President's Message

Cuddles the Bear saw faint blue light coming over the log beside which he had fallen asleep. Slowly he began to wake up. Today was the RBPCV meeting, he remembered. What pleasure it gave him to go over his experiences in the Peace Corps, and now with the Returned Bears. How they loved to exchange stories of the colorful, quaint humans they met down in the valley. How nice and friendly the humans were, and how delicious what they ate. Far from what some bears thought, the conquering of the forest by humans with various excuses for shooting bears was almost gone as an issue.

What pleasure it had been, in his years as a volunteer, to go up to the cars on Highway 212 and communicate with the occupants; the fine ethnic goodies they gave him - sausages, bread, chicken, grapes. He had had to tell a few who got out of their cars to go back into them, for their own protection. He couldn't deny that the bear culture had thought of humans as trespassers, not as fellow animals that could be trusted in the forest. Nor could he deny that anarchy, within a certain traditional structure, was still the rule in his forest; nor that for centuries humans had tried to colonialize his forest, and some still wanted to turn it into a tree plantation. He had been very careful not to tell his human friends that, despite his black color and medium build, he was a grizzly. The anguish came back as he recalled how some of his more old-fashioned sisters and brothers, who didn't yet know the pleasures of the hot dog and corn chip, still would run like hell from humans when they came near, or maul them if surprised up close.

Yes, the Bear Peace Corps was quite a challenge. And making something out of being a Returned Bear Peace Corps Volunteer was now a challenge. The RBPCV Calendar, with pictures of interesting things in forests around the world, was selling well. Warm, fuzzy bears loved to look at pictures of different beehives, and pictures of people handing out samosas, rice chips, and tortillas really got them thinking constructively about intermammal relations.

Tonight's meeting would be great fun, as was the RBPCV salmon fishing expedition last month. He groaned as he rolled over. Bears in the RBPCVs seemed to enjoy their own company more than that of other bears. Maybe they should contact returned bear peace-corps-equivalent groups in other forests around the world, with which they'd have a lot in common. He was getting more idealistic and sleepy at the same time. He might make easy friends as a traveler in their forests. With visions of Japanese beer and pesto-flavored pasta dancing in his sub-conscious, he passed out, and didn't wake again until he thought he smelled some honey.

Conrad Weiffenbach
Officer & Committees:

President: Lori Merriam 257-2271
Vice President: Conrad Weifenbach 251-5140
Secretary: Buck Trawicky 241-2392
Treasurer: Peter Joyce 251-9405
Deadwood: Walt Zeltner 873-5257
Agent: Gordon Malaise 255-3261
Freeze for Food: Deb Stapleton 244-8609, Lori Merriam 257-2271
Family Brunch: Shelly Goedken 259-1125
Speakers Bureau: James Gultry 238-0276
Global Education: Dave Wakeley 255-1339
Internal Education: """
Calendar:
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- Graphics: Julie Olsen 242-1355
- Distribution: Don Sauer 244-3732
- Steering Committee: Barbara Chatterjee 271-2405
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Social: Sharon Lewandowski 241-2392
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- Editor: Gordon Malaise 255-3261
- Labels: Susan Mendrysa 259-1125
Property Librarian: """
Historian: """
Adventure:
- Buck Trawicky 241-2392
Campus Recruiter:
- Erik Jensen 262-1121
Room 240, Agriculture Hall
Mon. 9:00 11:00
Tues. 9:00 11:00
Wed. 9:00 11:00
Thurs. 10:00 2:00

NEXT MEETING:
Monday, August 7, 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Union.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:
Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m.
Union South, 127 N. Randall St.

Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.
Union South, 127 N. Randall St.

Editor's Corner

DATES TO NOTE

Monday, August 7, 7:00 p.m., General Meeting at Memorial Union. Adjourn to the Terrace afterwards.

Sunday, August 13, 10:00 a.m., Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee's house, 5102 Coney Weston Place. NOTE: Change of date and place as Peter is moving. All are welcome. 271-2405.

Friday to Sunday, August 18 to 20, Pig Roast at Mike and Marcy Reed's place. See elsewhere in this issue for directions and details. Call Don Sauer at 244-3732 or Mike and Marcy at 635-2161 for more information.

Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3, Canoe Trip down the Wisconsin. See elsewhere in this issue for details. Call Henry Nehls-Lowe at 835-5976 for more information.

Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m., General Meeting at Union South.

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

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.
RETURNED PRACK CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF WISCONSIN / MADISON

General Meeting of 7 July 95
Potluck at Sophia Zermuehlen's: 6:00--rather late.
(With extraneous After-Action Comments.)
(Which the Secretary hopes you read.)

Oh, what a dandy meeting!
Lori presided, and we did the bare minimum. So the Secretary has room
for blather of the gossip column sort.

This was a Friday Potluck meeting. As our Tradition prescribes, our
monthly meeting days move: we rotate through the weekdays of the month's
first week. July was a 5th month, and time for a Friday potluck meeting, this
time at Sophia Zermuehlen's.

(The next one will be in December -- and we need a Host.
(Though we could combine the Xmas Party and the Meeting (see below),
meaning do it at Sophia's, if she'll have us.
(But I think we always need more parties, not fewer, so perhaps we
should have an Xmas Party and a Potluck Meeting, both.)

Jeepers, this was a nice evening. Previously, we'd only seen Sophia's
house at the Christmas Gift-Exchange and Greed-Manifestation, when all is
snowy. This time, we partied in the sunny back yard, and saw all in a new
light. We realized that Sophia has a tennis court behind her property line.
And that she has a super garden, and an amiable outdoors. Indeed, she's now
on our list of desirable back yards.

(Speaking of which, we need invitations to more UW backyards. We really
miss Donna Shalala, who each summer made us welcome in her UW Muckity Muck
Housing.

So, for our party lots of people brought lots of good dishes for the
table, and drinks for the cooler. We lounged outside as long as we and the
daylight let us. We saw persons long missed, and others never before met. We
were charmed by our own children (who then broke the hammock). The
conversation was high-spirited and high-hearted. And we didn't wanna come
inside: the delight of these party-mad northern summer nights is that the
evening lasts so long. As here. (And in Iceland.)


1 Sophia is a very considerate re-cycler, and also a very canny worker:
I think her quite German.

She made us rinse, and wash the labels off, each of our returnable
bottles (whereas I've always plunked them back in the 8-pack); but she also
provided a big basin to do this in, and the empty cases. So, for any one
person, this was just a random chore in the evening, yet all was neat at
night's end.
So we met outside. Here are the MINUTES:
Over 34 were present (counting all sentient beings, except plants).
We got a Calendar report -- nothing deathless. (*But see below, for "Hero of the Month.")
And info on the Austin Conference, but only about 3 people are going.
(Yikes! Shame on us all, including the Secretary.)
Don has retired from Calendar Distribution Manager to Party Meister, a fulfilling role. He made these announcements of purely celebratory events:
1) 22 July, at Mary Grace and Don's, 22 July: you missed it if you weren't there.
2) The Pig Roast, Aug 20th wkdnd. (Call Don, 244-3732.)
2) the Canoe Trip (c/o Henry Nehls-Ott, 835-5976); 2-3 Sept, Labor Day wkdnd.
(Yikes! Our August Meeting will not be in Union South. We neglected to get recognized as a Student Organization. Shame on us.
Barbara Chatterjee spoke about Conference on Ethics; also on a Photo Exhibit. Call her: 267-7174.
Terry told us of a South American he knows, soon to come live among us. Named Hector. Terry will provide him initial housing (sleeping bag space). Terry will recruit householders again, at our next meeting. Short-term housing is the finest gift our group can offer.

The End. We were done in about 30 minutes, which must be a record. (All Praise to Lori.)

Then we had a slide presentation by Mike Boehm, who's very patient. (It took forever to lure the guffers indoors.) Mike told us about Vietnam Topics. He illustrated a Gramin-type rural women's bank in Vietnam (to which we should make a future donation), AND gave a report on the Vietnam Peace Park (with Dove Effigy), for which we made a donation. Both were openheartedly done; we approved, and we liked his company, and his work.

THANKS, IN DETAIL, TO
CATHY MARONA, a Local Hero:

We annually give away some calendars to Peace Corps, to distribute among the in-country PCVs. (3 to any active PC country, but 10 to any country whose Photo got picked for that year. And for these, we ask that the Director give one to the Home Secretary, with our compliments.) With each packet, we send a cover letter, urging the serving PCVs to send us slides. (And, on his own, Buck urges Nepal PCVs to come to Madison, or Bisbee.)

PC/DC is our ally in this. These packets to the in-country Directors go by the Pouch, so we only have to send them to PC/DC. (This is an important cooperation: imagine overseas air-freight costs by normal PO rates! -- we'd shrink from making this gift, because mail would cost more than the Calendars do, which is c.$2.50 apiece.).

Cathy Marona is an enormous help in this. Cathy's the PC Desk Officer for Papua New Guinea, and also our Calendar colleague. She's a member of our group, forced by success to move to DC. We're sending her over 400 cal's, and she's poised to trundle them to the various desks, and hand them over as listed; we also gave her about 70 extra, to hand out as largesse, at her discretion. (And thus do our friends succeed in the institutional world.)
PIG ROAST
Sat-Sun 19-20 August 1965

This is one of our top 15 traditions, dating back to before we were even incorporated.

We met at the Read's farm. For the full experience come on Saturday afternoon, and plan to camp out overnight. Bring potluck goodies for Saturday supper, and for Sunday, too. One of us brings a big pot o' chili, and we sit about the fire until very late, telling stories. The kids get to play with fire all weekend, under supervision (sorta). We are awakened early by the kids, and a few good souls cook a superb breakfast for us all, and push coffee. One of the early arrivals brings the New York Times. The day is spent in games (volleyball, croquet, basketball), birdwatching, and talk; the main potluck meal happens at about 1 p.m. Meat is there in abundance, and beer and soda, and eating equipment. The last folks leave at sunset.

Meat types have varied: the first Pig Roast was just that, a carcass on a spit over a fire in a pit, turned all night in the drizzle by stalwarts. We then moved up to the luau method, burying a well-wrapped porker in a fire pit for next-day exhumation. But, alas, we always had too much left-over meat. We then experimented with beef slabs on grills. This produced little waste, though it's sorta conventional—positively Cro-Magnon (if you grant them metallurgy). One year we ate Mike's dairy herd. This year's style is still undecided; perhaps we'll have little organic piglets, stuffed with bunnies, stuffed with hummingbirds. Others want tofu mold.

Cost is enough to approximately cover expenses: c.$5/adult, a few bucks for kids; the beer-drinkers take up periodic collections. If you come Saturday, bring a snack for supper, and camping gear. For Sunday, bring a dish for the potluck, and any favorite games. And we seek a volunteer to bring out the NY Times for breakfast.
The Annual Canoe Trip - 1995: Children on the Loose on the River

We will return to the Wisconsin River, to the peaceful and beautiful run from Spring Green to Gotham. Everyone is welcome as the intinerary is planned for children of all ages. The schedule will be one of serious leisure, with many unscheduled stops for swimming, snacking, exploring, fishing, splashing, lemonade, cloud watching, wading, pranks, gnoshing, beach games, eating, minnow chasing, special treats, campfires, dreaming, and, of course, feasting. There are very few requirements: everyone wears a life jacket when in or on the water (yes, Uncle Buck, you should set an example); and no throwing sand (though the rule book says this doesn't include sandwiches).

We will embark on Saturday, September 2nd (Labor Day) and spend the night on the river. Please let me know if you plan come no later than August 25th so I can arrange canoe rentals (I may need a deposit if you want to rent a canoe). Assistance is needed with the shuttle, so let me know if you plan to drive and can carry some canoes on top of your car. My phone is 835-5976.

Henry Nehls-Lowe

HELP NEEDED FOR MADISON SELLING SEASON

Meet the neighbors. Get to know some of Madison's nicest shopkeepers, and promote the goals of Peace Corps too. Our International Calendar needs some help in getting into local (Madison) stores this fall. We already have a list of stores that have been delighted to sell it in years past.

So we are looking for members and friends of Madison's RPCV group to help in these ways: (1) Join the "team" and work with 1 or 2 stores--arranging to have the calendars placed there, checking back to see if more are needed, and answer other questions; (2) Become our local "sales manager" to keep track of the contacts made by the team and provide back up for its members; and (3) In some cases, collect calendar sales money and turn it in to the RPCV-WI/Mad Calendar accountant.

It's really a pretty easy task and can be fun. So please call Kevin Nies ((608) 849-8364--He'd really like to hear from you.
Now that the 1996 Calendar is printed, boxed, and stored in Gordon’s garage, I can catch my breath and take a moment to express my appreciation to the Group for allowing me to lead the production of the International Calendar for the last five years. This is a remarkable project to be involved with, but it is time for me to step aside, as I need to spend more time with my family and other things that I have neglected. I have learned so much from this project and will miss it. The Calendar is the product of many talented people whom I am honored to have worked with and come to know as friends. I hope that you have seen the 1996 Calendar...we are all very pleased with it and are hearing very kind compliments from all corners of the earth. In case you haven’t heard, Jim Good has agreed to step back into the shoes of Maximum Leader after a five-year hiatus. Again, thank you such a special opportunity.

Henry Nehls-Lowe

CALENDAR STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting of 12 July 95

We, diligent folk, met for our monthly Do at Peter Joyce’s. This was mostly a make-sure-work-is-done meeting, so the statutory minutes can be brief.

We discussed these matters, and took care of them with nothing notable:
- Marketing to Large Outlets (Kevin honored).
- Distribution of gift-calendars to the schools, come the Fall. [A task for all of us -- though we need a funnel-person.]
- Local Sales [Jo and others; @ $7.50 on consignment; at regular rates if pay-in-advance].
- An updated Brochure. [done, via Barbara Chatterjee et al.]
- Ad Designer needed. [Barbara C will do this, using old ads on file w/ our Susan Our Typesetter; Marketers will handle actual arrangements.]
- Our Calendar phone credit-card numbers (OK so far). Ditto, for Sales and Collections for 55Cal. [And no one’s “slamming” us, Happily.]
- Donations Recipients: Buck produced an acceptable boilerplate letter saying “Thank us, in detail, or be forgotten.” Buck, speaking for the Research Department, wants to buy a holiday book ($48; very excellent) -- approved.
- A FCV in Cameroon wants us to consider supporting a Scholarship Fund for schoolgirls in Cameroon; Buck was impressed, and will give all info to Helene Pesche. RFCV/Cameroon, to check out.
- Jim Good, and Laura too, will do the work of Photo Mervin for the 1997 Calendar and beyond! (This is Hot News, and a cause of Great Rejoicing.)

In future, our Meetings will alternate between Sundays and weekdays; the next one is Sun., 13 August, 10 am, Barbara Chatterjee’s, at 5102 Coney Weston on the West Side.

We’ll make sure that more of our Letterhead Stationery gets printed.

(Accounting Software: Drat -- this should not still be a Hot Topic; it should long ago have become a boxed topic. Shame on us. Instead, we’re still chipping away at this cliff face.

Buck worries about our group’s Money Market Account, with some of the money in commercial paper. But it’s his job to articulate this, and scare other people.)

The End.

Buck.
Peace Corps rushes to fill Soviet void

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (AP) — When Lorel Donaghey was assigned to the new Peace Corps program in Uzbekistan, the first thing she did was crack open an atlas.

"I'd never heard of it, but it sounded incredibly exotic," Ms. Donaghey said about the Central Asian nation that gained independence when the Soviet Union collapsed.

"All I could imagine was Genghis Khan riding across the plains chopping off heads, caravans on the old Silk Road and cool guys wearing turbans," said Donaghey, who is from Trenton, Texas.

But the sense of romance soon turned to bewilderment and frustration after the first batch of Peace Corps volunteers arrived in December 1992 to discover a hastily arranged program plagued by problems and unsafe conditions.

Traditional Peace Corps work, such as digging wells in African villages, had not prepared the organization for an entirely different set of challenges in the industrialized cities of the former Soviet Union, and several such programs have had start-up difficulties.

Of the initial 54 volunteers in Uzbekistan, half quit during the first year, an exceptionally high attrition rate. The Uzbeks suspected the young Americans were spies, and kept some of them under surveillance.

Women volunteers were frequently harassed in the male-dominated Muslim nation, and at least two of the women in the first two groups were raped.

The volunteers also struggled to get by on a typical Peace Corps stipend of less than $100 a month, an adequate sum in many Third World nations, but a pitance in expensive Uzbek cities wracked by hyperinflation. Those sent to help businesses learn the ways of capitalism would be asked to dinner by Uzbeks — and a meal could eat up half their monthly allowance.

The troubled program also suffered from a lack of leadership as two Peace Corps directors came and went in the first 18 months.

Volunteers said they were prepared for personal hardship, which is part of the Peace Corps experience. But they were not expecting a disorganized administration unable initially to provide such basics as textbooks for English teachers.

"The biggest problem I had was with the Peace Corps bureaucracy," said Donaghey, a business adviser during her two-year stint that ended earlier this year. "That was harder than adjusting to the culture, learning the language or dealing with the harassment."

Since its launch under President Kennedy, the Peace Corps has sent young, idealistic Americans, many of them fresh out of college, to work in developing countries. It is widely viewed as a government program that works well, and there are now 6,500 volunteers in 93 countries, mostly in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

After the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, President Bush wanted the Peace Corps to move quickly into the region, and Secretary of State James Baker III announced there would be 300 volunteers in former Soviet republics by the end of 1992.

The tight deadline did not give Peace Corps administrators time to scout the cities where volunteers would be sent. Housing and work assignments, normally arranged months in advance, were done at the last minute.

When Peace Corps volunteers arrived by bus in the historic Silk Road city of Bukhara, they began making calls from public phones to try to find places to live and work.

"It was all very spur of the moment," said Laura Michalk of Ashland, Wis. "We spent a lot of time pounding the pavement."

All volunteers are now required to live with a local family rather than on their own, helping ground the Americans in the community.

The Peace Corps' plan was to teach business skills in countries getting their first taste of free enterprise. But volunteers said that often flopped because they were simply sent to outlying towns and told to work with businessmen, even though they barely spoke the language and had little or no business experience themselves.

"There were a lot of problems and some of the people were pretty miserable," said Rick Thomas, one of eight volunteers from the original group who stayed in Uzbekistan and found new jobs after completing their Peace Corps assignments in March, "But some of us stuck it out and learned to like the place."
Health center takes care of 4,000

By Gail Perry-Daniels
The Capital Times

Jason Robinson, a college student without health insurance, is typical of patients who find their way to the Madison Community Health Center.

Robinson, 24, came to the clinic last month when he started experiencing sharp pain in his ears. Having been dropped from his parents' insurance at age 22, he visited the community clinic.

Robinson said his visit was quick and painless. "The trip to the clinic cost less than a night out, which surprised me," Robinson said.

"The clinic made me feel safe again, knowing that I could afford the cost of visiting a doctor."

More than 4,000 people annually use the medical services at the Madison Community Health Center, 1133 Williamson St.

According to health center records, of the people who use the service, 65 percent are without insurance, 20 percent are on government assistance, 8 percent are on general assistance and 7 percent are privately insured.

"A lot of people would let themselves become sicker and seek help at an emergency room if the clinic services were not available," said Warren Kmiec, center director.

Patients who use the Madison Community Health Center are charged a sliding-scale fee, according to their income.

A typical visit to the clinic costs $80, but with city and charitable subsidies, patients pay only $26.

"We see a spectrum of illness here, including infections, flu, colds and people with AIDS infection," Kmiec said.

The center, founded in 1972, operates on a budget of $500,000 and employs 15, including a part-time physician and three physician assistants.

Much of the support for the center comes from the city of Madison's Community Service fund and the United Way. Ten percent of the center's budget is earned through direct fund-raising.

Working with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School's department of pediatrics, the health clinic offers health checks three times a week at the east-side office.

Also, working with the Wisconsin Women's Cancer Control Project, the center offers women 40 and older annual mammograms and exams.

For more information about the Madison Community Health Center, contact the offices at 255-0704.
Newsletter Subscription Information

All RPCVW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we would prefer that our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1.25 per month for each month through December), then pay for a full year membership at that time. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances.

You can also join the National Peace Corps Association through us by paying a further $20.00. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Association, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $__________________.
  ___ Individual - $15.00 for one year (or $1.25 per month to next January)
  ___ Joint - $20.00 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
  ___ Overseas Individual - $24.00
  ___ Overseas Joint - $29.00

☐ I am also enclosing $20.00 for membership in the National Peace Corps Association.
  ($27.50 for joint membership - two people with the same address)

☐ I do not want to join, but would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7.00
  ($15.00 for overseas) to cover the costs.

☐ I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address on your records.

Name: ___________________________ Country of Service: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ Service Dates: ___________________________
                        ___________________________ Home Telephone: ______________________
PC Job: ___________________________ Work Telephone: ______________________

Please make checks payable to RPCV's of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCV's of Wisconsin, Inc. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701

marked Attention Membership!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call Susan Mendrysa at 608/259-1125 most evenings and weekends,
Or try 608/263-9596 weekdays and ask for Susan.

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