Adventure Committee of the Whole  
High Ropes Experience  
1 July 89

O menschenharyl, the Adventure Committee of the Whole had a wonderful time, and if you were not there, you missed it and are deprived beings. We confronted primal fears, and poked those crocodiles back into their supporting niches in the limbic system where they belong. (They're always trying to take over, and usually it is misplaced advice they offer: sweaty palms, smelly drawers, a trembly frame; really, we just want to be warned we are in danger, maybe, and thereafter just have an ongoing mild reminder that the croc thinks things have not improved one bit.)

So, late, (for controllable reasons: we'll do better next time), we began at 10 o'clock on Saturday, the 1st of July, at Rogers Memorial Hospital, near Oconomowoc. Our guides and trusty belayers were Peggy, (Kevin's sister), and JD. They led us through the challenges and gave a great sense of experienced protection. They also drink beer with a fine summer thirst, and exhibit other hallmarks of benignity.

We, 15 of us, including Roseann's Sarah and her impeccable Pakistani Farhan, and Muffy/Meredith's son Kirby, embarked on this adventure. And it was an Adventure: more demanding, in its way, than quilting. After the prophylactic bug sprays, we were asked why we were there, and what we hoped to gain. We, knowing the correct answers, (because Gina had done this already with State employees, and had prepared us; indeed, all thanks are due to Gina for turning us on to these High Ropes), said we wished to have a high fine adventure and an accelerated pulse experience, and to learn more about group teamwork. We were assured we'd have both. We did.

In the event, we tried out only a third of the available challenges, and we didn't even get to redo the especially neat ones, so we have to return.

We began with suppling exercises, to warm up our frames for the subsequent unusual abuse.

Then we did group work, catching each other as a whole and in pairs, so that all could experience trust and responsibility in a realistic setting. No one broke a nose, and everyone fell, trustingly, into the arms of the company.

The first exercise was the "Spider's Web", wherein we had to get our entire group through a web of ropes without jangling same. The supplest went through the big holes first, and the thinnest were passed through the tiniest openings as flat stiff corpses, responding to direction. We needed everyone to make this happen, and we had to plan well. Success.

Next, we had to each swing on a rope across a notional chasm, and transport a full container of nitro without spilling it. This, too, required good cooperation to get everyone, and the nitro can, across without any fatal deaths (we had several non-fatal deaths). We needed launching and reception teams, and had to properly station the best machos and machas on both sides. Success again.

(continued on p.3)
EDITOR'S CORNER:

1. This issue of the newsletter marks the end of our ninth consecutive year of monthly newsletter publication. As far as I can tell, we haven't missed an issue in that time thanks to the efforts of four editors and our current newsletter committee. My thanks to all of you who have helped me with this task. Your help is deeply appreciated!

2. ELECTIONS!! Our annual election of officers is coming in October. A Nominations Committee (chaired by Hank Drennon with help from Buck Trawicky - and you (?)) needs your suggestions for candidates. No nominations will be considered after the end of the September meeting.

If you are asked to run for a position, please give it serious consideration. Without a continual input of new ideas from new people, we will eventually stagnate. Fortunately, we have a comparatively large number of interested, active members - large enough to pass around the burden of running the group. Thus, we don't rely on a small group of individuals to keep us going, with the risk that that small group will burn itself out.

Our new members should realize that we do not have an election as such for president. Since the president has to put in a fair amount of time to keep the group running smoothly, many qualified people turn down the presidency because of a lack of time. As a result, a qualified candidate who agrees to run for president usually runs unopposed. The presidency has thus become a consensus agreement position, which also minimizes any bad feelings that could arise from a contested election. This approach has worked well for us in the past but can be changed if people feel the need (and if two people can be found to run for president). Because the other officers generally spend less time at their positions, we have more candidates for these positions and so can hold actual elections.

3. Deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Wednesday, Aug. 16.

* * * * * * * NEXT MEETING!* * * * * * *

Next month's meeting will be one of our amazing Pothucks with the best food in town, wonderful camaraderie, and a (short ?) business meeting. All of this occurs on Friday, August 4 at Meredith Green's place - 2975 Rimrock Rd., Madison - starting about 6 PM. Questions can be directed to Meredith at 271-0998.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

- Monday, Sept. 11 (This is one week later than our usual meetings because of the conflict with Labor Day.)
- Tuesday, Oct. 3
- Wednesday, Nov. 1
Continued from page 1

Third, we had to step a 7 foot high wooden triangle from one end of a field to another, with 2 of us standing on the triangle, 4 teams controlling guy ropes, and others serving as spotters. With adjustment of the ropes, and concerted pulling, we made it.

Then, having helped each other, we were sent up individually on high challenges, and we could help the person doing it only by voice and vibe. In each of these challenges the climber was secured by a backup security rope, but this was scant comfort, indeed.

First, we each had to ascend a tall pole (all poles were phone poles, treated green and smooth) by foot-staples, and step on to an inclined pole. We had to traverse this inclined pole to its end, at another upright pole, and then back off about six feet, and fall backwards to be lowered to the ground and be caught. This exercise provoked several styles of ascent along the inclined pole: some clasped it, convinced they were in the presence of death and their bodies would not deliver them (but all made it, without jet assists); some went low and scamperep, believing that the best Marine is a live Marine; some walked upright, using the belaying rope as a third point of support, and made excellent time; some actually strolled across without using the rope as support much at all, and earned everyone's applause. (Kirby, that dog.) But we cheered on everyone, and everyone made it, sometimes to their huge surprise, relief, pleasure, and tiredness.

(Ah, but some lusted to do it again, as was the case with all of these challenges, but there was, in the event, no time: we need certified belayers, so we can fool around a lot on these things, without the tuckered-out guides on belay.)

Next, we went to another station, and ascended even higher, and traversed a W of cables. This was very springy, and stressed hand and arm, leg and ankle strength, and exposed everyone to the gaping sight of a great exposure beneath one's bottom. Yet we all made it to the further side. (And we began to compile a workbook of successful strategies for different body types.)

Then came the the most extraordinary of limbic intimidators. Solo, helmeted, in a chest harness, tied in to two (not one) belaying ropes, with one rope buffered by extra friction runs, we each as our turn came ascended a very very high pole (42 feet), as high as a street light. (Go out, right now, and look at one: it's the height of a three-story building. Substantially high.)

So, our task was to climb this pole, by its conveniently-spaced staples. No problem, if you concentrated on the job at hand, and looked only at your hands, and perceived your feet. But, for anyone with only a shaky confidence in the Goddess's all-preserving hand, it was an exercise in faith all by itself.

One ascends this pole, with its trunk solidly in front of one's chest. But then, at the top, one's chest, with eyes and brain even higher, rises above the pole, and one's hands are on the last staples. One looks at the sawn top of this pole, and the diameter has shrunk remarkably. It is no longer over 12 inches in diameter; it's about 8 inches now. And it looks less. And everything moves, like the top of a tree in the wind.
Now, suffused with the vertiginous view of the whole world, (the last sight, and it all so precious, that one'll see if death by falling occurs), one must jerk the left leg up and place it on the top of this sapling, and, then, with hands cunningly spaced, contrive to raise up the right leg, and, from a cowering crouch, with a wrench and an upward impulse, stand, erect, on a quivering point of a pole in the middle of the air, in a place where gravity really rules.

(We believe, we believe: 32 ft/sec/sec, oh yes we believe! We believe you can die up here, and it's going to happen any moment: aye, Gravity, an implacable ruler, and I in his fist.)

And then, upright on this pole, vibrating in a most monstrous and unaccommodating complex sine curve, you realize that you may not, perhaps, fall off. It's very springy, yes. But manageable. (Real phone poles don't move like this; they're stiffened by guy cables. But cables here would decapitate me if I fell into them. So, no stiffening cables: I understand and forgive, but really, this is truly scary. And it is shallow comfort to realize that this is more whippy than what electric linecreatures must work with, in full safety-belts. I know they never have to stand on top of their (stiffened) poles.)

And now, at poise, facing the world, balanced, comes part the second. One must inch around in a half-circle, to face the other way. (And it is so small a top to inch around on.) Then, facing nominal front, with ropes obediently draped over the right shoulder, one must then gaze upon a trapeze, of all things, in the air, a long way away and higher than one's head. One must sight on this, and coil oneself, and jump off that tiny perch in a leap, and grab hold of the swinging bar of the trapeze. To jump from unstable equilibrium into the void: oh! you ask a lot. But Gina has already done it, and proved that death is not inevitably fatal, so we each try. Some grasp the trapeze and swing, hooting that death is dead. And some leap for the trapeze and arc below it, and are caught by the cunning belayers, and have a new sense of play and trust and pleasure in hand-bound height.

Everyone got atop that pole, and that was the strongest challenge to grit and fiber. The rest was mostly balance and arm strength; a pleasure, but not as much a matter of character.

Gentles, we did something pleasant and splendid this day. Some were tuckered at day's end and some merely well-used; some had persisted through terror and some through mere intelligent fear; some had insisted their bodies yield the end, and some had bodies that gladly gave the end. Oh! but friends, we all have played in the realm of gravity (which is unstable height), and we all love each other, probably to the death, and we will always, when we know, help each other to the other side.

Oh, sweethearts, you are company fit for paradise. Better than shivered priests, better than opened nuns, better than corporate execs who've seen the sharks, better than bureaucrats stunned by boredom; you are my friends and mainstays, comrades all. We shall die together, a long time hence, arm in arm, and facing outwards.

Buck
RPCV WI--MADISON CHAPTER

MINUTES

JULY 6, 1989

About 22 present.

I. Wyalusing Campout. Rose Ann reported that 54 people attended the recent Summer campout at Wyalusing including 19 children, 3 young adults and 32 "adults". She then raised the question for discussion whether we want to do it again next year and, if so, there again or elsewhere. Deb mentioned that although its a great park, the campsite is on sloping ground which made sleeping uncomfortable. Meredith suggested that we check out other state parks.

Rose Ann also announced that the Milwaukee Chapter is having their Summer campout at Kettle Moraine the weekend of August 4 which coincides with our next monthly meeting on Friday, August 4 (potluck at Meredith's), so we could hook up with Milwaukee on Saturday the 5th.

II. Job Connecting. This was an idea of Bob Cowell's whereby those in the job market could update their resumes and share them while others keep their eyes open for job opportunities. This would be especially helpful for recently returned PCV's.

The question has now arisen whether we should do this permanently. Deb suggested that we could carry on informally with everyone involved utilizing our various contacts to help those in need. Rose Ann suggested that a committee could be set up with a phone number to contact to activate the network whenever necessary.

III. Global Education. Hank reported on the progress of the Global Education Committee. The Committee is in the process of writing a grant proposal for a $5,000 grant to fund our global education outreach projects which, as we all are well aware, is the Third Goal of Peace Corps.

The Committee has already made some concrete decisions. First, we will focus on the youth rather than adults. Second, the focus will be shared aspects of culture, that is, certain areas common to all cultures e.g., commerce, community, food, shelter, work, worship, music, art and leisure, and how various cultures carry on these shared activities. Third, if we get the grant, we will use it in part to hire and pay a part-time co-ordinator to administer the projects since to do it properly will take a lot of work. Finally, we will contact foreign nationals to help plan and implement the projects rather than purport to teach others about other cultures through our own limited white middle class perspective.
The Committee is still working on developing a basic philosophy, i.e., what do we believe in and why? And, once we figure that out, how do we put our thoughts and feelings into action? The goal of the project as set forth in the draft of the grant proposal is to "promote public awareness of the problems of Peace Corps countries in order to make more informed and humane decisions regarding our responsibilities as US citizens." To do that we'll focus on shared aspects of culture so that we may perceive relationships based on common values and thereby gain an insight into fundamental and shared relationships beyond partisan politics.

In sum, the Committee will need a lot of input from all the membership to get the project to work. So far the Committee has worked as a small group, but now there is a need to reach out for more varied input.

IV. Internal Education. This month began what it hoped will become a regular feature—Volunteer of the Month—wherein a speaker will give a short talk on his country of service and the role of Peace Corps there. Gordon Malaise, Solomon Islands '85-87', amazed and amused the group with Tales from the South Pacific. He described the Solomons as fortunate to have largely maintained their traditional lifestyle of subsistence abundance undisturbed by the ways of the whiteman. The question arose from the floor "If that's the case, then what is Peace Corps doing there?" Good question the speaker acknowledged and replied "Because the people there are intelligent and curious and want to play the game."

V. Calendar. Jim Good reported that the Calendar is now in production and will be out next week and that the photos look great.

VI. Ropes Course. 15 courageous (crazy?) people took the Ropes Course on July 1 at Oconomowoc led by Kevin Neis sister, Peg. The course is designed to develop team work and self esteem by performing death defying stunts that you never thought you could do. The climax of the day was to climb to the top of a 42 foot pole, stand up on the top and jump off. A good time was had by all and there is talk of doing it again in the fall.

The Roped attendees sought to demonstrate what they had learned by having Julie fall from the top of a booth into the arms of her trusted friends, but the Union Security Guard intervened before she could take the leap.

VII. Kent State. Coming up soon. July 21-23 to be exact. A few minutes were spent sorting drivers, riders and roommates.

VIII. Treaty Rights. Jeff Cochrane encouraged all members to write to their representatives in Congress to express their outrage at a letter written by the entire Wisconsin Congressional delegation to the Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Chairmen threatening to cut off all Federal assistance if the Tribes persist in exercising their legal rights to hunt, fish and gather in the ceded territory.

Jeff reported that he wrote to Hon. Kastenmeier and Kastenmeier replied that he signed the letter because he feared violence, but denied that he favored cutting off aid. Jeff also produced Joint Resolution 261 signed by the entire Wisconsin delegation except
Kastenmeier whereby the Tribes would be coerced into limiting their take to 10% of the safe harvest limit.

Jeff proposed that as a group we send a letter to Jim Moody expressing our views. Ken noted that although we share the feeling, we are constrained by our tax exempt status from getting involved in politics.

Jim Good then suggested that Jeff draft a letter and bring it to our next meeting for everyone interested to sign.

IX. Miscellaneous.

A. National Council. A show of hands revealed that everyone who paid dues to the National Council received the latest copy of "World View" thus indicating that National Council has its act together regarding duly enrolling us as members.

B. Newsletter. Should we think of a catchy name for the Newsletter? San Francisco calls theirs "The Third Goal". Gordon suggested "Newsletter", since that's what we all know it as. The consensus, however, was that we could be a little more original.

C. Campus Recruiter. Stuart Grogan, UW-Madison PC Recruiter, wrote a nice thank you note thanking us for our contribution to the success of PC recruiting on campus this year. With even greater effort in the future, Madtown can yet overtake Berzerkely for the lead.

D. Ashoka. Ashoka sent a nice enameled bowl in consideration of our contribution in the amount of $600. One wag quipped "What a bargain!" Now, what do we do with it? Put it in the trophy case? Christmas grab bag? Prize for the best name for the Newsletter?

E. Checks. Two more checks remain to be picked up pursuant to our eleemosynary resolution of last month. They are for Trickle Up and the Kandy Center.

F. Membership Drive. Deb suggested that we place an announcement in the Isthmus’ Public Notices section (its free) announcing our meetings in order to attract new members.

G. Shakespeare Tickets. Don now has the 20 Shakespeare tickets and they are going like hotcakes. Price is $12.50. Act fast.

H. Typewriter Collection. Ken reported good luck in collecting old manual typewriters that spoiled rich Americans have thrown away, but which could be put to good use overseas. He's collected 6 so far and has sent 2 to Bicycles for Nicaragua. He, however, is looking for more places to distribute them. Any ideas? Contact Ken Coffein at 273-6380.

X. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Jordan Malaise
LOOSE LIPS

BOB AND DIANA ARE GETTING MARRIED. To do 'IT' in PA with all their friends in Madison, would not make a for a warm reception. So they decided to do 'IT' in October. Bob's been sending his resume places east and has high hopes for a job at the RARE Center for tropical bird conservation.

Off to Wyalusing 54 of us went for a campout. It was cozy due to the size of our campsite. And never say our group is for singles only, as there were 19 children present. And they had such a good time, that they all slept thru the night. Except for the 9 pm mosquito feast, it was a great time in the Wisconsin outdoors.

Merdeith was especially happy there were so many people there, as they picked up her car and carried it to dry land. She had decided the easiest way to launch her canoe was to drive her car with the canoe on top into the Mississippi. She now knows why it is called the Big Muddy.

And welcome to Dick from Dodgeville who with wife and sons came a camping.

Lee is headed to DC job hunting and house setting. She promises to land a in Africa.

Mike is seriously contemplating becoming an independent insurance agent, but Marcy has second thoughts.

Wade and family spent 10 days in northern WI at his father's river cabin.

Nan is off to Baltimore and has an extra bedroom for us as visitors. She will see us in 1990 in Portland at the national convention. She has much love for our group, and because of us will look for other RPCV groups for like spirited people.

Mary Grace and Dan are building a house on her father's farm. Dad has sawed selected cherry, walnut and oak. One of the fun features of the home is a porch all around. Sounds like a future pig roast site!

The ropes course was rather like the Peace Corps! Everyone who went through it has this deep understanding about the challenges and everyone who didn't sorta frowns and attempts to get on to the next subject. The people who have acrophobia get our greatest admiration. Kevin's sister Peggy ran the course and acted as belayer. Several of us were pushed to the limits of our distressed bodies, others, like Buck and Dave, managed to jump from the top of the 42' high utility pole and catch and swing from a trapeze, that hung at some ungodly distance away. The utility pole was named the 'Pamper pole', referring what we should have worn while standing on top.

Helene bought a brand new blue car! Helene and Ken are in Toastmasters. Ken is Don's sub for delivering the New York Times.

Don, Nathan and Jessica have gone to South Dakota, the land of infinite variety, on vacation.

Brent and his band of 12, mainly Sir's family, have returned from all points west. A hot time they had as they traveled the the 115 days in the Southwest, with their windows open and their heater on to keep the car from overheating.

Loret is rumored to up for a job as ambassador to Sweden.

And Peace Corps is headed to Hungary to teach English as a second language. Bush sees it as the exporting of English, so the closing of business deals can soon follow.

At least 11, maybe more of us are headed for the National Convention. What a showing! There have been less at a monthly meeting!

The Goods are painting the outside of their house. After applying 6 different colors of green, they have settled on a light gray.
DATES TO NOTE

July
21-23 FSS  NATIONAL CONFERENCE - Kent State, Ohio
30 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
31 Mon  Global Education Meeting - 7:00 pm at Bob Meredith's - 2205 Westlawn - 251-1937
31 Mon  RESULTS - 7 PM - MEMORIAL UNI

August
4 Fri  **GENERAL MEETING** - 6:00 pm - pot luck meeting at Meredith Green's, 2975 Rimrock Road - 271-0998 - bring dish to pass

4-6 FSS  Camping Milwaukee Group - Kettle Moraine State Park
         South Unit - we are invited!

4-6 FSS  Afro Fest Summerfest Grounds - Milwaukee
         ☾

6 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
9 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
13 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Wed  Newsletter Deadline

20 Sun  Spring Green Outing - 3 pm picnic on APT grounds
        6 pm King Lear - come for one or both - see inside

27 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
28 Mon  RESULTS - 7 pm - MEMORIAL UNION

September
3 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
4 Mon  GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave
4 Mon  LABOR DAY

5 Tue  **SOUL VIBES** - 5 pm - Memorial Union - Hurricane Benefit
       Black Reggae Band from Bluefields Nicaragua Duncan 257-3933

10 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
13 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950

23-24 SS  Pig Roast at Mike Reed's Farm
16 Sat  Newsletter Deadline
17 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
24 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
25 Mon  RESULTS - 7 pm - MEMORIAL UNION

**BRUNCH on Sunday is where the discussion our group business occurs between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Nice days - on terrace.**

*Added Attractions: Lake Mendota Cruise Aug 8th 6pm.*

See Thorn Tree for details
LAKE MENOMINE CRUISE (1 1/2 hr)
August 1st, 6pm $7.95
Everyone welcome to this adventure
cruise! Headed up by
Ken Coffeen. Call him for more
info or reservations: 276-9053

GARDEN SPACE FOR 1990 NEEDED
The Garden Committee is
everyone needed to find
available garden spaces for
next year's garden projects.
If you know of any such space, contact
Joe Mathers at 266-9730

THORN TREE
TRADE: A clever newsletter
idea for an appropriate item.

1990 Calendars on sale
NOW

THANKS, GINA
for the ropes adventure!

WANTED: Cartoons
for the newsletter.

APT* KING LEAR
Don Sauer is coordinating our
annual outing to Spring Green
for a bit of culture and a chance
to see Randall Duke Kim perform
a challenging bit of Shakespeare.
Call him for more info. 219-3360

10 speed BIKE NEEDED
Cami and I are hosting a student
from Japan again this year. She
will be arriving in August and need
us to borrow her bike. Any leads
would be greatly appreciated. Call
Werellah at 217-0996

MISSING: photos since the June
meeting - 241-0845

Trying to control the future
is like trying to take the master
carpenter's place.
When you handle the master carpenter's
tools,
Chances are that you'll cut your hand.
Tao te Ching
22 June 1989

Wisconsin-Madison RPCV
Attn: Rose Ann Scott
2314 Oskridge Avenue
Madison WI 53704

Dear Rose Ann,

Many, deeply felt thanks for your renewed support. You are a loyal friend.

Your continuing commitment means more than I suspect you realize.

First, you are launching an important idea -- and the Fellow championing it. Second, you are critical to Ashoka’s own launch: Your investment, important in itself, also anchors and makes possible our institutional support. Knowing that you are with us also means a good deal personally.

As you know, I spend roughly half of each year overseas -- working with our Fellows, participating in our vigorous (four independent reviews) selection process, and helping build our mutual help fellowship. As a result I have the privilege of getting to know the rare people you’re freeing and watching them go about their profession of launching one important, needed public innovation after another. I am most grateful to you for this opportunity. I only wish I were sufficiently eloquent to be able to share much more of the experience with you.

Your Fellows are people of deep values. Something made Tasma Weisz leave business, taking a 90 percent pay cut, to work year after year developing and refining new teaching methods so powerful that she can get 50 percent of previously illiterate children working the streets reading and writing in 90 days. Something made Masud Gazar, one of our first Pakistani Fellows, speak out against policies he perceived to be dangerous to his country’s fragile, semi-arid ecosystem -- knowing full well how risky doing so was before democracy returned at the end of 1988. Something gave Chico Mendes the grace to grow beyond anger and the courage to press ahead with his work to assure the Amazon and its residents a viable long term future despite repeated death threats. Something makes all our Fellows channel their lives and their enormous talents to serve others. They could be rich and comfortable, but they aren’t following a different star.

They are, of course, also extraordinarily competent. Successfully introducing a significant public change requires a level of professional skill and breadth that fully matches the toughest challenges facing a top business executive, lawyer, or physician. How would you, before you were famous and influential, go about persuading the schools in one of Bangladesh’s rural districts fundamentally to reorganize so you could demonstrate an unheard-of new educational approach that you, someone never formally trained as an educator, had conceived? Idrisah Sobhan did this -- and cut the dropout rate in half. In a country that spends less than $10 per person each year on health, how would you go about ensuring that, for the first time, infants are screened for learning and other disabilities and, where needed, given remedial care? Randini Mundkur is demonstrating how communities and families of the poor can organize and do so for themselves.

Watching first class public entrepreneurs steadily, reliably doing the impossible is a constant marvel. Because they can only be happy when the world has taken the next step they foresee, they bring to bear a relentless, disciplined combination of creativity and realism in both thought and action that is irresistible.

Your loyal partnership is exceptionally critical to Ashoka now. These several years are our period of maximum growth and change, and most of this stretch can’t be deferred without doing real damage to the internal logic of the fellowship’s evolution.

For example, we are reaching that magic point where there is a critical mass of Fellows in more and more subject matter fields and parts of the world. As a result, we can’t defer experimenting vigorously to build the most effective institution we can to support wide-ranging collaboration among Ashoka innovators. (Imagine what it was like when a group of lawyers created the first bar association or when the first national academy began. No one has ever built a professional association of public entrepreneurs before! We’ve got a lot to learn!) Not to mention, this experimentation now would be to risk Ashoka crystallizing at a level of contribution well below what is now within our grasp.

Within another several years I believe you will be able to take as much pride in having been a founding partner in the creation of the first association of public entrepreneurs as you now can in having helped create the field’s first venture support group.

Again, our deepest thanks for providing the bedrock support upon which all else depends.

With every possible good wish,

Very much yours,

Willis Drayton
President

Akhil, Kavant, London, Mackinac, D.F., Uganda

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SAVE THE RAINFOREST, INC.

504 James Street
Goodville, Wisconsin 53536
Telephone (920) 863-9683

Byrd Callahan, President
Gary Wall, Treasurer
Jaca Narvondo, Secretary

Dear Laura,

I want to express our gratitude for your donation to Save The Rainforest. The money, as I’ve already told you, will be used to sponsor trips to the rainforest for deserving student. If at all possible you would like one of these students, or myself, to present a slide show for you on tropical rainforests, feel free to contact me.

Currently we are working with the Monteverde Conservation League to build a rainforest retreat in the Monteverde Forest Reserve in Costa Rica. The facility should be operational by the summer of 1993. In the meanwhile we will run 3 two week mini-courses for students just outside the Reserve during the summer of 1990.

Once the Retreat is built it will be used by students in the summer months, and by Costa Rican children during their school break from December to March. Incidentally, there are Peace Corps volunteers in Costa Rica who are involved with us.

Once again, thank you for supporting our cause.

Sincerely,

Bruce Callahan
President

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United Refugee Services of Wisconsin, Inc.

7045 E. Dayton, Room 302, Madison, WI 53703, (608) 256-6490

Dear Laura,

On behalf of United Refugee Services and our clients, I would like you to express our thanks for the $100 contribution to the sewing project. As you know, the project has brought a lot of smiles and satisfaction to a group of people who can always use that. I’m sure the machines that the money helped pay for will be put to good use for a long time, of course, the extra money for housing etc. will also get the project moving along so that the women can see that other people appreciate their sewing talents as well.

In addition, I want to make sure that the RPCV group also realizes how such individual actions have helped with their time and talents. I want to thank you, Lee, and Meredith for the many hours that have been volunteered. I think that the English classes are accomplishing the dual purpose of getting the woman out of their homes and into a happy, social gathering and I do think their English skills have improved as well.

Thanks for the support and help. We are all truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Kathleen Sajjak
Administrative Assistant
Thanks to a terrific work crew on the 4th of July, a major section of garden fence was put in place and the CAC team of Joe & Ken has been out twice since then to assure its completion. Those pesky rabbits have been foiled again and it looks like there will be bumper crops all around (including mosquitoes!) I hope that everyone who comes to the August meeting at Rimrock will take time to admire the hardiwork and take home some produce. Once again I have seen how effective we can be as we bring our global peace corps experience home to our own back yards—literally—and the "Esprit de Corps" that touched me over twenty years ago is still alive and well.

I would like to add my special thanks to the guys who volunteered time getting posts pounded in and fence attached in the tropical heat and mosquitoes, for the price of beer and strawberry shortcake with great good humor and enthusiasm. You are AWESOME!!

Meredith
You are invited to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary Season at American Players Theatre.

King Lear—The greatest tragedy in the English language comes to life on the APT stage. Humankind's capacity for violence and brutality, as well as for love and loyalty, are tested to their limits in Shakespeare's tale of a king who, out of vanity and self-ignorance, sets his kingdom, his children, his senses and the very elements themselves at war.

August 20th

Limited seats available—buy now if you want to enjoy the group ambiance!

Wanted: Volunteers to tutor spouses of international students

Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) sponsors free tutoring services to spouses of international students in the MFIS English classes, staffed by volunteers, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the First Baptist Church. People in the beginning English class need additional practice but many of them have families and limited budgets and cannot afford private tutors. Since they are not permanent residents, they are not eligible for other programs such as the English classes at MATC. To meet this need, MFIS is looking for volunteers who could tutor at least once a week, at a time and place of their convenience. If you could help during the academic year and/or summer, please call MFIS at 263-4010 or write the MFIS office, 115 Science Hall, UW-Madison, 53706.

MFIS volunteers provide many other services to international students. Some programs that need helpers include temporary housing, host family/persons, and furniture loan (especially anyone with a van). You may wish to attend the MFIS Welcome Picnic Sep. 24 at Arlington Farms. Last year 450 new international students and families from 43 countries attended. Call the MFIS office ahead for reservation information. Join the MFIS volunteers and be a partner in helping international students.
Heartfelt to the Corps

Former Volunteers Recall the Kennedy Cause

By Martha Sherrill

The Peace Corps acts like one big family, their close relatives being the Kennedys. Last night, more than 400 veterans gathered in the Willard Hotel Ballroom for the first annual Founder’s Day Dinner thrown by the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (for the NCRPCV).

"I went up and introduced myself to Caroline and Maria. They were very pleasant," said Steven Nettler, a statistician from New Jersey who was in the Peace Corps in the 1970s. "And it made my whole trip worthwhile.

That’s Caroline Kennedy and Maria Shriver who got to meet Nettler last night. The cousins, along with everyone else, were there to honor their fathers, John F. Kennedy, who created the Peace Corps in 1961, and Sargent Shriver, the Peace Corps’ first director.

"Yesterday would have been my father’s 72nd birthday," Kennedy said to the crowd after dinner. "And I cannot think of a better way to celebrate my father’s life than to be here tonight." She was brief and spoke rather shyly.

Maria Shriver, on the other hand, is not shy. The "Sunday Today" co-anchor introduced the other members of her family—her aunt, Ethel Kennedy; her brothers Bobby, Timothy, Mark and Anthony; and her mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. She made no excuses for John Kennedy Jr., who was a co-sponsor of the event with his sister, but who did not come. (The word is that he’s in quarantine, studying for the bar," said writer Maureen Orth, one of the dinner’s organizers.)

Shriver heated up the chilly air-conditioned room with tons of funny stories. "I wanted to join the Peace Corps when I was 15," said Shriver. "So Dad sent me to Tunisia—to Tunis—for a summer." She wound up in a house with no running water and an open toilet in the middle of the yard. She slept, she said, in a bed with five members of the Tunisian family—all boys.

"I stayed there two days and knew there must be a mistake. I knew my father wouldn’t send me directly from the convent to this place..." She hitched to the American Embassy, got her father on the phone and began sobbing.

"Maria, you’ve been living like that for just two days," Sargent Shriver said to her. "And Peace Corps volunteers have to live under those conditions for two years."

"But there are men in the room! There are men in the room!"

"That’s okay," he said to her. "Just don’t tell your mother, and you stay there."

She did.

There were stories all over the place.

Tom Sciolto, who now runs an international development consulting company, was yakking it up with friend Sargent Shriver. "He’s one of the first volunteers," said Shriver. "Ask him about Chile and how he took the communists mano-a-mano in the mountains."

Sciolto—a little embarrassed—humbly explained that he was in the first group of volunteers to Chile. "And my work there came to the attention of President Kennedy and in a speech he used me as an example of commitment."

Georganna Shene McGuire was in the first group of volunteers 28 years ago. "We were honored with a Rose Garden ceremony," McGuire reminisced. The Peace Corps, she said, changed her life. "Like Robert Frost, the two roads diverging, and all that. You’re never the same.

There was a Kennedy-Shriver family photo op. Lined up in front of flashes and the blue lights of the "Entertainment Tonight" cameras, they squinted but seemed used to it. "How long can Daddy hold that smile?" one Shriver son asked another quite audibly. "Looks like a Polish wedding," sighed one photographer reaching for a wider lens as former Peace Corps director Loret Ruppe addressed herself onto the end.

The TV journalists had been asked not to approach Caroline Kennedy, and they obeyed, but not without a certain amount of griping. "Excuse me...Excuse me..." said one. Kennedy chugged tightly to husband Ed Schlossberg and cousin Maria. Maria handled the crowd, mostly, her voice matching her Ha Ha Ha..."How are you like gangbusters."

Model Lauren Hutton, aging graciously, turned up at the $125-a-ticket fundraiser right off the plane from the Galapagos Islands. "Today" weatherman William Scott also showed, and said, "Even though I’ve been kissed by Barbara Bush, Eunice you know where my heart is..."
RPCVs of WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

NEW MEMBERS:


GBEDEY, Elinor 2310 E. Johnson, Madison, WI 53704. Home: 244-5844 Work: Togo 1965-67


ADDRESS CHANGES


A phone number change to report: Katy Romenesko in Appleton is at 414/731-6974.

I managed to leave Hank Drennon’s (our V.-P.) membership information out of the last membership directory. Here it is:


Although Rick Lackey is only receiving the newsletter, and thus is not technically a member, many of you may want to know his new address:

Rick Lackey, 6710 Hawaii Kai Dr. #1412, Honolulu, HI 96825. I hope you and Masako have finally found the time to unpack, Rick.

Wisconsin State Journal, Monday, June 19, 1989

More salsa for your bedbugs, señor?

By Katherine Ellison

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

MEXICO CITY — On a rainy afternoon at the Ponce Don Chon, senioras slayed tortillas out in front, ballerinas swayed around the back, and at a corner table, two pistol-packing state cops manhandled worms.

The typical fare at this crowded cafe and a half-dozen others in the capital is crux of the evidence of a Mexican tradition — bug eating — and a widespread increasing vocal school of health-conscious gourmets who swear by a back-to-basics diet, Aztec style.

"Today, young people want the hamburger, the hot dog, something quick but not so healthy," said Don Chon chief Fortino Rojas Contreras, whose considerable girth hints at a one-man assault on the insect world. "They know nothing of the rich sources of protein enjoyed by their ancestors."

Yet pre-Hispanic cuisine is drawing new attention at a time of growing public concern about how Mexicans eat. Recently, the leading newspaper Excelsior reported 70 percent of the nation suffers from a poor diet, causing early death and various medical and physical illnesses in young children.

Government agronomist Rida Mundana said such problems could ease by turning back to old dietary stands, including about 250 of edible insects, larvae, eggs and worms.

"We must lose our modern prejudices," she said. "We think of flies as dirty because they hang around the garbage, but of course not all insects are flies. What's so dirty about a bee?"

In fact, not all bugs bear the lowly fly's scorn. The maggot worm — the critter found in bottles of some brands of tequila — is regarded widely in this country as a delicacy.

Jumbles — flying bedbugs — are so beloved in Guerrero state that whole families crowd the hills to hunt them when they are in season. The tiny bugs are eaten raw or cooked with salsa and revered each November with a Day of the Jumis, with music and dance and the annual selection of a new Jumis Queen.

Mexico has no monopoly on insect consumption, which is practiced throughout South America, Asia and Africa. Bug eating is less common in the cities, because bugs are less available and thus treated as a delicacy, said Harvard social anthropologist Richard Grinker.

"In fact there are very few places in the world where people haven't eaten insects," he said. "Locusts and ants in Thailand are used as condiments. The Plains Indians used to eat grasshoppers."

What is different is Mexico is those who hope to re-create awareness of such protein-rich fare often underscore their plea with a nationalism argument.

All the same, the advocates' efforts have made hardly a dent in modern Mexico's diet. Mundana said she believes more Mexicans would be eating bugs were it not for decades of ad campaigns by international companies pushing white bread and Spam.
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 a month for each month to 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 RPCVs through us by paying a further $15. 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 $15 for National Council membership.

☐ I do not want to join, but I 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: ___________________________

Please make checks payable to RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCVs OF WISCONSIN, INC. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703

marked ATT’N: MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call me at 608/835-3083 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/262-2470 weekdays and ask for me - Walt.