Vote, vote, vote! No, I'm not referring to the Clinton-Gore ticket. We have several issues of our own that need to be put to a vote over the next few months.

First, at the August meeting, we will vote on proposed changes to our Articles of Incorporation. These changes are necessary for tax-exempt [501(c)(3) status], and deal mainly with disbursement of funds, should our organization ever dissolve. If you won't be able to attend the meeting August 3, please mail the absentee ballot that appeared in the July newsletter to me. All absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 PM, August 3.

In September, we will vote on whether to continue to apply for student organization status with the UW. This issue has been discussed briefly at the June and July meetings, and will be discussed at length (if necessary) at the August and September meetings. Anyone who has a strong opinion one way or the other is also invited to submit an editorial for publication in the September newsletter.

Finally, the biggest and most important vote will occur on October 7 when we elect new officers. The positions that need to be filled are Secretary, Vice-President and President. I hope everyone will take a few moments to consider whether they might make a contribution to the group by serving in one of these capacities. RPCV's tend to be very active in their families, jobs, schools, and communities. Each year, several talented people tell us that they are too "busy" to run. I think we can all relate to being busy, overworked, and, in some cases, over-committed. But it's important to remember that our organization can only be as strong as its leadership. So please, consider running for office in one of the best-respected RPCV groups in the country!

To nominate yourself, or someone else, contact Gerry (Butz) Ashmore. If you would like more information on any of the offices, feel free to contact me, Gerry or Buck.

Nancy
Editor's Corner

As Nancy mentioned in her President's Message, we will soon be electing officers for next year. We need good people to run for office, especially for President, without having to twist any arms too hard. To anyone who is considering running, but who might be holding back for fear of over-commitment, I say GO FOR IT! Speaking from my own experience, its somewhat demanding in that you have certain responsibilities--chairing the meetings preparing the President's Message and Dates to Note for the Newsletter, collecting and routing the mail, and in general keeping on top of things--but you have lots of help and support. In that sense, its easy being President of this group. Because there are so many people who cheerfully and ably take on projects, the pleasure clearly outweighs the pain. Moreover, as with Jimmy Carter, the Presidency is a steppingstone to a higher life. Rose Ann and later Don moved up to Calendar Distribution Manager, Ken moved up to Global Ed, I moved up to Newsletter Editor. You get a good handle on everything the group does and how it operates and, from that experience, you can pick and choose how you can best continue to contribute as an esteemed member of the Deadwood Committee. In sum, you have nothing to fear but fear itself!

Finally, a quick word of thanks to the Fayetteville group for pulling off a great Conference! Excellent southern hospitality. And, start planning now for the big bash in Berzerkeley next July 1 to 5. You'll never encounter a better bunch of people than at an RPCV Conference.

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

Meeting Notice: Monday, August 3, 7:00 p.m. Dudgeon School, 3200 Monroe St.

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, September 1, 7:00 p.m.
Union South, 127 N. Randall Ave.

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

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.
Union South, 127 N. Randall Ave.
DATES TO NOTE

Monday, August 3 - 7:00 PM - General Meeting - Dudgeon School, Monroe St. (Meet for dinner at Mt. Everest at 6:00 PM if desired.)

Thursday, August 13 - Newsletter Deadline - Submit material to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Saturday-Sunday, August 15-16 - Canoe Trip - Contact Henry Nehls-Lowe by August 1 if you plan to attend.

Sunday, August 30 - Pig Roast - Mike & Marcy Read's Farm - Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Tuesday, September 1 - 7:00 PM - General Meeting - Union South, Randall St. (Meet at the Red Oak Grill in the Union at 6:00 PM for dinner if desired.)

Thursday, September 17 - Newsletter Deadline - Submit material to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Saturday, September 20 - Willy St. Fair - Come help us staff the RPCV/Peace Corps booth.

Wednesday, October 7 - 7:00 PM - General Meeting & Election of Officers - Union South, Randall St. (Meet at the Red Oak Grill in the Union at 6:00 PM for dinner if desired.)

Thursday, October 15 - Newsletter Deadline - Submit material to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Absentee Ballot

(If you will be unable to attend the September 1 General Meeting, please complete the absentee ballot below and return it to Nancy Westbrook, 225 Jackson St., Madison, WI 53704, by 7:00 PM on September 1. You do not need to sign the ballot, but your name must appear somewhere on the envelope to ensure that no-one votes more than once.)

Should Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison, Inc. continue to seek recognition as a student organization at the University of Wisconsin-Madison?

_________ YES

_________ NO
PIG ROAST
August 28, 29, 30
Mike and Marcy Read's

As you know, this is one of the 12 best things we do each year.

Here's the details. We gather at the Read's farm in Arlington. The most adventurous (about 20) come on Friday afternoon/evening, pitch their tents, and the kids (Rogue Scouts all) light the constant fire; they're allowed to play with this all weekend, under supervision. (Eat beforehand, or bring your own. Definitely bring drinks to your taste, and organic marshmallows.) The Chicago folk come, and we stay up all night, guffing. The conversation is outstanding. The Scribe takes notes.

More people come on Saturday. We play volleyball, visit the Withered Forest we planted, go birding (before he left, Bob Merideth led this; it involves rare songbirds and slingshots), guff, and buy more beer. In the evening the Buddhist vegetarians prepare the meats, the Chicago guys dig a huge firepit in the lovely sandy loam, and the Rogue Scouts kindle the luau fire. We sit around it, baking our shins, until midnight, when we insert the wrapped sacrificial meats, cover same, and move over to the main fire. (This year we will not have a gross pig carcass, because there's always too much left over. Instead, we'll cook little piggies, and other tasty things. It's a pity that we've already eaten up Mike's dairy herd. The Big Bad Wolf will be our meats consultant.) Also on Saturday evening is a potluck; there's also pots of chili prepared, both meat and veggi, for all comers. By this time, there are about 40 people. Again, we stay up all night. From 2 in the morning to 5, it rains. (By the way, what is the "it" that rains?)

Just before Sunday's dawn the children (especially Betsy) wake everyone up by tickling. Gina leads us in yoga asanas. Together we do the Sunrise Chant ("There is but One god, he is the Sun god, RA! RA! RA!"); this causes the Sun to rise, and then stay up longer than normal. Breakfast is cooked for all, with Lots Of Coffee. The designated New York Times person arrives, and is swarmed over. Everyone becomes increasingly human (except the kids, who never stopped). More and more people appear, and the guff gets very dense. The festive board is spread with everyone's offerings. At noon, a solemn invocation is intoned to the Meat Deva, the luau pit is opened, and the joints exhumed. The carvers fall to. The Treasurer goes about with a sack, collecting money: about $5-6 per adult, a couple of bucks per kid. (Beer is extra, and is collected ad-hoc.) 75 people are in line, all well-behaved, considering. Trencher feats are performed, rivaling the belly heroes of ancient Greece ("he ate a pig, an ox, a sheep, and one hundred loaves of full measure, all before witnesses"). No one but the kids wants any more volleyball for a bit. Lots of people are horizontal, and some are dazed. But most recover, and have fourths. Life (ie, movement, growth, reproduction) resumes, with more guff. By 6, many are thinking of Monday (a weekend ends at sunset Sunday), and departures begin. By 8, all have left for their villages.

A sweet time, even for the Reads. Come, and bring your friends.
The Fayetteville NCRPCV Annual Conference

9-12 July 1992

by Buck Trawicky, Mike Mc?, Don Sauer,

The RPCVs of WI-Madison Chapter were well represented at this year's Annual Conference of the National Council for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (NCRPCV). Eleven members were there: Don Sauer, Mike McQuestion, Buck Trawicky, Rose Ann Scott, Ken Coffeen, Gordon Malaise, Dave Wakeley, Dave and Judy Figi of Janesville, and Don and Dana Kenney, who hail from Desoto, WI.

We rolled into Fayetteville about 8 PM, and found it already jumping. After registering and moving into our dorm room we returned to the Hilton conference center to mingle with the others around the (reasonably priced) cash bar. This greatly relieved our initial fears of imposed bible-belt abstinence.

Fayetteville is a lovely town of about 40,000 tucked in the foothills of the Ozarks. In between conference events we strolled down the pleasant main streets, which featured interesting shops, satisfying antebellum architecture, and signs of a vigorous, creative intellectual and civic life. Our bright yellow nametags made us obvious and ready smiles and gracious southern hospitality greeted us everywhere (though flirtations with waitresses soon revealed most of the service sector to consist of coeds transplanted from better known coastal states).

At the farmer's market, which rings the quaint country courthouse every Thursday AM, Madison RPCV Rose Ann Scott was interviewed by a local TV reporter. The interview ("Where y'all from?" "Madison, Wisconsin."
"What do you think of the Clinton-Gore ticket?" "He should have picked a woman.") was later broadcast throughout northwestern Arkansas, shoring up our Madtown image in those parts.

The local RPCVs number only about 15. Yet this tiny group managed to pull off a superbly-done Conference, almost completely on their own. The spunky Ozark RPCVs faced the simultaneous necessity of mobilizing and then holding together their untested group as they plunged into the hazardous and uncharted waters of national conferenceship. At the moment of truth, stalwart members had to use their own lines of credit to secure arrangements, never knowing whether enough RPCVs would actually show up for the event to break even. We were very impressed.

As it turned out, almost 500 RPCVs registered (not counting the party animals, notably the Solomanders), a perfect size for this crucial meeting, we thought: just large enough to represent a critical mass of mobilized RPCVs, but small enough to impart, at times, the feel of being in a very nice salon, where all were face-to-face acquaintances and one could conceivably talk to everyone. All the proceedings were held in one location and the facilities and setting were comfortable, all of which promoted this intimacy. All RPCV varieties were represented, including young nubilities, seasoned group leaders, some
gaga-eyed newly returned PCVs, interesting grandparents, and the upcoming 2nd PCV Generation.

As in previous RPCV conferences there was much random and therapeutic interaction; our practical idealism batteries were re-charged. We all had what Don dubbed "Peace Corps moments". His moment took place on a sailboat on Beaver Lake, under the moon well after midnight. Accompanied by several other RPCV originals, Don suddenly realized he was in a Travis McGee novel, and was Meyer. For Mike, it was initiating the human chain that snaked around the groaning dance floor Saturday night, much impressing the band, the Cate Brothers, whose smoking Memphis sound had whipped the crowd into a frenzy. The chain consisted of all Ozark RPCVs (identifiable by their crimson nametags) and was meant (in Mike’s imagination, anyway) to be a ritual thank you from the participants at large. We’re not sure the Arkansans interpreted the ritual in this way, but it was the thought that counts, right?

There were four workshop sessions, each offering an ample selection of themes. Buck’s favorite workshop dealt with setting up a nationwide computer/modem RPCV network to share ideas and ongoing conversation. We were very excited, and convinced the Nerd Network will begin to happen quite soon. In another workshop, the new NCRPCV Executive Secretary, Charles ("Chic") Dambach (Colombia, 67-69) gave a rousing pep talk on how boards and staff of non-profit orgs like ours should work together. After hearing Chic, we concluded here is man who has met his match.

The National Council board and staff were there in force, and they had good news about the NC’s financial condition: it’s in the black, and will be kept there. Following recent elections, there are a couple of new faces on the board. Between 30-35 NCRPCV-affiliated groups were represented at this year’s President’s Forum. Always potentially cacophonous, this year’s Forum proceeded smoothly. The board/staff perspective and that of the local groups are still not in sync on many things, we felt, but the discrepancies now feel resolvable rather than fatal.

The new NCRPCV Board President, Doug Siglin (Zaire, 78-81), also favorably impressed us. Former head of the FVO consortium InterAction, Doug brings lots of experience working with volunteers and is a well-connected Washington, DC insider. Despite the latter, we see him as a sincere man with just the right self-deprecatory sense of humor. Nowhere was this more evident than at the Annual General Meeting, over which he presided. By successfully injecting levity into Robert’s Rules of Order, Doug made the sometimes contentious meeting both amusing and edifying. Many will recall receiving Doug’s letter last year, asking members to consider making donations to NCRPCV. His gutsy effort paid off handsomely, raising over $20,000- just enough to push us over to the right side of the ledger.

Among the keynote speakers, Ms. Elaine Chou, the current Peace Corps Director, had herself and many of us in tears with her heartfelt cameo descriptions of in-service PCVs she had met on her travels. Profusely apologetic for not being an RPCV, she nonetheless impressed us, much as did her predecessor, another Republican loyalist, the intrepid Loret Ruppe (who could forget her indignantly equating the PC budget to "...the cost of the military marching
bands...". The job of PC Director, we concluded, transcends partisan politics and humanizes all but the hard-hearted. We liked her a lot and decided we should invite her to Madison. (Before the election, of course.)

The inimitable Tim Carroll (Nigeria, 63-66), former NCRPCV Executive Secretary and current PC Country Director in Poland, gave an alternatingly humorous and moving account of introducing volunteers to a proud but historically abused country emerging from beneath the latest yoke of externally imposed rule.

Imagine that, as a volunteer, your principal task is getting people to trust one another. Arriving volunteers receive extensive training on conflict resolution. We loved one volunteer's story of how her students, fledgling democrats, had voted not to cheat on exams.

Author Eddie Harris spoke about his travels in Africa, as recounted in his latest book, Native Stranger, the Journey of an Afro-American through Africa. He was good company, and held his own without rancor in the face of stiff criticism by some of the Africans and Africa RPCVs present. What most rankled the crowd was Eddie's unashamed description of PCVs he met as being on a kind of extended vacation. One couple he met had spent days together in bed, reading newspapers (We can only imagine what else.) Upon further questioning, the site was revealed to be Bangui, Central African Republic, at about the time two currently influential Madison RPCVs we know were..... but we digress. Eddie made us realize the value of a literary view of the places we served as a balance to our occasional high-mindedness.

Calendar sales were very ample: we sold 1400 (compared to 1000 last year at the much larger DC Conference, where the sales tent was not so well conceived). Several groups placed orders of 100 or more. We also had our Global Ed. video and workbook on display; both received rave reviews. We sold some and signed up others expressing interest. We also signed up over 25 RPCVs who claim to have photos for future calendars that will meet our high standards. Don, Gordon, Rose Ann, Ken and Dave were our most effective salespeople.

Late Saturday, awards were given, last words were spoken and the meeting closed with all of us holding hands to the tune of a rousing gospel group. Four of us (Don, Mike, Buck and Rose Ann) arose at dawn, bleary-eyed, and hit the road together. We stopped in the upper edge of Arkansas to have breakfast with Mike's mother and stepfather, in the gilded retirement community Bella Vista, and then drove relentlessly home.

As Don said: you know it was a good conference when you drive forever to get there, party your brains out and still get a lot of work done, drive all the way home, and still end in a state of high hilarity.

--Buck, Don, Mike
RPCV '93, Annual Conference
UC BERKELEY & the San Francisco Bay Area
July 1-5, 1993

The Northern California Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
is pleased to invite RPCV's, their family and friends to the place where dreams of global
peace are not forgotten—on the lively campus of the University of California at Berkeley.

THE PROGRAM

Saving our Global Village, its People,
its Environment, is the urgent and very compelling theme for 1993. Emphasis for
our RPCV Annual Conference will be on
the renewal of goals and reconnecting,
with a practical how-to-get-involved
guideline to take back to our own
communities. Through caring and sharing,
RPCV's can once again make an impact
and further evolution from ME to WE.
The 1993 Conference will also be a time
for reuniting with friends, exploring
opportunities at a Career Fair, and
enjoying an International Bazaar with
irresistible entertainment.

THE PLACE

The SAN FRANCISCO BAY Area has
been voted the #1 tourist destination in the
world, not only for its numerous attractions
and its naturally air-conditioned climate,
but also for its involvement with deeply
felt concerns. Berkeley and the Bay Area is
a giant community of international mini-
villages where people of very different
cultures live and work together in creative
harmony. It is a watershed, physically with
its spectacular yet fragile environment, and
spiritually as a prototype of the turning
point toward the larger global village that
needs our urgent attention.
P.S. It's fun and exciting, too!

RPCV '93 MAILING LIST. We welcome your interest and participation, and want to alert
you to special early bird airfares and other good deals as we develop them. To receive this
information, please complete and mail, phone, or FAX the coupon below to:

George Ramstad, RPCV '93 Registration  TEL: 510 934-3592 [message]
1026 Elsinore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602  FAX: 415 397-2397

RPCV '93 MAILING LIST.
Please mail to George Ramstad, RPCV Registration, 1026 Elsinore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602.
Also put me on the special RPCV '93 Mailing List. I am particularly interested in:

[ ] REUNIONS: Host Country__________ Years__________ [ ] CAREER FAIR
[ ] EXHIBITS  [ ] AIRFARES  [ ] PRE-and-POST ACTIVITIES
[ ] HOTELS:  [ ] BERKELEY or [ ] SAN FRANCISCO

NAME ________________________________
ADDRESS ________________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE ___________ ZIP ___________
RES TEL: (_____) _______ BUS TEL (_____) _______ FAX: (_____) _______
returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison

Summary of Proposed Budget
Fiscal Year Oct 1, 1992 to Sept. 30, 1993

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This budget does not include the donations from the Cardinal Bar and Freeze for food benefit since those are donated right away.
It also does not include the Global Education Project since income from that can not be projected at this point.

Our present newsletter is 10 pages and costs $67.50 to print. If we must go to a new printer because of changing our UW affiliation, that cost will likely be $85.00/mo. However if we can shorten it to 8 pages, the cost will be back at about $68/mo. (at a new printer).
This year, as in the past, money may have to be borrowed to print a newsletter or two until dues start coming in in December.

If you have any questions about this budget, please feel free to contact Nancy or John.

RPCVs of WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

ADDRESS CHANGES

Olsen, Julie & Tim Valdez 1613 Lake View Ave., Madison, WI 53704
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 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 Council of RPCV's through us by paying a further $20. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Council, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $______.
    ___ Individual - $12 for one year (or $1 per month to next January)
    ___ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
    ___ Overseas Individual - $20
    ___ Overseas Joint - $25

☐ I am also enclosing $20 for National Council membership ($27.50 for joint membership [two people with the same address] in the NC).

☐ I do not want to join, but would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover the costs.

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

Name: ___________________________ Country of Service: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ Service Dates: ___________________________
____________________________________ Telephone: ___________________________
Present Job: ___________________________ PC Job: __________________________

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 Walt Zeltner at 608/973-5257 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/262-2470 weekdays and ask for Walt.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin
Madison Chapter

Dean Jefferson, Editor
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701

Rose Ann       Scott
2714 Oakridge   Exp Date
Madison, WI 53704 1/95