Dear RPCV's,

I would like to take a minute to thank everyone. This group has really done a great job with all of the various activities throughout the year. It takes you to make this group successful. Also a special thank you to our newsletter editor Theresa, for pulling together the newsletter each and every single month even though her life has been just as crazy as the rest of ours. Also thank you for putting up with some of us who are always late in getting you the articles.

The September meeting brought back and brought in some RPCV graduate students from campus. It was nice to see some familiar faces and meet new people. If you know someone new in town, please encourage them to attend our meetings and events. Part of the discussion that evening was about the guidelines regarding the donations. The outcome of that discussion is to form a committee to review and develop the guidelines and put them in writing. If you are interested in participating in this discussion, please contact me at 249-3545.

September has been a busy month! The calendar packing party on September 15th was productive with around 20 people. Everyone had a great time and got the job done. Thank you Alan Weiner for letting us use your warehouse space.

The following night was the Harvest Moon Celebration, which was fun and exciting for those who were there. If you missed it, try to make it next year because it is totally worth the drive. Carl Stark's son shared his wisdom with me, that it is important to bring the directions with you to avoid getting lost and drive around the countryside trying to find the Ott's house. Thank you to Mary Grace and Dan Ott for holding this celebration at your lovely home.

Sunday was the Willie Street Fair. Many RPCV's signed up to sit at the booth and had a great time. We had a prefect location, under some lovely trees that kept us cool. A huge thank you to Troy for arranging this event, setting up and taking down the table, and getting all the volunteers organized. I believe it was a successful event and the exposure was good.

Our next meeting is Wednesday October 4th. We will be discussing the Halloween party, 40th Anniversary, the Christmas party, and of course the elections for new officers. If you have anything else for the agenda please contact me. On Friday Oct. 6th we will be gathering for a beer at the Rathskeller at 5pm. If it is nice weather we will be outside on the terrace and if it cold or rainy look for us inside. We will have the Peace Corp symbol lying on the table. Just come over and say hello. If you would like to be on the campus Listserv, please contact the new recruiter Jon Simon.

Well this is it for me. My year as President has come to an end. I can't believe how fast the year went by! It seems like only yesterday I was voted in. Thank you everyone for educating me on the way things are done in the group and making me feel welcome. A thank you to the officers Mai Ensmann, VP; Buck Trawicky, Sec; and Troy Rutter, Treas, for all of your hard work and dedication to the group. It made my job much easier. I have enjoyed working with you and getting to know you. I hope to see you around and at the future functions. Again, I would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work. I had an enjoyable year.

Thank you!  

Sincerely, Melissa Kaltenbach
Officers and Contacts

Executive Committee
President  Melissa Kaltenbach 249-3545
E-mail: sauri_s@hotmail.com

Vice President  Mai Ensmann (608)260-0553
E-mail:ensmann@redgym.wisc.edu

Secretary  Buck Trawicky (608) 241-2392

Treasurer  Troy Rutter  (608) 245-9964

Members at Large  Don Sauer - abroad
Email: sauer@liwal.net
Rochelle Goedken
(608) 243-0298

Registered Agent  Terry Stark  (608) 233-9140
Community Projects  (your name here?)

International Calendar Project
Coordinator  Rochelle Goedken  (608) 243-0298
Calendar Order Hotline  (608) 829-2677
Calendar E-mail: calendarmail@yahoo.com

Events
Freeze for Food  Peter J. Joyce  (608) 249-8573
Family Brunch  (Need a volunteer here)

Cardinal Benefit  Kathleen Quinlan  (608) 249-6437

Finance  Rose Ann Scott  (608) 241-0845
Global Education  Marc Brand  (608) 255-1339

Membership
Membership Directory/Mailing Labels  Buck Trawicky (608) 241-2392
2230 Willard Ave. Madison, WI 53704

Pre-Connect/Re-Connect  Sharon Lewandowski  241-2392

Visibility
Newsletter Editor  Theresa A. Jenkins  (608) 966-1282 E-mail: rpcv_editor@brodnet.com

WebSite (Currently off-line)
Campus Peace Corps Recruiter  Jonathon Simon  260-0117

jdsimon2@students.wisc.edu

Membership Information
All RPCV of Wisconsin-Madison receive a monthly Newsletter, World Roots, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through December of the year joining, 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 (NPCA) through us by paying an additional $25. We strongly encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

(Please check all that apply)
_ I want to Join RPCV of WI, Inc.
_ Individual - $15 for one year
_ Joint - $20 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
_ Overseas Individual - $24
_ Overseas Joint - $29
_ I am also enclosing $25 for NPCA membership ($32.50 for joint membership - two people with the same address)
_ I do not want to join, but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover costs.
_ I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.

$___ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name:
Address:

Telephone #s  (H)  (W)

E-mail Address:

Country of Service:
Service Dates:

PC Job: (Optional - M/D/Y)

Birth date: (Optional - M/D/Y)

The RPCV's of Wisconsin are an active group, and there's always a need for helpful hands. If you are willing to lend a hand, please let us know:

___ I am interested in doing something: call me.

Send completed form & check to:
RPCV's of Wisconsin - Madison
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701
Treasurers Report July 2000

Calendar balance 68,536.87
Sales 2000 Calendar 342.01 Global Education 2096.20
Sales 2001 Calendar 9990.50 Friends of Kenya (uncashed) -450.00
Interest 419.66 Large Projects 19,261.35
Postage -344.28 Peace Corps Partnerships Annual Projects 4434.76
Shipping -309.11 Arcatao Sister City -8000.00 Leukemia Fund -1020.00
Phone -81.49 Green English Camp -5000.00 Ending balance 3414.76
Labor -139.83 Ending balance 2611.35 Account Totals 88,701.78
Ending balance 78,414.33 Account Totals 88,701.78
Panama pro. (uncashed) -1414.00 Uncashed donations -3,764.00
Group balance 1987.56 Landmine project (uncashed) Account totals 84,937.78
Group dues 45.00 -1000.00 Bank Checking account 6,936.68
NPCA rebate 122.00 Ending balance 197.35 Bank Savings account 81,765.10
World Roots printing -37.62 World Roots postage -336.30 Giftaway 1870.00
World Roots postage -336.30 Giftaway 1870.00 Bank Account Total 88,701.78
Leukemia Fund -620.00 Panama Aqueduct -750.00
Pig Roast expenses -75.50 Ending balance 1120.00
WJ Peace & Justice fee -40.00 Wolf River (uncashed) -450.00
Ending balance 1045.14

EDITOR'S SPOT

I want to say hello and welcome aboard to Jon Simon, our new Campus Peace Corps Recruiter. He is originally from suburban Chicago, did his undergrad @ Colorado State Univ. ( Ft. Collins) obtaining a BS in Construction Management. His Peace Corp assignment was in Mali, West Africa (Mopti Region - Bandiagara) 94/96, as a Water / Sanitation Extension agent; Guinee Worm project & Rural water point development (building wells). Afterwards, Jon worked in Construction Management 3-5 years by/for UW. His Masters will be in Finance, finishing on 5/2002. Hobbies include- Ultimate Frisbee, hockey, travel. Welcome aboard JON!

October is officer elections; I hope that new officers come forward to experience the challenge of working with this warm, generous group and worthwhile organization. It is a pleasure to work with so many determined, warm hardworking individuals as those in our chapter! I also want to say thank you to our 'retired' officers who worked with us during this past year. Thanks to those who always get their reports to me and also, all the help I get from Walt Z. to get this newsletter out to you, the chapter members.

Needless to say, life on the stateline is again hectic. We are looking at selling our large country home the first week of October, and starting to build a house outside of Brodhead 25 miles east of our current location. This will place us halfway between Kevin and my jobs cutting my daily commute in half (I am currently driving an hour each way on country roads). The new location will be within walking distance of my budding teenager's high school. And we will be a tad closer to Madison! Hopefully, we will be able to get our schedules together to get up there for the Halloween Party!

Sept 15-17 was Monroe Cheese Days Celebration. We had 6 friends come in from out of state for the activities, so we missed Harvest Moon Fest. Sorry, Next Year! Remember the deadline and hope to see all soon! -Theresa Jenkins
Calendar Committee Meeting, Thursday 24th August 2000

The big news is that we have found our Calendar Customer Service Administrator. She is Julita Zolnik, who prepared and submitted an outstanding application and was chosen unanimously to fill the position. Julita has experience with data entry and customer service and is a conscientious and diligent person. In her application letter she also expressed a desire to share PCV experience through working with the calendar project. In addition, she's really interesting and fun!

Julita has been working with Rose Ann Scott to learn everything there is to do to serve our calendar customers. She also turned up at the calendar packing party at Alan Weiner's warehouse to see the shipping operation first hand. Congratulations to Julita and to us. May we have a long and productive relationship!

On to business: the price of calendars sold to local stores is $5/each. Prudence and Lee will carry out the local marketing plan as soon as it is finalized. 1000 calendars have been sent to Wells Printing to correct the reversed barcode. A supply will be kept with Prudence for the east side & with Lee for the west side. Prudence's phone number is 251.0852 & Lee's number is 232.9065. Prudence has been corresponding with TNT marketing to try one more time to sell calendars through that company. We've had some trouble communicating with them.

The calendar packing party was held the 15th of September at Alan's warehouse. We'd like to establish a policy of selling calendars to packers at the party for $4 - a little carrot for procrastinators. The pizza was outstanding.

- Lee Row

Willy Street Festival News:

The Willy Street Festival on Sept. 17 was a big success. There was food, music, beautiful weather, and tons of people. We sold some calendars, but more important, we had 16 people sign up for information about the Peace Corps - and another 18 people wanted information about joining the Madison RPCV group!

Special thanks to Prudence Barber who helped set up and take down the display. And thanks to Doug and Melissa Larkin, Melissa and John Kaltenbach, John Simon, Marie Suding, Lee Row, Marc Brand, Ann Bentley, Sharon and Hannah Lewandowski, Jo Thompson, Lori Merriam, Rose Ann Scott, Rochelle Goedken, and everyone who stopped by to chat. (It was so much fun that Marc said, "Sign me up for next year.")

-Troy Rutter
Thank you for the feedback I have gotten from many of you since I wrote <Parte 1>. There was only one piece of really negative feedback (TL). (Contact me if you want details.) There have been many messages of thanks and at least partial agreement-- which leads me to believe I am on the right track.

I did receive two corrections on one of my points, from two of my contacts whose views I respect, one of whom is in Cuba, so I would like to add this to the record: In <Parte 1> I wrote: "Todo lo que no esta expresamente autorizado, esta prohibido." (Anything not specifically authorized is prohibited.) We probably broke a law every day. Every time Cubans had us in their homes they were breaking the law, since they had no permit to receive foreigners. (I was in at least 8 homes.)

My latest feedback indicates that this is not true. I may have misunderstood the conversations in Cuba. Or maybe some folks there exaggerated or were over dramatizing. Quoting one piece of feedback, "I haven't ever heard of such a restriction. You can invite anyone to your place. That doesn't mean you can rent your house without being authorized." And quoting the other, "it is not against the law to invite foreigners into the home - but renting rooms without paying the government is illegal."

I wish I could blend in when I travel. I am nearly always too tall, or too white, or dressed wrong, or carrying the wrong stuff. Language helps for one to blend in, but in my case, usually not enough. Cuba is the second country where local folks have thought I might be from Argentina. (Brazil was the first. Later I found out that in the case of Brazil, it might not have been a compliment.) When I visited the Museo de la Revolucion in Habana I struck up a conversation with one of the soldiers guarding the Granma (revolutionary yacht). He tried to guess where I was from, and his first guess was Argentina; his eyebrows raised when I said Estados Unidos.

So although I often get compliments on my language, rarely do I get them for my appearance. I grew a beard in preparation for this trip, mainly so that I would not have to worry about shaving, but also thinking it might help blending in. It didn't --although a couple Cubans thought that from my nose down I looked like Fidel Castro. On the way down I visited relatives in Florida, and I think my aunt didn't recognize me at first; I have had beards before, but she had not seen me with one in quite awhile.

Now that I am back, I considered shaving, but I think I will keep it awhile. I trimmed it and got a haircut, and added a little color, since I don't want to look like a gray beard. (Vanity, vanity...) So at any rate, appearances may not tell the whole story. They certainly do not in my case, and not in the case of Cuba either.

Things are not always as they appear, so I have to use my own fallible judgement in weighing what I see and what people tell me. Cuba has lots of shortages, but there is no shortage of irony or of paranoia. The most striking irony is the economic situation. Ten years ago Cuba's economy fell apart when it could no longer depend on subsidies from the Soviet Union. Thus began the "periodo especial." This special period is viewed by virtually all Cubans as the worst period in living memory. Some Cubans defined the special period as . . . -cont. pg. 6
CUBA - Parte 2 cont.

... ending about 1995; many others told me it is still very much in effect. ('Aun sigue el periodo especial.'

People look back on the 1980s as the time when economically they were most comfortable, and the early 90s as the worst time. And while changes in the late 90s have brought some improvements, for the mass of the people living standards have still not returned to the level of the 80s.

In 1992-93, the dollar economy was introduced --or rather legalized. It had been illegal to possess dollars, but in effect the black market was legalized. The dual economy --a peso system and a dollar system- is now in effect.

Certain stores are set up for dollars only. They are well-stocked, look nice, and only US dollars are accepted. Meanwhile, the peso stores are lined with bare shelves, look run-down, and stock only minimal items and rationed goods.

So in a supposedly socialist state, there are two classes --those with dollars and those without. Who has dollars? Tourists of course, and Cubans with connec-
tions, mainly through tourism and through relatives living abroad.

I tried, in my minimally subversive way, to test the system, trying to spend pesos in several places. I was consistently, and usually politely, told "solo dolares."

Speaking of subversive, I was struck by the level of openness I found among Cubans who criticized their own society and system. While I did not encounter ex-
pressed resentment of foreigners, there is certainly a resentment of the government's favoritism. I asked several people about the notorious "CDR" system. A "Comite en Defensa de la Revolucion" is in each neighborhood. It is the most direct arm of the government in people's lives, serving as both a neighborhood watch group, and as a coercive means to keep people towing the socialist line. Some people waved off the CDR as virtually irrelevant in their lives. Others described "going through the motions," in order not to be noticed.

I also heard some mild political humor critical of the government, some in pub-
lic scenes, and frequent social commentary which seemed to me rather daring and dangerous in an authoritarian country.

People seem to have three basic ways of coping with life and shaping their so-
ciety; (1) gung-ho devotion to the socialist system; (2) overt and covert "hustling," do-
ing whatever needs to be done to get by; (3) a spiritual, somewhat detached ap-
proach, which may or may not encompass organized religious practices. Of course individuals may blend those approaches.

I think I will close this <Parte 2> at this point. In <Parte 3> I will give more of a day-by-day account of my Cuba experience.

--Jim Oakley joakley@west-bend.k12.wi.us
- SELL CALENDARS! sez Pru -
   If you have in mind stores or organizations that you think might like to
sell calendars, tell me, and there are two possible things we can do;
   A) Mention the stores or organizations, and ask me to send you a mar-
   keting packet with a sample or two, the price list, brochures, etc.
   B) Ask me to send information, etc. directly to them.
Prudence Barber, 1050 Jenifer St., Madison, WI 53703, 608-251-0852 pru-
dence@itis.com    p.s. RoseAnn just told me that the store price is $5 with
10+ ordered.

-Upcoming Elections-
We will be electing new officers during the October 4th meeting. The nomina-
tions include:

President:                                      Vice
President: Lee Rowe
Secretary: Buck Trawicky
Treasurer: Troy Rutter

We are still looking for nominations for President. Becoming an officer is a
great way to get more involved in the RPCV group and in the community. If you
would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Mai Ens-
mann at 249-1687 (H), 265-5113 (W), or ensmann@redgym.wisc.edu.

-Monthly Chapter Minutes-
none sent for the month of September
October 2000
Volume 20, Issue 10

Calendar of Events

Oct 6, Wed General Meeting, Union South, 7:00 (Dayton & Randall St., Madison)
Oct 8, Fri TGIF for RPCV’s: 5:00; call Melissa re. where (249-3545; 262-7890)
Oct 10, Wed Poker, 7:00 p.m., call Deb re. where (222-6998; 267-9608)
Oct 17, Calendar Steering Committee Meeting, 7:00 (Prudence, 251-0852)
Oct 28th ? Halloween party, to be determined at the monthly meeting

Nov 1, Th General Meeting, Union South, 7:00 (Dayton & Randall St., Madison)

Mar 1-3 2001: local Peace Corps Conference, at UW—Madison

Birthdays in October: Theresa A. Jenkins, editor 10/21

Parking Information For Meetings at Union South
Apart from city parking meters, most of which are free after 6:00 p.m., many UW parking lots are free to the public after 5:30 p.m.; the entrance signs say so if so. This example is near Union South (at Dayton & Randall St.): 2 midsize lots, plus city meters, in the triangle west of Charter and north of Johnson, across Johnson from Union South; enter from Charter or University.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison
Theresa Jenkins - Editor
P O Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701

3/01 Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704-5749