FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every once in a while something happens and everyone feels good about it. Such was the Family Brunch. The combination of Peace Corps invitees, Peace Corps Volunteer’s families, and RPCV’S from all over the state created such good vibrations.

Next to me at my table sat an older adult from Milwaukee who is headed to Sierra Leone in July to teach Home Economics. She was charged and ready to go. She had lots of questions, but “Why do I have to wear a slip there, when I don’t wear one here?” was my favorite.

Across the table sat the parents of a son who is in Sierra Leone. They are going to visit him in November. They were proud, happy, excited. And again more question, what to wear, the roads, car rentals and Nestles formula. And, oh their son misses Diet Coke and a good hamburger, so they are taking a suitcase of Diet Coke with them. And I said, “You had better take the hamburger too!”

And when the parents were saying their good-byes to the older adult invitee, I heard them make arrangements with her to bring over anything she needed and they would meet again in Sierra Leone.

It was good for the Madison group. We came out with our enthusiasm for Peace Corps renewed, we made friends with a lot of new people and they learned of our existance. We shared our excitement over another part of the world that is home to us and soon will be home to others.
It was good.

Rose Ann
Boy king turns 21

MBABANE, Swaziland — King Mswati III celebrated his 21st birthday on Wednesday, watching military parades and tribal dancing and topping the day off at a party with a 2,750-pound cake.

As the king emerged from his limousine at Somhlolo National Stadium, the crowd of 60,000 gasped, then cheered at his girth. Mswati wore a purple suit with polka-dot sleeves and black hat, instead of the traditional leopard-skin loin cloth and red feather in his hair.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, who attended Mswati's coronation in 1986, delivered a congratulatory speech and sat next to the monarch and his wives at the stadium.

Representatives of 20 other African nations attended and were invited to a Lozitha Royal Palace party, which featured the cake that fed 4,000 people.

In his speech, Mswati said he was praying that God would give him wisdom to rule the 6,946-square-mile nation of 750,000 people between South Africa and Mozambique.
RPCV WI GENERAL MEETING
MAY 2, 1989

About 25 present.

I. Calendar. Rose Ann reported that profits are now up to $2,441.65 with $27.00 outstanding (billed but not paid). The balance in the Calendar Account stands at $10,553.00 and with petty cash the cash on hand stands at $10,662.58.

II. Treasurer's Report. Wade reported that we have $1,384.48 in cash on hand in our General Account. Receipts for the month included $80.00 in dues deposited. Expenditures included $109.00 for the Newsletter and a donation of $100 for Community Action. In the next Newsletter Wade will provide a 6 month report on our debts and credits for the year to date. Also, we have Speaker's Bureau fees in accounts receivable in the amount of $597.

III. Interest on WORT Bond. We have received interest in the amount of $63.75 on our WORT bond. A discussion was had over what to do with the funds. Hand, give it to WORT or keep it for other worthy causes. Deb and Gordon spoke in support of donating it all to WORT in order to support alternative programming including that with a Third World focus. Bob reminded us that we have many projects to support. A compromise position was moved by Ken and seconded by Deb to donate $20 to WORT and keep the rest. The motion carried.

IV. Global Village. Ken reported on information he received from the Lake Wapagasset Bible Camp in Amery, WI which has been running an "African Village" program for some time now similar to the one we propose. Also received was Jeff Cochrane's "Global Village Handbook" from his camp in Georgia.

Ken also proposed that a delegation go to Camp Wapagasset on the weekend of May 13-14 to look the place over and help clean up the grounds for the coming season. He plans to go and anyone else is welcome to go along.

Also something to think about: the Camp is available the second week of August for us to camp out there and to try our program out on our own kids.

V. President's Meeting. Rose Ann reported on the recent President's Meeting held in Chicago on the weekend of April 28-30. In attendance from our group were Rose Ann, Bob, Meredith and Deb. Other groups attending included Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Dekalb, Milwaukee and Iowa.

Business discussed included what each group is doing and answering the charges made by Milwaukee against the National Council in addition to eating and other revelry. Rose Ann reported that Milwaukee felt better that some of their questions were answered and that the National Council admitted that some of their complaints were legitimate. (See May Newsletter at p. 9.) It was pointed out that less than 1/2 of the National Council's funding comes from member's dues, so Milwaukee should not be asking what National Council can do for them, but what they can do for National Council.

VI. Slides for the Calendar. Bob and Jim showed 24 slides, the finalists selected by the Calendar Committee, and those in attendance voted on the 15 best for inclusion in the calendar (12 plus a few backups in case of any imperfections).

VII. Jeff Golden on Results. This where you came in mate. I would only urge you to emphasize to our northern readership what Mr. Golden said about Dave Obey being the most important person in Washington for foreign aid and how Results needs people in the 7th District.

So, Jeff Golden, who was a Volunteer (a V) very early in Columbia -- he returned in '65 -- was present to talk about lobbying for Development legislation. He's active in Results, which is a national grass-roots lobbying organization which concentrates on dev. and dev. ed. work. They are notably dedicated to stimulating citizen power and, also, to creating the political will to end hunger. They have local groups all over the country, as well as in other countries, lobbying their governments. Proven techniques include letter-writing by many ordinary folks in support of proposed legislation, and a fine hand at getting good editorials written. It's primarily a third-world focus, esp. the extremely poor countries. We in Wisconsin are represented by two very influential legislators in this area: Rep. Obey is very very important; so is Sen. Kasten. We all should write them when we are moved to express ourselves. Results has really developed some fine lobbying skills, and could teach us all. The were intimately involved in the passage of the Global Poverty Reduction Act.

So far, about 6 of us are going to the National Conference at Kent State. You come, too: we will surely party in a memorable way, and impress all our friends.

Our Constitution is in the lawyerly and solicitous hands of Jerry Maynard. We want him to read this paragraph, and know we're grateful, but we also want to get the results back. And we hope he'll keep the environmental law references to a minimum, with no slurs on our effluent discharges.

It's time to submit nominations for the Sergeant Shriver Award, given by the Nat'l Council for outstanding service since Peace Corps work. Have we any candidates? We immediately thought of Char Thompson, so we could keep it in the family. (Paul got one of the first year's awards.) Sharon would be fine, after she returns from stopping the war in Nicaragua. Any others? Tell Rose Ann.

There will also be a newsletter contest, which we should enter. We hand in a year's worth, then wait. There will perhaps be various categories, such as most trustworthy, sober, inexcusable, libelous, drear, gullible, etc. Surely we could get some kind of ribbon.

And there will be a Rupke award, for the
year's outstanding group. It's probably bad form to nominate ourselves for this one. The award is $500 (in Indian currency, of course; another use for PL 480 funds.) A friend of Wade's has just gotten published an annotated bibliography on PC. It costs $35, and he suggested we buy a copy and donate it to the Madison Public Library. We all agreed, though there was some bickering about whether the bookmobiles should get copies. Dreamers.

Meredith reported on the Nat'l Council, mostly delectable gossip which the acribe won't sully his disk by repeating. She also spoke about the Coveredale confirmation; about PC in China -- they wanted to start small, and thought 800 would be about right; they got 15. We shared Quayle jokes. On his recent trip through Latin America he was impressed by how many natives spoke the language, and said he was sure he'd had Latin in school.

The High Rope course on July 1 may not happen; not enough people have signed up. And we voted against subsidizing ourselves, because of our Loveland Scots genes. Contact Gina if you want to go: we need 20. What poops: no one wanted to go skydiving; the suggestion we raise funds by selling large quantities of our exotic blood is whimsically rejected; no one wanted to go swimming with the Vegetarian Sharks; and now this. What's the Adventure Committee to do with us?

The Parents Brunch was refined in details. (It's already happened and was a big success. There was enough food. Also, there were plenty of people, mostly strangers, and we passed a very pleasant time telling stories. We urged the parents to visit their offspring, and to be passionate when they return here. We gave lists of things to do and bring to prospective volunteers. (Books and single-malt scotch.) We met distant friends who showed up. We had good after-brunch speakers. We did everything smoothly and effortlessly. Very nice.)

Lynne Johnson and Lon Kuroshige came to tell us about Race Awareness Training, since we'd discussed the idea at our Winter Retreat. They're fine folks, but we're out of the normal run of their clients (college fraternities, etc.). Muffy will liaise with them if we go any further with the idea. What we really want, though, is to heighten our delight in other races and cultures, rather than lose our (nonexistent) repugnance or fear. We all have postjudices, of course: suspicious of Kashmiri rug merchants, though the truck drivers are fine; Bengali babus will probably talk a lot, and won't want to walk far; and so on. What we really need, perhaps, are things like an hour or two on Brazilian gestures of communication, or on words that other languages have but English doesn't. (Seudade, puxas, tesse, la.)

Meredith's Haung friends (about 6 families) will be partying with us on Memorial Day at her house, so come. These folk are all gardening on her extensive mill hectares, and she asks for a picnic table, as well as other gardening needs which she'll know soon. Submit our ideas for suitable donations to make with our Calendar profits to Roseann or bring them to the next meeting. We have lots of money to give away, and it'll soon be all committed, so get into the proper philanthropic mood.

La.
Buck
DATES TO NOTE

May
21 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
22 Mon  RESULTS - 7 pm Bethel Lutheran Church - 312 Wisconsin Ave
28 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
29 Mon  JFK's Birthday Peace Corps Founder's Day
         2975 Rimrock Road - 271-0998 - bring dish to pass
4 Sun   BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

June
7 Wed   GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave
11 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
14 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
18 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Fri   Newsletter Deadline

23-24 FSS Camping Wyalusing State Park - more information inside
25 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

July
2 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
4 Tue   Independence Day

6 Thr   GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave
9 Sun   BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
12 Wed  Milwaukee Meeting - 7:00 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
16 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
16 Sun   Newsletter Deadline

21-23 FSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE - Kent State, Ohio
23 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
30 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

August
4 Fri   GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 pm - Union South - 227 N Randall Ave
4-6 FSS Camping Milwaukee Group Moraine State Park
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 - King Lear

27 Sun  BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union

* BRUNCH on Sunday is where the discussion our group business occurs between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Nice days - on terrace.
Diana has gotten a job offer that is too good to refuse at Penn State, so Bob is going to follow along. She is now in all the newspapers as some one leaving because of the UW’s low pay. We wish them success, in fact so much success to Dianna that she will come back and head the Geography Department here.

Rose Ann must not be living at home. Attempts to reach her there day or night meet the answering machine.

Deb wants a job with the State, any job. She is contemplating the tried and true method of getting one, cataplexing with Tommy.

Wade reported on the admiration DC has for Loret, a farewell party to which hundreds came and glowing report of a job well done.

The charivari for Elana and Paul was of questionable surprise, as they lay out a 3 course spread with bottles of $14.95 wine. Luke was the most ardent with his Fischer Price drum sticks.

Helene what are you going to put in the back of that station wagon?

Congrats to Stuart and Elizabeth who are awaiting their first born.

And Wade is preparing for their 2nd by running marathons, next in Duluth.

And Kathleen has figured out a new method of day care, as Lena has been seen pumping gas sans mom at the local Clark station.

Lee has been upended in the Baptismal waters with Kathleen doing the Godmotherly duties.

Paul has been working on his dissertation and wants to know "who’s bra was that?”.

Yvonne has been certified to teach English and would like to land a job in the vicinity.

Char and Eric have been doing the US including NYC and DC.

Rick has become a real estate agent in Hawaii and doing well enough for Masako and him to buy a home. Does it have a guest room?

And speaking of guest rooms, Ralph has a guest house in Chicago, where he put up the Madison group. He had a hard time understanding why they all wanted to sleep in the same room, and why they all went to bed at 10. But that is not all, he also knows where the good, inexpensive food is in that city.

Dim sum was a first for all 4 from Madison.

Karen is still tromboning it at the Fireside. She has made enough money to pay off her VISA and to buy furniture for a townhouse she is going to move into as a single unit.

Mark has finished all his course work for his masters and is hell bent on finishing his thesis and getting out of Texas in August. Then he is touring Central America with Bonnie, including Costa Rica, but Scott will have left the month before for Ecuador.

Brent is going to lead a caravan of 12 in June to the west coast. Members include Sera’s extended family. So far no pets.

Mike Mc? and Lillie are tickled pink over their new son, Patrick Leo. He is wondering why he didn’t start this years ago. Mike is the President of the NCR PVC president’s group.

Valerie got back just in time for the Family Brunch from vacationing in Morocco, her country of service.

Poor Sue got done in again. She was very carefully put in the Asian group for the Family Brunch and Buck removed her from Asia because Yemen is not Islamic. She ended up in East Africa. Next year maybe Donna will come and sit with her.

Pat came down from Minneapolis for the Family Brunch and enjoyed the occasion so much, he is thinking about doing something similar for Minnesota.

Mike made his farm payment, and then became an activist for Indian Treaty Rights.

Thanks to the newsletter committee for assembling this issue without me. I noticed the improvement.
RPCV'S of Wisconsin-Madison
Financial Report
October 29, 1988 to April 29, 1989-Six month report

Balance Brought Forward-$500.00

DEPOSITS

10/29-Speaker Fee, Mpls.$693.00
1/17-Dues, Nat.Council $240.00
11/17-Dues, $41.82
11/28-Anchor Account Interest $3.03
12/8-Dues, $217.00
1/2/89-Dues, $37.00
1/11-Dues, Interest $5.36
1/11-Dues $125.00
1/11-Dues $54.00
1/31-Dues $211.00
2/9-FFF Deposit $872.00
2/9-Dues $345.00
2/17-Retreat Fees $294.83
2/17-Dues $174.00
Interest $10.56
3/14-Dues $44.00
3/14-FFF Deposit $204.00
Interest $12.11
4/16-Dues $80.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS: $4313.90
BALANCE BR.FOR: 500.00

DEBITS

11/6-Newsletter Expense-Walt $9.95
11/6-FFF Expenses-Deb $250.00
11/6-P.O. Box Rental-Rose Ann $14.00
11/11-Capitol Rental $96.00
11/29-Newsletter Printing $179.76
1/2/89-Check Order $7.76
Interest Wthholding $1.07
1/2-Newsletter Printing $98.12
1/11-Postage-Walt $7.20
1/28-Newsletter Printing $126.55
1/28-NC Annual Meeting-Meredith $200.00
2/4-Postage- Wade $10.00
2/4-Postage-Walt $8.04
2/9-Oxfam-FFF $872.00
2/9-Close-Up D.C. Donation $50.00
2/17-Nat. Council Dues(46members) $690.00
2/17-Newsletter Printing $99.93
2/17-Retreat Payment $294.83
3/14-Oxfam-FFF $204.00
3/28-Newsletter Printing $86.73
4/3-Misc. Expenses-Walt $13.80
4/28-Newsletter Printing $109.68

TOTAL DEBITS: $3429.42

ASSET$: $4813.90
DEBITS: $3429.42
CASH ON HAND: $1384.48 April 29, 1989

Submitted By,
Wade DallaGrana

Last Call!
Charity nominations
We vote on disbursements at June meeting
CAMPING AT WYALUSING STATE PARK

From Friday June 23 to 3 pm Sunday June 25 we have reserved outdoor group campsite E at Wyalusing. This site is for tent camping only. Wyalusing is at the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. It also borders on a federal wildlife reserve. So save that weekend on your calendar now. Advance reports have someone canoeing in from Boscobel.

The Saturday evening meal will be a pot luck picnic with area RPCV’s invited thru the local newspapers.

The charge is $3 per night and if you do not have a state parks sticker there is an additional daily charge.

From Madison follow Hwy 18 to intersection of Hwy 18 and C. At this intersection there is a restaurant and motel and a large sign "Wyalusing State Park 5 miles". Take Hwy C up a big hill to a blue tavern, the Dew Drop In, then take a right and go till a large stone park sign, continue and register at the park office.

Points of Interest
- Big Chief Bluff
- Black Thunder Point
- Yellow Thunder Point
- Firefly Point
- Sand Cave
- The Knob
- Council Lookout
- Signal Lookout
- Treasure Cave
- Point Lookout
- Passenger Pigeon
- Monument and Lookout
- Pictured Rock Cave
- Glen Homestead Picnic Area
April 10, 1989

Ms. Rose Ann Scott
RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc.
Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703

Dear RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc.:

As I leave the Peace Corps, and what I have always said is the "best job in Washington" -- that of Peace Corps Director -- I want to write to all of you. The Returned Peace Corps Volunteer organizations who have been so helpful to me in recent years. Your work and your support has been essential in building public awareness and support, in helping us attract skilled and dedicated volunteers, and in working ever more effectively toward meeting the Third Goal of the Peace Corps, that of global education here at home.

I can recall when I came to the Peace Corps, new to the field of international development and new to managing a bureaucracy, but committed to putting my best efforts forth because you volunteers were so inspirational. You helped me build support for our leaders for peace -- our volunteers -- support which has helped increase our budget, distance the Peace Corps from bipartisan politics, enter new countries and launch new initiatives to broaden the opportunities for Americans to participate in the Peace Corps mission.

Over the last several weeks, I have met extensively with President Bush's nominee to head the Peace Corps, Georgia State Senator Paul Coverdell. I know how much President Bush values the work of the Peace Corps, because I've talked to him many times about your work. President and Mrs. Bush have personally visited with volunteers in more than twenty countries. Senator Coverdell has impressed me greatly in just a few short weeks. I know he has the sensitivity, compassion, and dedication to Peace Corps' mission that will make him a great Peace Corps Director. He has already met with Tim Carroll, Katy Hansen, and other National Council staff as well as with the Atlanta RPCV Group. Your support and assistance to him as he begins his work for the Peace Corps of the '90s will be invaluable.

Once again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for so much work you have accomplished in recent years... the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary rededication to activism for human development at home and abroad, the support for Peace Corps' Partnership program, the tremendous "Friends of" efforts that have earned such respect and gratitude from our host countries. Thank you for helping us in educational institutions, giving scholarships and credit for volunteers service. Thank you for helping our Information Collection and Exchange staff find the answers to technical questions posed by volunteers. Thank you for providing career information and counselling to returning volunteers. Thank you for referring the brightest and most dedicated of your friends, students, parents and children to serve as tomorrow's volunteers.

All of these thank you's are still not enough to express my gratitude and belief in the value of your continuing contributions to international friendship and peace. Please keep up your good work. It has been a great pleasure to me to be part of your team.

Sincerely,

Doret Miller Ruppe
Director
April 12, 1989

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Milwaukee
P.O. Box 1064
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-1064

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your letter of February 8. We appreciate input from our affiliated groups and hope we can address your concerns. Yes, there have been many changes in the National Council these past few years. There are problems. Things will probably never be perfect. We need all the help we can get from you, the members and affiliated groups. The National Council is your organization. It will be what you make of it.

Relative to the concerns you raise:

1. The Regional Meetings (your first items 1-4)

   The first go-around of regional meetings has been rather loose. They have been organized by volunteers in each region who committed their own time and their group’s resources. The Chicago group carried the ball for the North Central Region and is doing so for this spring meeting as well.

   Indeed, everyone realized the Sunday morning time did not provide enough time for groups to exchange views and focus on their own needs. I agree fully and believe this is one of the main reasons for the second meeting the end of this month. Not all regions are having spring meetings. According to Mike McQueen, the agenda is not yet set. I suggest you contact him immediately and be sure enough time is set aside for group discussions.

   I am hoping that for future meetings the Presidents’ Forum and the board of directors of the National Council can better define the agenda for the regional meetings. That way they will be more focused and more productive. A part of the program needs to be determined by the specific region for their own concerns, but perhaps the rest can be determined more specifically. (I might add here that I attended the Southeast Regional Meeting and there were those that were unhappy with that one because the group interaction was all that happened.)

2. Bylaws (your second item 1)

   Enclosed is a copy of the bylaws. They are handed out to all those attending the yearly Annual General Meeting. The portion dealing with nominations and election has been printed in past years along with the nomination forms. It was not done this year because there seemed to be little interest. A notice for bylaw revisions appears every year with an indication of where one can get a copy of the bylaws. See page 31 of the latest spring issue of the Worldview. We will, of course, supply a copy to anyone who asks, but to send 7,000 members is not financially feasible or warranted considering our ten years of history indicating little interest in the legal details of the organization.

3. Financial Reports (item 2)

   After significant efforts, our financial reporting in now in order. The Group Leaders’ Digest had the abbreviated report for 1987 which appeared more fully in the 25th Anniversary Conference and 1987 Annual Report. I enclose a copy. I admit that before 1987 our reporting was minimal, but that is now corrected. The 1988 annual report will be sent to the printers soon. It is waiting for the completion of an audit. It will also appear in an issue of the Group Leaders’ Digest. Are there any details in which you are particularly interested?

4. Relative to increasing dues (item 3)

   There was extensive communication between Steve Werner, our RPCV group affiliation committee chair, and the local groups when we were considering what affiliation process the National Council should provide the groups. After nearly a year’s consideration, the process
adoption in January of 1986 was an attempt to accommodate most everyone's concerns. I think your figure of $6 as membership dues is out of date. In January of 1988 when the changes were made, the membership dues was $8 for those belonging to affiliated groups and $15 for those without affiliation. The $6 (and $12 for members not belonging to a group) was changed to $9 and $15 back in January 1985. The change to $15 in 1988 reflected only an equalizing of the membership fees for everyone. I, myself, have not been a member of an affiliated group before this year and have paid the $15 a year since 1985. Even then amount does not support membership operations. They are being subsidized by other funding.

5. Decisions (item 4)

Many decisions in our and similar organizations are made by a board of directors. The board of the National Council has attempted to reach out and poll the affiliated groups (more than the membership at large) on the issues of dues and office location. Not all affiliated groups have paid attention to these efforts. In 1986, a survey of the groups was conducted by Margaret Riley, the president at the time, to determine where the central office should be located. If I remember right, the results were mixed between DC and someplace else, but no single alternative to DC was evident and there was a majority on the board who favored the DC choice. The decision was made in July 1986. There is still disagreement, but a choice had to be made, and the advantages of being there have been significant. There are certainly disadvantages as well.

The basic issue relative to polling the membership is certainly valid. As we acquire the resources, I believe you will see it happen. But someone needs to be able to make the necessary decisions with as much information as is available and move forward.

6. Political endorsements (item 5)

I believe there is a misunderstanding relative to the National Council taking stands on issues. First, relative to the speaker at the Boulder Conference: The African head of ANC in the U.S., Neo Nkazana, was originally scheduled to appear. He cancelled at the last moment and sent Dennis Goldberg in his place. Nkazana was the request of the Colorado group. Arranging speakers for conferences is difficult. We do not believe it constitutes endorsement of a point of view. A number of things are sought: a Third World individual is a high priority, a well-known person can draw attendance, availability is a must. This year it is boiling down to "who is available?" We have gone through a number of "nos." (Do you have any suggestions?) Stimulation of discussion should not constitute an endorsement of one side or another. We got both positive and negative feedback on Goldberg.

Resolutions passed at the National Council's annual meeting do not constitute endorsements. They reflect only the majority opinion of those attending and are not binding on the organization. The return on the survey resulting from one of those resolutions resulted in only about 15 people replying, hardly enough support to justify the National Council's endorsement.

I have enclosed a copy of the policies passed at all board meetings relative to legislative endorsements. These are new, and we have not yet been able to carry out the voting process provided for. There is also an article in the most recent WorldView relative to the legislation we have endorsed. I believe the choices are very conservative. If you have objections to any of them, please let us know. We are very conscious of both the dangers of taking controversial political stands and of putting PCVs in the field at risk.

7. Annual Meeting (item 6)

I agree the AGM cannot be used to reflect the entire membership. We will attempt to clarify this at Kent State.

8. Pressure (item 7) Please refer to 1 above.

You certainly have a right to have your voices heard. I encourage you to take part more fully in all aspects of the regional and national organization. Call Mike McQuesten and give him your views on the agenda. Offer to write up the minutes. Express your viewpoints and be sure they are recorded. Go to Kent State and take part in all the meetings there. Run your best member for the board of directors. We need help on how we can raise the money necessary to make the national organization survive. Suggest a more feasible affiliation process. Involve your group as your group sees fit. We need your help. We cannot survive without the grass roots. This is your organization. We need to know where we have gone wrong, but we also need to know how best to proceed. Can you help us?

Thank you for your time. We do appreciate your concern.

Sincerely yours,

Katy Hansen

cc Lorette Ruepe, Sue Jones, Valerie Staats in the Peace Corps
Timothy Carroll, Jeff Drumatra and others in the National Council
The bonds that bind

A lion's share for the oppression of women, must be placed with their families and a social system that propagates dowry, writes FLAVIA AGNES on Ashoka.

One of the reasons for giving special attention to dowry related violence could be the added economic factor which was a strain on the parents. Even after giving dowries, they are harassed for more money. Had the campaign against dowry, led by the media and women's groups succeeded, the parents should have been the direct beneficiaries. In economic terms without changing their basic attitude, their 'towards daughters, marriage or dowry,' in an extreme sense, highlighted dowry seems to leave in abash a mathematical equation that since 'daughter equals equals, no daughter equals no dowry.' This has led to the widened s of the dowry campaign to be seen as a way to end violence in their community.

The common practice of dowry cannot survive at the mere instance of greedy in-laws as parents do not support unmarried and divorced daughters. Nor do they assure them of equal rights in the parent's estate. If they refuse to get married with a dowry, we seem to forget that parents and in-laws are not a mutually exclusive lot, one set producing only the other and the girls only boys. Dowry and ostentatious marriages are as much a status symbol to the woman's family as it is for the man and his family. While parents mean over 'excess demands, it is their 'social status' which is at stake. What is 'normal' and what is 'excess' is defined by each individual parent. The social pressure of 'excessive' demands will disown and disinherit his daughter if she contracts marriage with a man of lower caste or a different religion. A woman by her marital family. Parents would rather pay dowry than help her start a business venture or get a separate residence in order to be independent. There is constant pressure on women to get married at the right age to a man of the parents' choice or at least approved by them, and then stay married, even if they are abused. The recent suicides in Kanpur and Pratapgarh are eye-openers to all of us who have had to bear the mother-fool for dowry deaths. Why did these collective suicides take place? It is too simplistic to say: Because of dowry.

The women were subjected to constant humiliation and considered a burden. The eldest sister in the Kanpur case was considered a good looking, and haduck teeth and felt that her chances of marriage were nil.

In this context, I would like to share my recent experiences of organizing a women's workshop in the economically-backward village of Bihar. In the village activity of Mithila painting was revived. The art which was once carried out by. It is seen that wood carving is now done on paper and the craft is also claimed worldwide. Although the venturess need a skill of women, they rarely participate in exhibitions as they are not allowed to cross the village boundaries. Women who deal with the outside world even though they don't know the art. The women fabric, craft, and sometimes the sole survivors of their family. Yet the decision regarding payment of their children's education is taken by their fathers and brothers.

What was heartening was that the initiative was taken during the workshop to be performed in a small room with walls and windows. It's the continuation of the threat of fathers and sons. Which was eventually from a greater income. This is the continuation of rural and lower class women.

Today, we need a campaign to focus on issues of equal opportunity and access to resources early in life which would also have the freedom to develop their full potential, marry, whom to marry and whether to marry at all. Whether to accept dowry or fight for inheritance would be a secondary question.
Results: a lobby group that lives up to its name

Ending world hunger is aim of this US-based organization

By Kristin Helmore
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

“I’ve never been behind my government’s ‘policies.’ The woman speaking was in Leeds, England – though she might have been expressing the frustration many citizens feel the world over. But Sam Harris, founder of a successful Washington-based lobbying group, Results, refused to let her off the hook.

“Have you ever been in front of your government’s policies?” Mr. Harris recalls asking. “Have you ever decided where you want your government to go, and then pulled it up there?”

Harris was speaking from experience. As head of a nonpartisan citizens’ lobby group called Results, this is what he and hundreds of volunteers in the United States have been doing with considerable success for several years.

Results is dedicated to generating the political will to end hunger – chronic world hunger that is linked to poverty and that, according to UNICEF, results in some 40,000 deaths daily. Like a growing number of analysts, Results workers say that “traditional” development efforts have done little to solve the problem.

“We focus on the poorest,” says Deborah Pavich, a volunteer in Washington. “We don’t expect [foreign aid] to ‘trickle down’ as it did in Germany and Japan with the Marshall Plan. Developing countries don’t have the same infrastructures. Benefits don’t bubble down.”

Hunger advocacy groups often point out that the resources to feed all of humanity exist – but the issue remains a low priority on political agendas. That’s where Results comes in.

Since 1985, Results has promoted legislation to increase US support for international development efforts, and has drafted bills refocusing those efforts on the needs of the very poor.

• In 1985, Results was instrumental in increasing US funding of the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development, which aids small farmers in developing nations.

• In 1986, it played a key role in more than doubling the amount the US spends on child survival programs in the third world.

• In 1987, Results was a major force in the drafting, and passing, of the “Self-sufficiency for the Poor” Act, which earmarked $60 million of US foreign aid for small loans to the world’s poorest.

• It has currently rallied more than 200 congressional supporters for the Global Poverty Reduction Act, a bill to make human welfare indicators (such as infant mortality rates) the means of assessing the success of US-third world development programs – rather than economic measurements such as GNP.

“I’ve been impressed with how they come up with good ideas, blend them with political savvy, and go out into the community and build public support,” says Rep. John Miller (R) of Washington.

Results has five paid staff members in Washington. About 100 volunteer groups of at least four people each work in one third of US congressional districts, generating editorials and letters to legislators. Results groups are overseas, too, in Britain, six in both Canada and Australia, three in West Germany.

What kind of background does it take to lobby successfully for the world’s poorest people in the world’s richest nation? Harris, a music teacher in Miami and a percussionist with the Philharmonic there, once felt world hunger was insoluble.

Then, in 1977, he came across The Hunger Project, a group working to increase public awareness of the feasibility of ending world hunger and his views began to change. "I realized my thinking was off," he says. "My sense of what was possible was really limited and not accurate. That's when I first got involved."

Getting involved, for Harris, meant tackling public and political ignorance and inertia. Most people he met had little understanding of, and even less contact with, political institutions. And they knew very little about world hunger.

Today, the 400 Results “partners” have established relationships with congress members, raising the issue of hunger a little higher on the political agenda – no mean feat in an era when short-term, strictly national interests tend to predominate.


“They generated over 100 editorials throughout the country in support of the bill. For a bill that did not have high visibility on its own, that was a remarkable effort.”

Harris began Results in 1979 with meetings in homes across the country. Now, from an office on Capitol Hill, his staff works closely with legislators and with 400 Results partners from Hawaii to Maine.

The 100 Results groups meet three times a month. First, on a national conference call with an international development expert who briefs them on an issue. Next, the partners learn to “speak the issue.”

The partners’ new-found expertise is enhanced by mailings of articles, studies, and books. At the third meeting, they write letters to newspapers and legislators.

If Results draws criticism in Washington – and it does – it stems from a sense some legislators have that Harris and his team can be too rigid in urging lawmakers to endorse specific points in a bill.

“Some members have felt almost afflicted and harassed,” says a key congressional aide. “It’s as if you have to do it this way, or else.”

Results exists solely on private contributions, which are not tax-deductible. Last year, it cost $300,000 to run the Washington office. This year, the estimate is $500,000.

As Harris sees it, the focus of his work is “empowerment” – of the poor to control their own lives, and of the citizens to have an impact on their government’s policies.

“There’s such a potential that’s not been unleashed because of this stumbling-block of ‘I don’t make a difference,’ ” he says. “What people get from working with their government is not only the opportunity to take effective action – they get their democracy back.”

THE NEXT RESULTS MEETING IS
MONDAY MAY 22 AT 7 PM
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WISCONSIN AND GORHAM
Peace Corps alumni find it hard to come home

By ROSEMARY KENDRICK
Capital Times Staff Writer

Robert Cowell, 37, sits with his buddies drinking beer around a table in a Madison apartment, and his mind wanders back a dozen years to a far-away land.

He remembers sitting down to lunch with President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines to talk about the issues of the day.

"Nobody invited me to the White House yet," he quips.

His friends smile knowingly. They understand his point.

Cowell and the others are returned Peace Corps volunteers and members of a new social and support group here called "Re-Action," of which Cowell is president.

Formed last spring, Re-Action already boasts 90 members who socialize, conduct lively discussions about international affairs and generally help each other cope with the shifting realities of their lives.

The Peace Corps can be difficult, they agree: not so much going to strange and sometimes primitive countries, but rather coming home.

For one thing, there is the shock of suddenly not being a VIP. Observed Cowell, "You go into a developing country, and you're a celebrity. You're listened to, you're given special treatment — and you get used to it. It boosts your ego and it helps you in your work.

"Then when you come back, nobody knows you're alive."

Wade DallaGrana, 29, a teacher at Edgewood High School, joined the Peace Corps in 1976. For the next two years he supervised intern teachers in Lesotho, a small, independent black nation surrounded by the Republic of South Africa.

He confided to his beer-drinking comrades that he had "very unrealistic expectations" about the kind of response he would receive when he returned home.

"I had thought my friends and family would take an active interest in the kind of life I had been leading, but it didn't turn out that way. People said 'glad you're back,' and that was it. Yet I had this incredible change within me, the discovery of a totally different lifestyle, and it was frustrating not to be able to share it."

Brent McNabb, 32, a chiropractor who went to Brazil with the Peace Corps in 1972, agreed that "coming home is harder than going to another country. Your whole view of the world and where you fit into it changes drastically, and you really can't share that with people who haven't been through it."

McNabb also expressed some frustration with people who assumed that serving in the Peace Corps meant suffering.

"Here we were, having the best time of our lives, the richest possible experience, and people kept talking about how we were making such a sacrifice."

The ex-volunteers agreed that such an attitude reflects America's materialism — an orientation they shed while living in the Third World and now find hard to accept.

Returned volunteers also tend to find life back home downright dull in comparison with the Peace Corps.

Cowell, whose work in the Philippines eventually led to his current doctoral research on mass communication in developing countries, noted that the Peace Corps offers travel, excitement, exotic places and people...

"The adventure is something I really live for," he said wistfully. "You do things overseas you can't do here, like build a school. Here you would need a union card, a license, permits — there are so many regulations."

"In the Peace Corps, you can take risks. If you took a risk here, you'd probably be sued."

The returned volunteers spoke of gaining a wider vision.

"It made me aware that there's more in the world than just America," said Earl Bricker, 29, who taught English in Niger from 1976 to 1980 and is now secretary of Re-Action. "Compared to how many people in other countries know about us, Americans know nothing about the world."

Yvonne Schneider, 32, a state employee who served in Ethiopia in the early 1970s, agreed that it "changed my perspective completely. I was just a little farm girl from Muscoda, Wis., when I joined the Peace Corps. Now, everything that happens I relate not only to my life here but to my experiences over there."

Carole James, 42, went to the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to work as a health educator in 1963, only two years after the Peace Corps was established by President John F. Kennedy.

She says she liked the independence so much that after subsequent years of working for institutions, she now has branched out on her own, starting a health education business and working as a self-employed physical therapist as well.

"In the Peace Corps, we had freedom to develop and to create our own activities. It was beautiful," she recalled. "Now I've returned to that kind of lifestyle, and I'm free again."

Peace Corps people say they share such a bond that they sometimes "just feel" that a stranger on the street or in the supermarket is another returned volunteer. Questioning the person, they find they are often right.

In fact, some Re-Action members have been recruited that way.

IMP Specialist (2 positions). Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE). One with specific training in plant pathology, one in weed science. Available immediately, based in Managua, Nicaragua. Salary commensurate with experience. Responsibilities include design and validation of IMP programs; organization of and teaching in training activities, technical assistance and extension; supervision of graduate student research. In addition, the plant pathologist will coordinate the pest diagnostic services and the weed scientist the training and information transfer activities of the project. Ph.D.; Fluency in Spanish and English; experience in tropical agriculture, preferably in Central America; broad background in research, teaching/training, and technology transfer or production desirable. Send cv., post-secondary transcripts, cover letter, and arrange for three letters of recommendation, to arrive no later than 15 May at Human Resources Division, Ref.: IPM N, 7170 CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica.

General. CARE seeks potential candidates for entry through mid-level overseas positions. Minimum of two-years experience in a developing country; proficiency in a foreign language, preferably French and/or Spanish. Appropriate education or experience in one or more of the following program areas: Agriculture: farming systems management, irrigation, horticulture, beekeeping, cooperatives, agronomy, agricultural economics. Forestry: community forestry, agroforestry, small scale nursery management, soil conservation, watershed management, extension. Small Enterprise Development: marketing and sales, handcrafts development, appropriate technology, small business management extension, training, financial analysis. Public Administration: planning/programming design, staff management, negotiation, liaison, development of resource center, report preparation. All qualified candidates are encouraged to send their resumes to International Employment, CARE, 660 First Ave., New York NY 10016.
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: ____________
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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

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

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UW students set the pace for service

WHEN FOLKS tell you that this generation of college students is totally absorbed in their prospects for making money, take a moment to tell them one of the special things about students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For the second year in a row, UW-Madison leads the nation in providing volunteers for the Peace Corps. It may well now lead the nation in the total number of volunteers from a single school since the Peace Corps began in 1961.

We're not talking huge numbers in any given year; perhaps 35 or 40 UW-Madison students will sign up in a year. Those students, however, reflect an ethic of service that seems to be alive and well at the UW.

There are, of course, numerous Peace Corps alumni in Madison, including the UW-Madison's chancellor, Donna Shalala, and state Supreme Court Justice William Babitch. Those folks can speak from firsthand experience about the important role the Peace Corps played in their lives and about the kinds of assistance they were able to provide to people in other nations.

The Peace Corps is not the only way students can take their knowledge and skills and put them at the service of others. Because it is one of the most visible forms of service, though, it helps create an atmosphere where service is viewed as important, where life is more than just getting on a career fast track.

MADISON CAN take pride in its high ranking for the Peace Corps. This is a tradition worth nurturing.