.

--La: Buck.

Calendar Steering Committee
Sun., 12 Sept. 1993

We met a Barb Chatterjee’s house; present were Barb, Henry, Jim, Julie, Kevin, Buck, Don, Walt, and Lori. We met from 10am to 12.

The Printer’s Bill (via Henry) will be paid, with holdout queries on a few inadequately documented items. And the Minutes from last time are OK.

Cal. Marketing (Don), for 15,000 print run, w/ c.1500 to Not-Sell. We’re going fine. Shipped and billed—3000 cal. Upcoming orders—2000.

(PC/Minn.): RealGood (owners of EarthCare); Nat’l Council; Johns Hopkins U.; Vision Works. And other PC/regions are ordering.

Balance Sheet: all bills paid except Printer (Litho); assets after Printer, c.22,850. We are in good shape.

Marketing: In Madison: Lori will honcha, w/ Jim Click, and Don and Kevin. Out of Madison: Kevin. Don’s drafted a letter to go out to past bulk-order buyers, urging them to repeat. [A/Y, do it.]

Labor Division, for 95 Cal.: Don will be the Order Node, and will handle invoices and oversee fulfillment. (He looks forward to replacement.) Kevin will handle Outside-Madison Marketing. Lori for In-Madison. Peter will keep the books.

Henry wants to be just Photo Editor (not, also, Maximum Leader, as now). We must seek and recruit a Production Manager (the other half of Maximum Leader). Bob Cowell would be dandy, if he’ll accept; Henry will brace him.

Buck (Text Editor) and Julie (Graphics) are happy w/ their jobs. Letterhead Stationery: the design is fine, and we’ll print a reprint.

(Henry, Julie, Lori.)

The Cal. Brochure will be revised to include Post Card prices. With each order, we’ll include a brochure, and 3 sample PostCards.

Order Fulfillment Evenings will be scheduled, in the Newsletter. Prob. each Wed, while demand is high. At Gordon’s, with beer. Come!

“WorldView” Ad: It’s past time to get this in. Henry will lead (w/ Lori, Julie, Sue Zimmer maybe). A full-page ad, on inside back cover this year. (Outside-Bulk would have been ideal; a flow-chart goof-up, to learn

Calendar Contest: a nat’l calendar marketing association sponsors this, and Buck thinks we could pick up a Big Prize. He’ll enter us (unless we have to join the Asso. for excessive dues.)

Donated Calendars for PC: Buck wants us to give calis to PC Photo-Countries (to the in-country PC Office, w/ distribution to serving PCWs). All paid A/Y, and said give them as well to all in-country PC offices. (As a gift, and as a way to prompt serving PCWs to send us dandy photos.) Buck will draft fancy-and-coaing letters, and we’ll give approximately these: to active PC-Photo-Countries—10, w/ 1 to the relevant Home Secretary (and 1 to the PC/DC desk officer); 3 to all other active PC in-country offices; done to PC/DC.

Total of c.400 cal. (This amount was budgeted for in our Donated Calendars category, when we were first laying out the 94 print run. We’re so clever.)

The whole bundle will be shipped to PC/DC, where our member Cathy Marona, new desk officer for PC/IMG, will distribute them and make sure they get in the proper pouches; we’ll have no overseas shipping costs at all.

Re. Global Education matters, and Judy Sovines’ “One World” project: As the Minutes for Sept. make clear, this seems a big, even ify, project for our own Madison group to undertake. We’ll not do it unless someone agrees to do the initial exploration. Working with local FTAs would be an independent spin-off. For now, we will (lategorically) gather info.

95 Cal production: Henry is talking with Sue Zimmer, our Typesetter, re. smoother interaction; and he’s scoping out previous printer tasks that can be sub-contracted out. And Henry’s already thinking away re. Photos. One Nifty Idea—the “Peace Corps Times” has quarterly Photo Contests. We should get involved, because these are generally very good photographers, whom we should court. All said A/Y that we’ll give 1 Cal. to each entrant, and in the accompanying letter encourage each to send us dandy photos.

Henry has been approached to act as a Photo-Broker! (A future goodwill spin-off career.) He’s happy to do this, and will charge the standard commissions, with proceeds to the Calendar (us). (He’ll not exceed our IRS non-profit limits.) This is lovely—another service for our photographers, whom we years to pamper.

Ownership of creative work: It was obvious to us, and we agreed right away in principal, that each contributor owns the original copyright to her work (photographs, graphics, text). If, eg, Julie can sell rights to her border graphics, we applaud. We should draft up a formal understanding regarding this, to send all contributors.

And that was that. All done by noon, and refreshed to boot.
Forum

America’s Diversity Challenge

by George A. Drake ’56

Sue and I have been Peace Corps volunteers for more than a year in Lesotho, an island engulfed by South Africa. We travel to South Africa, listen to South African radio, and read South African newspapers. Reluctantly, I have concluded that the immediate future is not as bright as I had hoped a year ago when 67 percent of the whites voted to support the referendum on majority rule.

I am moved to reflect on our society, using my newly minted perspective on South Africa as a backdrop.

The United States has the potential to defy the odds and become a truly successful multicultural democracy. This challenge is even more important than the threat of global economic competition, but not unrelated to it. If we succeed as a multicultural society, our productivity will burgeon.

Living in all-black Lesotho and in close proximity to South Africa has increased my sensitivity to the racism that infects virtually all of us to one degree or another. It’s dawning on us that the majority Euro-American population will become but one among many minority groups early in the next century.

I first heard the expression “Euro-American” in conversations with Grinnell College students in 1989, and it gave me a jolt. It bluntly projects the notion that we who think of ourselves as the heart and soul of America are just another cultural group. At present, the sincere drive to increase minority involvement among students, faculty, and administration is an extension of noblesse oblige: what we can give to them. How will we “right thinking” liberals react if and when we become the minority and the welcome no longer is ours to extend?

This phenomenon has been experienced in cities such as Miami, which has become so Hispanic that it is difficult to function there without Spanish. I admire the Anglos who have resisted the temptation to flee Dade County, staying to play their role as a minority in a fully multicultural community.

Our own response not only will test our tolerance but also plumb our intelligence and imagination. American social democracy does work for the educated. Immigrant group after immigrant group has shared in the American dream through education and hard work. The only group for whom this appears not to have happened are the descendants of our society’s former slaves: the blacks of the inner city.

For this multicultural society to be a true democracy, we must overcome this exception.

Daunting as our future is, I cannot help reflecting on our advantages in comparison to South Africa. The European settlers in North America totally overwhelmed the indigenous populations. In a very real sense, we “got away” with our injustices because of huge demographic as well as technological advantages.

That didn’t happen in South Africa where the whites are outnumbered 5 to 1. What would U.S. history have been like had the Indians and freed slaves outnumbered the whites 5 to 1? If the whites’ technological and hence military advantage were as great as that of the white South Africans, would the histories of our countries have diverged significantly? Perhaps we might not have hit upon a racist structure as elaborate as apartheid, but I fear our racism would not have been significantly less virulent.

Our history has given us breathing space. The white slide into minority status is slower and far less dramatic than in South Africa. We have the time to grow with the developing multicultural challenge. Our diversity has been a source of strength and there is every reason to suppose that we will continue to be enriched as diversity grows.

Recently, Los Angeles Times columnist William Pfaff warned of the danger that our country may lose “its dynamic center, its integrative culture and tradition.” This is an overly Euro-centric reaction. We are already multicultural; sharing certain constitutional principles but interacting from increasingly diverse cultural perspectives.

Now is the time to embrace that reality and to grow into its riches.

George ’56 and Susan Ratcliff ’58 Drake are serving in the Peace Corps in Lesotho, South Africa, where Sue instructs elementary teachers and George teaches English at a girl’s school. Drake’s opinion first appeared in The Des Moines Sunday Register.
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