FROM THE EDITOR

DUES! DUES!

Please check your mailing label. IF THE EXPIRATION DATE IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER IS 1/91, IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES. We set our dues at $1 a month ($12 for a full year), although we don't always make this dues structure clear. With few exceptions, if you joined us directly rather than through the National Council of RPCVs, your membership expires on Dec. 31 and needs to be renewed. You can renew for a full year by filling out the form on the back page, then sending it and a check for $12 ($17 for a joint membership at the same address) to RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison, P.O. Box 1012, Madison, WI 53703. Mark the envelope ATTN: MEMBERSHIP. Dues can also be paid in person to either Kevin Nies or Walt Zeltner at the next two or three meetings. Reduced membership rates are available for those in difficult financial circumstances.

If you join us directly, you can also join the National Council by enclosing an additional $20 (make out your check for $32 and we will pass on the money and your membership information to the National Council, probably in early March). In the last two newsletters we've discussed several National Council policies. We appear to have reached a consensus that, while the National Council still has several problems, mainly financial, they appear to have taken steps to overcome those problems. Thus, we urge you to join the National Council if you have not already done so, since they can provide the national forum for the views of RPCVs which is not possible with our local group.

Please send in your dues promptly! It makes my life much easier.
EDITOR'S CORNER:

1. After the last couple of months, I find myself burned out temporarily. Instead of my usual page of writing, I'll substitute something even more useful -- a listing of names and phone numbers for the officers and committee chairs in our group. Before that, though, I need to make some announcements.

2. Due to our brilliance in scheduling our meeting for the night on which our 17 inch snowfall and blizzard was ending, our December meeting was cancelled. Thus, there are no minutes of the December meeting to publish. Also, I have received no information about new members from the people who check our mail, so there is no Member Update this month. I don't plan on putting out any more Member Updates until after the 1991 Membership Directory is published in the spring.

3. The deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Thursday, Jan. 17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elected Officers</th>
<th>CALENDAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Malaise</td>
<td>Jim Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICE PRESIDENT</td>
<td>255-3261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Westbrook</td>
<td>255-7864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>256-7868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck Trawicky</td>
<td>241-5332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TREASURER</td>
<td>Rose Ann Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Nies</td>
<td>241-0845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEADWOOD</td>
<td>255-3241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Coffeen</td>
<td>835-3083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENT</td>
<td>SOCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent McNabb</td>
<td>276-9453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREEZE FOR FOOD</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Stapleton</td>
<td>244-0289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY BRUNCH</td>
<td>-EDITOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helene Pesche</td>
<td>244-8609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEAKERS BUREAU</td>
<td>-LABELS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hank Drennon</td>
<td>238-2792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>-THORN TREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hank Drennon</td>
<td>238-3027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISA PFAFF</td>
<td>Nancy Westbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNAL EDUCATION</td>
<td>PROPERTY LIBRARIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAURA GOOD</td>
<td>238-3027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Next month's meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 8 in Union South on the UW campus at 7 PM. Check the "Today in the Union" sheet on various bulletin boards in Union South for the room.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Feb. 6
- Thursday, Mar. 7
- Friday, Apr. 5 (Potluck! Any volunteers?)

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
One of the treats of our group is that you can indulge in part-time temporary careers. When it’s Calendar time I get to work as an Editor. With the new calendar for Food run, Deb gets to coordinate a complex public event at a terrible time. John accepts perfect strangers, and persuades them to carry our Calendar in their stores. Bob Cowell, our Historian, is tickled to the point of prickle, after codifying all our Newsletter, and school. (Just think of the Secretary of State Deeds, reading each one, monthly.) And the Teacher’s Guild gives us many opportunities. We’re very lucky.

In this vein, I pronounce myself grateful to work on our financial statements, for our Tax Exempt application. It’s been a pleasure, and an engraving problem, answering the IRS’s questions. I’ve first understood our financial history, and then arrange it in the categories it wants. These categories are those of standard business bookkeeping, so it’s not a weird world. But our group lives at right angles to this worldliness, and it’s intriguing to so arrange the Logbooks that serve both to satisfy legal requirements and yet are directly useful to ourselves.

Now that I have organized and read our financial history, I can turn to any page of our Log and be interested, as in a novel. I say, Yes. I remember that a Special Bar benefit, in the Autumn of 89: Jo and Kathleen were Maximum Leader, and we raised $825, and spent only $14, for posters. We sent cash by bearer to the Nady Children’s Center, thanks to the Cowells, and gave the other half to an international hunger project. We charged cheaper admission to those who brought provisions for local food pantries; we exchanged the groups through Bevenden Ted. All this in 3 lines of one page. All springs back.

And you can read in the categories (because they are arranged to reveal this) how much we take in from dues, and from gifts to us, and from charges for special events. And alongside these categories are what we spend on internal affairs like the Newsletter, and social events like the Winter Retreat.

All our Donations are there, all the income and expenses from the Calendar, no costs and income for the Parents’ Branch, the take for any Benefit, all the details of our group’s life, as this life surfaces in our bank accounts. It’s lovely. I’d never want to do accounting as a profession, but it’s a joy to do it for others.

An obvious meta-Tradition that emerges from The Books is that we are a low-rent (1988) group, and that we are not even within our means, we also live within the means we choose to have if all our money-making schemes were dropped utterly; and our charges are within the means of our natural allies. Thus, our dues are $12 a year. This is an elegant amount; a buck a month: no charge for anyone. (And if it is, we’ll send the Newsletter for any amount you can afford.)

In previous years we’ve been paid money from the FC Office in Minneapolis for giving talks to target audiences. This source has dried up, but the interest we earn on our Calendar cash flow has replaced it. And we’ve also been given Gifts occasionally (Anonymous Donor, Paul Thompson, the Loret Ruppe Award). Moreover, when we have parties, even those that require an subsidy only a bit. A tax-exempt account has been healthy enough, in itself, to give us a generous slack.

Thus, everything we bring in at Benefits goes out again as a Donation; we absorb the expenses. (Even for the Freeze For Food 10 km run, which costs about $300 or more, now.) And our Educational Events don’t have to pay their way.

Through 4 years of records, this emerges: we have maintained our group (Newsletter, etc), held advertised social events, paid for all Benefits, and hosted educational events; and we are still $900 better off than when we started. These records are kept separate, and that’s greaty. And we’ll make the manual support itself.

Also from reading The Books, there emerge various heroes and admirable people. Let us thank these.

The Anonymous Donor, who gave us $500 in secret (1987). Paul Thompson, who won the Sargent Shriver Award (1988) for his work in disaster architecture (Jim Good now works as his partner); Paul got us $250. Bob Dalladra and Deb Stapleton, whose leadership of the Freeze for Food won us the Batticallo Ruppe Award of $150 (1989). And the National Council for turning the 1989 grant of $500 to compile our Slide Library, and another of $500 to complete Our First Book.

And the Peace Corps office in Minneapolis, for framing our Newsletter for two years, until the Republicans cut their budget. And for buying our Calendars, until did.

The people who loaned us seed money for the first Calendar. (Scott LeClerc, the Goods, Robert Phillips, Tim Turner, Yvonne Schneider, Masako Kubo, Brent McNabb & Rossa Roytrey, Peter Joyce, Sharon Lesnaski, Karen King, Marc Brand, and Jo Thomson.)

The National Council, for accepting our offer to hail the Annual General Meeting in 1987, and for fronting us money to do it. We had a very low-rent Conference, cheap to attend and very amply satisfying, and we garnered enough profit to do the first Calendar, with our members’ loans.) And the National Council again, Tim Carroll first of all, for ordering a lot of Calendars up front. All the various local RCPs that have bought lots of our Calendars. (Sometimes sending their whole bank account, trusting they can sell them at a profit. They do, too. And each year is easier.) And the National Council Board Members, for being such frenetically active huskers of the Calendar. (We give the NC a cut, depending on sales: everyone makes out, c.f. below, with a “Worldwide” account, for appearing, with ads for the Calendar. For Roseann, who handles all the marketing logistics and numbers, and whose financial data collections are impeccable. For John Clink, concentrated on local sales in stores. Of course, and lastly, our Maximum Leader, who are Maximum Leader. And why it looks so good. And Julie Olsen, whose graphics snatch the eye.

And, for completeness, thanks to Buck, the Calendar’s text editor, who is grateful to the Secretary and to the Auditor for remembering him. But the Calendar is much more a pleasure to acquire than to blame that the gratitude is actually the other way. I wonder that others don’t leap over my shoulder, saying “Come on, it’s my turn; give me the wheel.” It’s the same with the Secretary’s job.

This is a shape of public praise, let us thank our members who have represented us national and federal. We received a stipend to help defray airfare to meetings: the bulk was out-pocket. We have been spoken for by Bob Cowell (who’s ultimately responsible for our Calendar). By Dean Mahon, now working in Switzerland; by Don Sauer (who also represented us with the Food Corps, and with Good, who got us the Loret Ruppe Award). Now we have no National Council member, and we should, you know. We need someone who’d like the work, and who can afford to attend the 2 atgs/year. But in the meantime we are ably represented by Mike McQueston of Chicago (who comes to our Pig Roast, with colleagues, and who assures you is excellent people.) Not to mention the other Midwest champs (of all genders), who forge in the Midwest region.

And let us thank Char, and Don Sauer, to make our Quills happen. (We still had three for raffle, all superbly beautiful: see the Historian for photos.)

And the Horde who made our Annual General Meeting in 1987 a success. We’re earlier nose 2 Midwest Conferences, so by then we knew how to run things. We have been the cheapest Conference ever, never surpassed. (Guaranteed: floor-space for sleeping, or renting, no cost. With a cheap audit, for the conventional. ) (Though, while we’re on praise, we indeed praise every Conference since, getting better and better. This year’s in Eugene was utterly outstanding, a triumph for our Tribe. The Nepali would be ecstatic if they barely attended.)

And let us praise the Treasurers, who have hastily agreed to keep our numbers on record. As Auditor (and how often would your normal life show up this job?) I assure and affirm that our Treasurers since 1986 (i.e., Yvonne, Wade, and Kevin; with Roseann doing the Calendar numbers), have been a tremendous help: they have all kept good records.

Oh! I yearn to praise Everyone: Newsletter guy and guys, everyone who made our work work, those who went aboard (especially Sharon, who is thoroughly remarkable), all those who lend an arm-and-an-elbow: EVERYONE.
#1) Bare-bones Organizational (General Account)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1985/86</th>
<th>1986/87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1985/86</td>
<td>1986/87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>our Dues</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers Bureau*</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts, unrestricted*</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bank Interest*</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,561</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,789</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(#nb: "Dues" doesn’t include National Council dues collected and transmitted; this is $2090 for 89/90 -- 87/88. For Calendar cut to NC ($1587). cf. #2)

( :Restricted Awards, not included above, are: Slide Library grant of $500; Teacher’s Manual grant of $5000, both from the NC.)

( :Speakers Bureau fees from PC/Minn. are dead until after Bush.)

( :but interest, from Calendar cash flow, makes up for this.)

**EXPENSES**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>1479</td>
<td>1193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misc.</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC officials</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>costs of Benefits*</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>costs of Ed. Events*</td>
<td>&lt; 57</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$7674</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2050</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(#nb: "ML" expenses don’t include free Newsletter franking by PC/Minn in 88 and 89; about $700 total; also discontinued until after Bush.)

( :Social: the pig roast we subsidize; Shakespeare and the Winter Retreat break exactly even.)

( :Major "Benefits" expense is the Freeze)

( :Major "Ed. Event" is the Parents Brunch)

**NET CHANGE** (Revenue less Expenses)

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1370</td>
<td>1082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$800</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(< 1723* Donations
< 287* other

$ 800 True Net Change

( #nb: there are various other expenses, most of them Donations, which yield a General Account net change for 89-90 of +$600.

Gen’l Account Donations are +$1723 (see #4 below); bookkeeping “Other Expenses/Income” are +$287, a catchall.)

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#2) International Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1986/87</th>
<th>1986/87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>$48,588</td>
<td>$320,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$39,757</td>
<td>$27,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,831</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,767</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$9,095</td>
<td>$12,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(#nb: Expenses: most of costs for the 90 Calendar, and all for the 91, were paid in 89/90; thus, 88/89 Expenses look very thin.)

( : Expenses for 89/90 include cut for NC of $1387.)

( : Expenses do not include Donations of 36095, from Calendar profits; cf. #4 below.)

#3) 87 Annual General Meeting (net)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1987</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET</strong></td>
<td>967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>87 Quilt Raffle</strong> (net)*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

( #nb: AGM profits were used for the first (88) Calendar, and for our first splurge of extravagant Donations.)

( : the 87 Quilt was the third we made and raffled off. The 87 proceeds ($985) went to Ashoka, as did those for the 86 Quilt. The 85 Quilt was for an eye clinic in the Philippines. The 86 Quilt numbers do not appear because it was raffled off before Oct 86.)

#4) Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freeze For Food</td>
<td>$3970</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>1076</td>
<td>1648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other Benefits</td>
<td>2251</td>
<td>2282</td>
<td>2282</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Account</td>
<td>1728</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar lucre</td>
<td>$6095</td>
<td>2690</td>
<td>2551*</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$16,354</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5028</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4074</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5399</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(#nb: other Benefits: 87/88 includes Quilt proceeds of $985 for Ashoka; other major Benefit was for Sharon, to go stop the war against Aids.)

( : Calendar: in 87/88, we received restricted donations, mainly from chiropractors, amounting to $3323 for Sira Borries, a Brazilian who watches chiropractic. This 3325 does not appear in these accounts; it’s in-and-out of Trouble money that flowed through the Calendar account.)

In addition, we gave her $311 + 340 = $651. Money well-given.)

( : we have made 60 donations in these 4 years: it’s a three-page list.)

#5) INTERPRETATION:

Even if we had no organizational income but our Donations, we could do everything we presently do, except pay for the Freeze. Speakers Bureau earnings (formerly), and interest on Calendar cash flow (presently) give us slack to fund all benefits, including the Freeze. All of our Calendar profits have indeed been given away, just as we intended; and if we sell all 5000 this year we’ll be able to give away an immense amount.

We do fewer benefits now than formerly, but we still do them well.

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Buck Charnley
CPA Failor
C Calin
HOLIDAY GREETINGS

In this season of peace on earth, good will toward men, we count our blessings and wish our families and friends good health and happiness for the coming year. Yes indeed, despite the ups and downs of daily life, we are darn lucky to have been born middle class in the land of plenty where we can almost take for granted such basic human rights as food, shelter and freedom. As RPCV's, however, we are well aware that the majority have not been similarly blessed and that we to whom much has been given have an obligation to give something back.

Fortunately, we have our group as a vehicle through which we can continue at home the commitment to service begun overseas. In the coming year there will be many opportunities to lend a helping hand, beginning with the Freeze For Food Run in January. Proceeds go to Oxfam for disaster relief and the types of common-sense, grass-roots development projects that we worked on as volunteers. So, give generously of your time, energy and initiative. Its the right thing to do.

DATES TO NOTE

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JANUARY 8 Tue  GENERAL MEETING--Union South, 227 N. Randall--7:00 p.m.
     17 Thu  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--Submit material to Walt Zeltner,
             6187 Sun Valley Parkway, Oregon, WI  53575
     26 Sat  FREEZE FOR FOOD 10K RUN--Vilas Park Shelter, 11:00 a.m.
             Contact Deb Stapleton at 244-3609.  Our big event for
             Oxfam.  Everyone comes.  Chili feed afterwards at
             Kevin Neis', 619 S. Orchard St.

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FEBRUARY 6 Wed  GENERAL MEETING--Union South, 227 N. Randall--7:00 p.m.
     14 Thu  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--Submit material to Walt Zeltner,
             6187 Sun Valley Parkway, Oregon, WI  53575
     15 Fri  RPCV MADISON 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY/POTLUCK BASH--
             Meredith Green's, 2975 Rimrock Road, 271-0998,
             6:00 p.m. until early.
     16 Sat  RPCV MILWAUKEE CARNIVAL PARTY--International Institute
             of Milwaukee.  RPCV Milwaukee's big fundraiser event.
             For details call Gary Krukar (414) 481-2295.
     22-24 FSS  WINTER RETREAT--Camp Lucerne, Wautoma, WI.  Skiing,
             sledding, skating, potluck feast, slides, stories around
             the fireplace.  Registration form published next month.

BRUNCH every Sunday 10:00 a.m. to noon.  Lakefront Cafeteria, Memorial Union.
Isn't anyone out there buying, selling, or trading? Doesn't someone need help finding a job or filling a vacancy? During the past month, I didn't receive a single submission for this column! Please send contributions to me, Nancy Westbrook, at 225 Jackson St., Madison, WI 53704, before the next newsletter deadline.

FREEZE FOR FOOD
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Volunteers are still needed for the 10th annual Freeze for Food 10K race/2-mile walk. If you can help organize the race or lend a hand on the day of the race (January 26), please call Deb Stapleton at 244-8609. Deb also has registration forms for anyone wishing to participate in the race/walk.

FREEZE FOR FOOD
T-SHIRTS
Oops—I buba—ed, as we say in Sanglish. The Freeze for Food t-shirts are $5.50 each, and they will be Fruit-of-the-Loom 100% cotton, instead of Hanes. These changes occurred when I discovered that our print shop of choice will be closed from mid-December to January 22. Our second-choice print shop is a little more expensive. Anyone who has already ordered a shirt at the $5.00 price will not be asked to pay the extra $.50. Furthermore, anyone who has already ordered and does not feel that Fruit-of-the-Loom is an acceptable substitution for Hanes can get their money back if they contact me before January 11. The Freeze for Food t-shirts will be royal blue with white lettering, and they will feature the Freeze for Food logo, much as it appears on the top front third of the flyer. All orders must be received by January 11. To reserve your shirt(s), send a check or money order made payable to RPCV's of WI to:
Nancy Westbrook
225 Jackson St.
Madison, WI 53704
Please specify size: S, M, L, XL.

INTERNAL EDUCATION
Reminder: Two East German journalists will discuss the reunification of Germany at the January 8 meeting.

PEACE CORPS'S 30TH
ANNIVERSARY
The 30th anniversary celebration of Peace Corps will take place from August 1–4, 1991, in Washington, D.C. More details will follow, but mark your calendars and be thinking of contributions/suggestions that our group might want to make.

MILWAUKEE'S CARNIVAL
RPCV's of Milwaukee will hold their third annual Carnival fundraiser on Saturday, February 16, 1991. Tickets are $10.

FRIENDS OF LIBERIA
We received a letter from Randy and Robbie Adsit, RPCV's—Liberia, asking for support for Friends of Liberia. To make a contribution or request more information, contact:
Friends of Liberia
Refuge Fund
P.O. Box 28098
Washington, D.C. 20038

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
NEEDED
Peace Corps needs in-kind contributions such as the following:
Sewing machines – Botswana
AM/FM radios, flashlights, hurricane lamps, portable
1800 volt generators
South Pacific/Caribbean
All-terrain bicycles – Kenya/
Cameroon/Niger/Honduras
To make a donation or for more information, contact:
Office of Private Sector
Relations/Gifts in Kind
Program
United States Peace Corps
1990 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20526
Dear Editor:

I would like to thank Buck for his letter about the National Council in the December issue of your newsletter. As one who has been trying for such a long time to make the National Council what the affiliated groups and the members want it to be, it is extremely rewarding to know that there are those who understand the difficulties and appreciate the progress that has been made. Yes, there are problems. But it is nice to know that some can see the successes and the reasons for working toward better solutions. Buck is both realistic, honest and hopeful. Thanks, Buck!

I would also like to support Buck's view that there should be someone from your group on the board. Meredith and the others who have served on the board from your group had a Madison way of seeing things which is sorely needed. Please try to find your best people and put them up for the next election. You can run one in both the At Large and Group Representative categories. The board needs hands-on skills, clear thinking, and realistic problem solving abilities. And, your Madison group needs to help provide a balance to the DC hustlers and the Chicago mafia.

Your work on the calendar should also be acknowledged, and I for one appreciate it tremendously. Even though the National Council has had difficulty keeping up on its marketing responsibilities, you have provided a regular production schedule accommodating to what has been possible. You do a great job!

I have a fond spot in my heart for the Madison group. Thanks for being there!

Katy Hansen

NEWSLETTER POLICY:
Since we’re always trying to get new members, I’ll send three copies of our newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, you have to pay to stay on our mailing list. Details can be found on the back page. ONE EXCEPTION: contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter if they will send us theirs.
Measuring ‘Human Well-Being’

If you always suspected that money was a misleading measure of human well-being, those suspicions are confirmed by a new United Nations report. It throws out the traditional method of ranking countries by income and invents a yardstick of its own, assessing the impact of development on people’s lives rather than adopting the usual approach of evaluating income and savings, the production of commodities, and the accumulation of capital.

This startling revision is the centerpiece of the Human Development Report 1990, the first of an annual series by the UN Development Program. The report resurrects an idea prevalent in the 1970s—that economic growth does not equal human development.

As a result, China—one of the world’s poorest countries—has a higher level of human development than oil-rich Saudi Arabia. Similarly, poverty-stricken Bolivia comes out ahead of Oman, where incomes are, on average, 10 times higher. And the U.S., previously ranked second after Switzerland, slides 17 places, trailing behind Spain, Ireland, and Italy.

Human development involves improving people’s chances of leading long, healthy lives; providing access to education; and making possible a decent standard of living. The report applies its human-development index to 130 countries with populations of more than 1 million. The result is a considerable shuffling of the pack. Inevitably, there is a cluster of African countries at the bottom of the scale. But there are surprises. The highest-placed developing countries are Israel and Chile, which rank above the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, except for East Germany, which falls between the two.

One of the clearest lessons is the failure of the oil-producing countries to translate their recent wealth into human development. Those that suffered the biggest fall are the Middle East and North African oil producers—Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya, and Algeria. The poor performance of these countries reflects the fact that the life expectancy of their citizens is often no better than the average for the South, while the literacy rate is frequently well below average.

A Chinese person can expect to live eight years longer than a Libyan. A man in China is twice as likely to be literate as one in Oman; a Chinese woman is many times more likely to be literate, and she is also much more likely to be part of the labor force. Japan tops the human-development scale. The Japanese can expect to live longer than anyone else, and almost all are literate.

The countries that rise the most on the human-development scale include both Third World socialist countries—China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Cuba—and some that are viewed as free-market: Chile and Thailand. Other countries with strong social policies—Jamaica, Tanzania, Zambia, Sri Lanka, and Costa Rica—also come out well on the new measure.

The inclusion of life expectancy and adult literacy, as well as income, makes the new index a more comprehensive measure of well-being than anything constructed before. The income component is a sophisticated attempt to quantify what the report describes as “the purchasing power to buy commodities for satisfying human needs.”

The report’s encouraging message is that the gap between North and South has been narrowed considerably in the past three decades, if viewed in terms of basic human development. The chief conclusion is that human development requires sustained growth accompanied by equitable distribution of income. Countries can make significant improvements in human development, even in the absence of good growth or good distribution, through well-structured government social programs. But growth is essential for sustaining progress in human development.

The report concludes that achieving the right balance between the public and private sectors and finding the necessary cash for priority government spending in areas such as education and health care is going to mean a reallocation of budgets. Arms spending, in particular, must be reduced. In many developing countries, military spending is two or three times greater than spending on education and health.

The proportions of government spending on education and health fell in a number of countries during the 1970s and 1980s. Doubling the present proportion of such spending is a conservative estimate of what is now required.

The long-term ambition of the UN Development Program is to widen the human-development index still further to incorporate the measure of political freedom and civil rights. Then we will be able to see what linkages exist between income levels and people’s ability to make their own political choices. It will certainly produce another big shuffle of the pack.

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