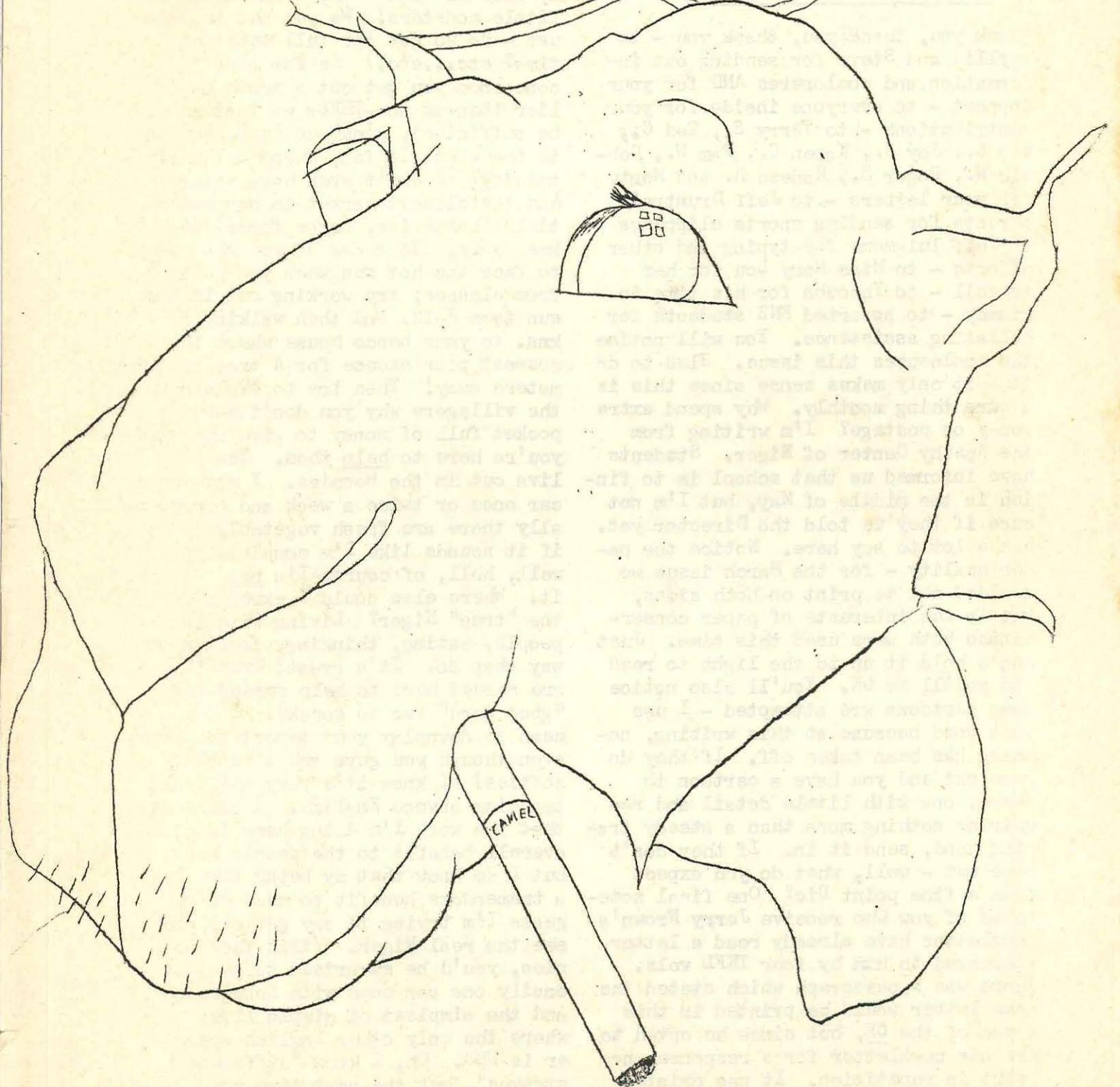


CAMEL EXPRESS



THE CAMEL EXPRESS

April 1979

PC/NIGER

BP 228

Zinder, Niger

Thank you, thank you, thank you - to Phyllis and Steve for sending out information and enclosures AND for your support - to everyone inside for your contributions - to Terry S., Ted C., Ben B., Joy S., Karen C., Pam W., Debbie W., Roger S., Hadeza R. and Monty for your letters - to Jeff Drumtra's parents for sending sports clippings - to Jeff lui-meme for typing and other efforts - to Miss Mary Lou for her travail - to Yacouba for his time in Niamey - to assorted ENZ students for collating assistance. You will notice the enclosures this issue. Glad to do it - it only makes sense since this is a sure thing monthly. Why spend extra money on postage? I'm writing from the Apathy Center of Niger. Students have informed us that school is to finish in the middle of May, but I'm not sure if they've told the Director yet. Not a lot to say here. Notice the paper quality - for the March issue we decided not to print on both sides, but in the interests of paper conservation both were used this time. Just don't hold it up to the light to read and you'll be OK. You'll also notice some cartoons were attempted - I use that word because at this writing, nothing has been taken off. If they do come out and you have a cartoon to share, one with little detail and requiring nothing more than a steady tracing hand, send it in. If they don't come out - well, what do you expect from a fine point Bic? One final note - those of you who receive Jerry Brown's newsletter have already read a letter addressed to him by four TEFL vols. There was a paragraph which stated the same letter would be printed in this issue of the CE, but since he opted to use his newsletter for a response, no point in repetition. It was printed and answered and that's all that was desired. OK * are people receiving this sans problemes? It would be interesting for us to know how long it takes for them to reach you at your post. Read on.

To whom it may concern (which may just be the writer):

I've been reading the CE and think it's got good possibilities, but I'm a little pissed off at the way the TEFLs complain about this or that (Where's my electric fan? Oh, these kids are little monsters! We get out in August - do we get our full vacation time? etc...etc.) As far as I'm concerned you get out a month earlier than us non-TEFLs so that should be sufficient, n'est-ce pas? And as to the electric fan, where's the electricity? I don't even have water! And the closest market to buy essentials (batteries, sugar food!) is 10 kms. away. To those of you who have to face the hot sun when you go to & from classes, try working out in the sun from 8-12, and then walking 3 kms. to your banco house where the nearest poor excuse for a tree is 100 meters away! Then try to explain to the villagers why you don't have a pocket full of money to give out, but you're here to help them. Yes, I live out in the boonies. I may see a car once or twice a week and occasionally there are fresh vegetables. But if it sounds like I'm complaining - well, hell, of course I'm not. I love it. Where else could I experience the "true" Niger? Living with the people, eating, thinking, feeling the way they do. It's great! Even TEFLs are needed here to help spread the "good word" (so to speak). I don't mean to downplay your importance here, even though you guys are a bunch of softies! I know it's very difficult teaching anyone English. I can't say that the work I'm doing here is an overall benefit to the people here, but I do know that my being here is a tremendous benefit to me. So I guess I'm trying to say get out and see the real Niger. Visit the boonies, you'd be surprised to see how easily one can cope with loneliness and the simplest of simple lives where the only other English speaker is BBC. Oh, I know "different strokes", but the next time you sit down under your ceiling fan with an ice cold beer in your hand after taking a long shower, remember that you're in Niger, and try to get the most out of this experience. I'm sure trying to.

Why Critics Lambaste Sam Brown's Agency



ACTION, a federal agency that sponsors thousands of volunteers in communities across the nation and around the world, is fighting for its life.

Overseeing the foreign services of the Peace Corps and domestic volunteer groups such as VISTA, the agency is under attack from Congress and its own ranks. Critics demand the abolishment or a thorough reorganization of the 213-million-dollar program that supervises 280,000 volunteers in all 50 states and 63 foreign countries.

Some of the charges: cronyism, leadership failures, low morale, conflicts of interest, poor training of volunteers and too much "politicization."

The most serious attack comes from a congressional investigation raising questions about the financial operations of ACTION. The report was released by Representative Robert Michel of Illinois, House Republican Whip, who accused the agency of "inappropriate, unproductive and sometimes illegal activities." Among his allegations was a charge that contracts, which he did not specify, had been awarded without advertising or competitive bids.

Michel complained that volunteers "were found to be engaged in illegal activities, such as union organization, political campaigning and lobbying." He concluded: "Largely because of weak supervision, (VISTA volunteers) have been underutilized, used improperly and have become involved in activities prohibited by statute."

Some bureaucrats also are unhappy about ACTION Director Samuel W. Brown, Jr. He is criticized for matters such as his handling of the dismissal of PG Director Carolyn R. Payton and William Gaymon, regional director for Africa.

Brown angered many lawmakers on Capitol Hill when he cut budget requests for service programs involving older Americans, among ACTION's most popular and effective projects. The funds have since been restored.

Most damaging, in the view of many in the agency, are charges of cronyism in the operation's hierarchy.

"The agency is run by a bunch of old-hat 1960s political activists who have small brains and large ideas," says Christopher Klose, a former speechwriter for Brown and Deputy Director Mary E. King. "They are very suspicious of people they don't know, and if you look at the pattern of employment from the top levels on down, you see they tend to be people who have worked together for years."

The result, according to some staff members, is that morale in many parts of the organization is low - to the point of damaging the effectiveness of field work and recruiting.

The Peace Corps, born amid high hopes during the first months of the Kennedy administration, soon became a showcase of the willingness of American individuals to help less-privileged foreigners everywhere, from the jungles of Africa to the shores of South Pacific islands. Later, VISTA and other organizations including Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions were created.

Volunteers in urban areas and remote farms work with local citizens on efforts ranging from innoculating animals to foster care for juveniles.

In recent years, some of the luster seemed to dim as other administrations took over and the programs were deemphasized. Now Republicans in Congress contend that Brown is "politicizing" the agency, hiring radicals, ignoring conflicts of interest and financing pressure groups.

Brown says the same charges were made during the administrations of Presidents Nixon and Ford. ACTION was formed in 1971 by combining the Peace Corps with parts of the old Office of Economic Opportunity. That amalgamation was seen by many officials as an attempt to dilute the programs.

"This agency has always been a thorn in the side of people who felt that poverty should be fought with Christmas baskets and a pat on the head," Brown says. "But under this administration, volunteers will continue to work to build coalitions to attack poverty through community organizing and advocacy for the poor."

Both Brown and Deputy Director King admit that the agency has perplexing problems, some of them inherited from the last administration and some the result of trying to implement changes too fast.

"Our policy has been to address basic human needs and to direct our assistance at the poorest of the poor," says King. "That has meant shifting some long-held notions, and it hasn't always been pleasant. Because of budgetary and administrative lags, we are just now able to begin pushing the agency in a new direction."

Officials say the Peace Corps has been especially hard hit by developments over the past few years. Volunteer levels have dropped to below 6,000, one-third their size a decade ago, despite the fact that the corps budget of 95 million dollars comprises the biggest chunk of ACTION funding.

Volunteers complain that hundreds of people are sent overseas under-trained and unequipped to do their jobs, and that they are given inadequate medical and technical support from the Washington bureaucracy.

One example cited: PC staffers say that two volunteers in Africa - injured in a motorcycle accident - experienced long delays in being evacuated for medical treatment because of bureaucratic tie-ups. One of the two dies before she could be flown to a hospital in Europe.

Former PC workers, members of an alumni association that numbers 82,000 in the US, have pressed the Brown organization to restore the sense of mission and excitement that the program had in the 1960s.

"That just isn't possible," says one high-ranking ACTION official.

"The world has changed since the PC was born in 1961. Many countries simply don't need us any more, and the ones that do are the poorest nations that have very specific needs. But the old PC mystique persists like a religion to some people."

Some congressional and White House officials suggest that ACTION be included in the President's government reorganization plans. One proposal would split off the Peace Corps into a quasi-governmental corporation and shift its domestic volunteer programs to the Community Services Administration or the Department of HEW. But other officials say such reshaping would diminish the agency to virtual death.

Although the change is not expected soon, Brown in the past has expressed willingness to turn over the PC to an international development agency proposed last year if he is convinced that the shift would enhance the effectiveness of the corps. In the meantime, he says, the agency will correct its current difficulties and try to target aid where it is really needed.

"The problems of poor people in the Third World aren't basically different from poor people in America, and we think that our international and domestic programs can learn from each other ways to break the poverty cycle," he observes. And, he adds with satisfaction, "the President must agree, since he approved all the money we requested to carry out our goals."

Many government officials believe that the results of all these efforts may make the difference between life and death for an agency that once seemed unassailable.

(The above article appeared in US News and World Report, January 15, 1979.)

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The following letter is of related interest to any discussion of the current PC situation. It was written by a group called the Committee for an Independent Peace Corps, but the membership is not known to us here.

It has come to our attention that both the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will soon take up the Peace Corps authorization for next year. We also understand that you intend to consider at that time alternatives for separating the Peace Corps from ACTION.

Prior to incorporation into ACTION, the Peace Corps was one of the most effective and popular programs our country ever launched overseas. We believe that this was because the PC volunteers symbolized our desire to help others on a "people to people" basis.

Since the Peace Corps was merged into ACTION, it has lost its visibility and its independence. ACTION assumed total control over Peace Corps' budget, external relations, recruitment, selection and training of volunteers -- in short, over every basic management function. The position of Peace Corps Director was even abolished. For five years, the Peace Corps was not even allowed to print the words "Peace Corps" on a piece of stationery by the new ACTION agency.

ACTION is essentially a domestic volunteer effort. It was created by the Domestic Volunteer Act of 1973. Its original goals did not even refer to the basic international mission of the Peace Corps.

To stress the international character of the Peace Corps, however, is not to say that it should become part of any other super-agency, least of all one which would make the Peace Corps part of US foreign and development policy. This would be tantamount to replacing one form of bureaucratic subservience with a worse form. Under such an arrangement, the Peace Corps would be perceived in the developing countries as an integral part of the foreign policy establishment of the US government.

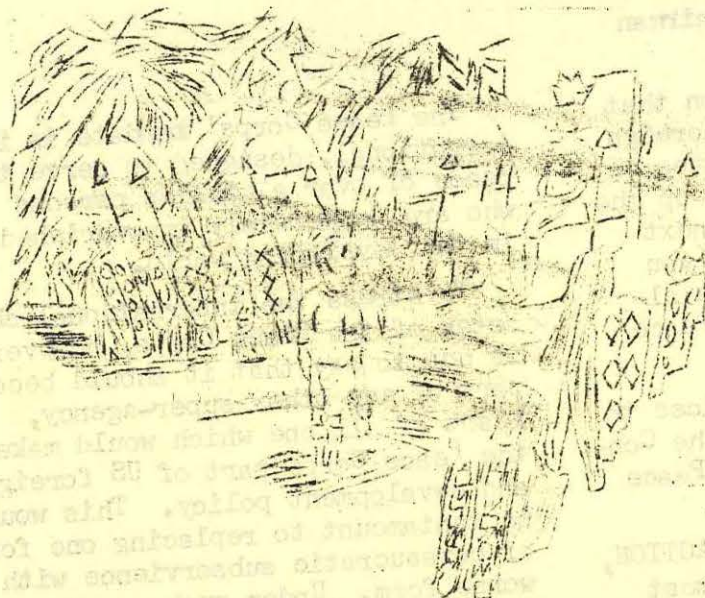
In our view, the most effective way of accomplishing this would be to create the Peace Corps as a public corporation with a Board of Directors, and an International Advisory Council, as favored by several members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

We offer no form letter or organized writing effort, but if you are at all concerned with the future of Peace Corps, take it upon yourself to write your congressman and senators. If a letter is sent to:

it will arrive, and hopefully, read as well.

[illegible]

drawing by Mulligan; copyright 1963
The New Yorker Magazine, Inc. - thanks to
Karen Curtin



"Miss Dichter, you know very well that
this is contrary to Peace Corps policy."

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

To: Shirley and Mike -

You've given popcorn, wine, kind
words when I've needed them, and
most of all, friendship. Think-
ing of you and wishing you con-
tinued happiness.

- ME

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

A SUNSET IN NIGER

The African sun sets to the west,
Golden hues against the billowing clouds,
Fringed by fiery amber rays
Melting into the turquoise heavens.

The African sunset marks
The end of today,
The beginning of a new day,
The closing of the past,
The opening of the future.

On the borders of dreams
All Africa sleeps.
In the frontiers of hope
Africa will awake,
And then

- John Lemon
Gaya

*****PERSONALS*****

To: FM^C From: R-MC
Please bring Millie Jackson's
album, "Feelin' Bitchy", to the
city.

Ray, I hear you've been blowing
your lungs out with that sax.
Clean up your act for a pas de
deux to Sentimental Journey.....

Ruth-Marie

To: Anasara Ann -
Hello, from Anasara Sara.

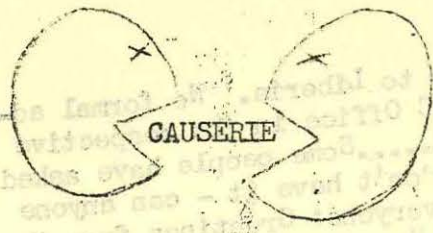
To: B.B. Bill -
Babu hankali. Still
love ya.
A friend.

To: that old codger "way out
there" - Sorry we missed
our Easter Break Zinder
Drink. We'll just have to
double our efforts in Ma-
radi or Niamey in June!
Forever Young

To: David from the Diffa region-
Happy 25th on the 25th!
Read your interesting arti-
cle - with mixed emotions.
love, Your barber

To: Sumada -
Happy Birthday on May 11.
See you in June.
love, Sumada

To: Georganne -
Happy Birthday on May 8.
-Schalmei & friend



CAUSERIE

Merre McGehee lucked out on her way to Niamey for the Championnat Scolaire. Her vehicle overturned, but she received no injury. That was lucky for those who did since she was enabled to give a little demonstration in first aid....Wanted - Bullshit repellent in Diffa. Cost is immaterial as long as it's guaranteed to work....Laurie Tuller found it difficult to distinguish between dunes during a vacation trip to the desert. While seeking a little privacy for just a few moments, she got lost - not once, but twice and was forced to raise her voice for help. I guess some things do all look alike....Art Bettge is now employed! He's now a Biological Fisheries Technician working for the National Marine Fisheries Service. His job entails going out on fishing boats to count the number of fish caught and porpoises killed. In his own words, he's "not the most popular man on the boat." New address: 8668 Hurlbut St., San Diego, CA. 92123....In order to bring those vicious, ridiculous, absurd, ignorant, outlandish, outrageous rumors about Mary Lou and Earl to a screeching halt, let it be known that he only lives at her house, he doesn't sleep there....Jennifer Yanco is busy at school but would like to hear from people: 1202 Maxwell Lane, Bloomington, Indiana 47401....Alan Davis (ex-Tanout) is working for USAID in Kenya - c/o American Embassy, Nairobi. A place to stay?....Bob Squires is/was doing a stage in Ougadougou. If he's not in Niamey by now, he's supposedly coming soon....Ray and Pam Pomfret-Stewart were evacuated from Chad to Gabon before taking the trip stateside. He was a Niger vol for a few months but love prevailed....Some other ex-Chadians were in Zinder and Niamey, traveling before going to the US. From the stories they told us, the PCVs there had more problems from PC/Washington than they did from the fighting....The Washington Post said February 25th that the expected nomination of former Ohio Lt. Governor Richard Celeste as PC Director has sparked new infighting at ACTION. The Post said the conflict involves the ACTION Employees Union and the agency's Deputy Director, Mary King. The Union says King is pushing Celeste's nomination as a political pay-off to Ohio Democrats, and that she is going over the head of ACTION Director, Sam Brown...Celeste was defeated in his bid for the governorship of Ohio last November....Congratulations to Shirley Stanton and Mike Godfrey on their upcoming marriage on May 5. It's hard to come up with an original sort of congratulations, so "All the best" will have to suffice....Mobylette accidents are in season in Niamey. Sharon Martin, Ruth Harris, Terry Spoering and Grace Nalepa all bruised/skinned/scraped their little bodies in just a space of three weeks....St. Nancy of Tahoua not only doles out her mandat to her friends there but also digs into the pockets of guests. All is not sweetness and light with that apple-cheeker, however, since she has a penchant for duping young, innocent visitors into riding on the back of her mobylette and then searching out the worst roads in town, hoping all the while for an "accident". Now the story can be told... ..Yvonne wants everyone with mobylettes to write her for their 1979 papers. Make sure you're up-to-date because a crackdown is possible....There's a temporary PC Doctor until July, Bob Wintchell. At that time we should be getting one of our very own as previously mentioned here. Eugenia, the Embassy Nurse, is also back from France, so there's no call for stoicism now....The American Ambassador, Mr. James, was recently medivacced for heart problems. He's resting and recuperating in Paris for a few weeks....PC staff have their hands full with the planning for the summer Omnibus training. Last count the number of stagiaires was at 81! Lots of new anasaras to get to know and love. And to the staff, thanks again for the gifts, dinners

been reassigned to Tanzania and Helen Sittner to Liberia. No formal addresses, but assumedly you can write to the PC Office in the respective capital cities and the mail will be forwarded.....Some people have asked if Carolyn Payton's address is available. I don't have it - can anyone help?.....Some late-arriving personals: to everyone: Greetings from the DUNE!.....To Terry Tahoua and George Maradi: Hang loose, Bros!..... and finally a question from the sticks (no way do I want anyone to think it comes from my mind): What is meant by RPCV (Returned PCV)? What ever happened to the non-returned ones?

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NOTES FROM NIAMEY

This past month has been a very busy one for the PC/N staff. As we do every year at this time, we once again evaluated our current projects and made plans for the coming years. It was a month of much reflection and also much satisfaction. Every indication we have from the government is that Niger is very satisfied with your work. In almost every service the number of volunteers requested this year is higher than for last year. Mamadou met with the President and was told of his appreciation for you. Two volunteers, Jack Rollins and Thom "Moussa" Shaw, were given commendations by the Director of Eaux et Forêts. We are extremely proud of you and the work all of you are going. Congratulations to Jack and Moussa and also to the rest of you. And when you are being congratulated, we feel our work is worthwhile as well.

During the course of our staff visits and your trips into Niamey, a number of you have offered suggestions for improving your programs and the training you received. Thanks for your help. Some were incorporated into this year's goals for program and training improvements. For those of you who still have suggestions, particularly for training, don't hesitate to let us know.

What will the coming years look like for PCV's? Assuming no major changes in our relations with the government, we should see more and more volunteers in the Ag/Rural Development sector, about the same number in Health and a small reduction in TEFL with the same total number in the Education sector. Here's how our plans work out sector by sector:

Ag/RD: From 25 volunteers in five programs last year we will have about twice that number in 7 programs when this summer's training is over. One new program, Ag Coops, will start this fall. For all the other projects at least the volunteers leaving will be replaced and some new posts opened.

Health: The Health Education project will be no longer after the departures of Ardis and Carol this September. We've had volunteers in health education since 1964 so it's appropriate we move on now. Nutrition Education will add about 10 new posts as Health Professionals did about the same earlier this year, 7 new ones to be exact.

Education: We will begin reducing the TEFL program from 42 to 38 approximately this next year. At the same time an emphasis has been put on placing volunteers in non-rural schools and not in the capital and into more teacher education posts. Youth Development will grow with more time being spent by the volunteers in the *Maison des Jeunes* work. We also anticipate a new project in Functional Literacy to begin next year.

This summer will be our biggest omnibus training program yet. Gaston Kaba will be the Training Director assisted by Bob Squires. Missy Gervais will be the Health Coordinator, Steve Evett the Ag/RD Coordinator, Bill Canny the ID Coordinator and hopefully Jennifer Yanco will return for TEFL. As it stands now we expect the following trainees to arrive on July 1st:

Nutrition Education.....	13
TEFL.....	23
Youth Development.....	6 (8 in total)
Ag Coops.....	7 (8 in total)
Pest Control.....	6
INRAN.....	1
Forestry.....	10
Range Management.....	5
Fisheries.....	3 (4 in total)

In addition, three volunteers from Chad and one from Tunisia will be joining the group this summer. We hope to do the French training in Niamey at the University, but we're not sure. And maybe national languages in Maradi. (Do you think John Lord's house could handle 81 people?)

Well, I almost made it through the Notes without a joke.

This is not a joke: if you want to take either French or national language with the new trainees, let your APCD know and we'll try to include you.

The latest news is the arrival of Dr. Bob Winshall who will be with us through June as the PCMO. He comes to us from Senegal where he worked on an AID project on the Senegal River. Bob can be found most often at the Medical Unit, the old Rat house now the Doc's house, or wandering around town with a red bandanna. His home phone is 72,29,63. The Medical Unit hours are 8 - 12:30 and 2 - 6 each weekday and 8 - 12 on Saturdays. Now, sigh, you can get sick. Thanks to all of you who waited 'til he came, and special thanks to Merre for not getting hurt.

Other new news: As most of you know from your Newsweek, PC has a new Director, Richard Celeste. Don't know what changes we can expect, but hopefully he will be able to put the Washington house back in order. At least we all found out why Newsweek is sent to volunteers. It's a rather expensive but effective communication system.

Have you met the new trainees yet? At least those of you on the road to Maradi should have met some. They are called Mary Abrams, Keith Collier, John Risley, Brian Kern and Gary Gervais. Robert Blain and Tom Steinback joined them on April 6th. Mary, Gary and Brian will work at INRAN. Keith will work for CADASTRE as a surveyor, and John, Robert and Tom will work for Genie Rural as surveyors. Mary and Keith were secretly married many years ago!

Finally, as you sit there sweating into your Camel Express, remember this: in 159 days we will be cold again. So be prepared!

Phyllis Dichter
Director

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Some relevant quotations sent in from a relevant volunteer:

It is a little lonely in the desert...it is also a little lonely among men.

All men have the stars but they are not the same thing for different people.

It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.

from 'The Little Prince'

SPORTS

Springtime in the States means a plethora of sports seasons starting afresh or crawling to an overdue finish. Hockey and basketball are finally calling it quits, while the end of baseball spring training signalled the beginning of the 'real thing'. For whatever it's worth, the two-time defending champion New York Yankees suffered one of the worst records of the 26 teams in spring training.

The biggest news of recent weeks was the NCAA college basketball tournament, won by Michigan State. The Spartans met previously unbeaten and topped-ranked Indiana State in the final match. The ISU Sycamores finished 33-1, while national champion MSU ended 26-6. Tiny DePaul University of Chicago (25-5) and previously unranked Pennsylvania (24-6) also reached the final four at the tournament in Salt Lake City.

Other top teams in the country, with their ranks and records prior to the NCAA tournament:

#2 UCLA (23-4); #3 North Carolina (23-5); #5 Notre Dame (22-5);
 #6 Duke (22-7); #7 Arkansas (23-4); #9 LSU (22-5); #10 Syracuse (25-3);
 #11 Georgetown (24-4); #12 Marquette (21-6); #13 Temple (25-3);
 #14 Iowa (20-7); #15 Texas (21-7); #16 Purdue (23-7); #17 Detroit (22-5);
 #18 Louisville (23-7); #19 San Francisco (21-6); #20 Tennessee (20-11)

With few regular-season hockey games remaining, the standings were:

CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

Smythe Div.

	W	L	T	Pts.
Chicago	25	34	13	63
Vancouver	21	41	11	53
St. Louis	17	43	12	46
Colorado	14	50	9	37

Patrick Div.

NY Islanders	46	13	13	105
NY Rangers	39	24	9	87
Philadelphia	35	23	14	84
Atlanta	37	28	7	81

WALES CONFERENCE

Adams Division

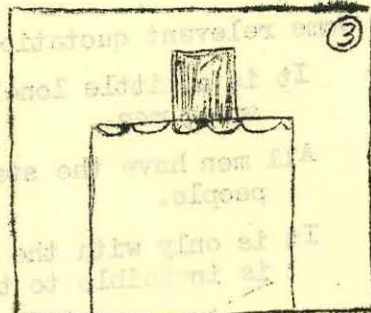
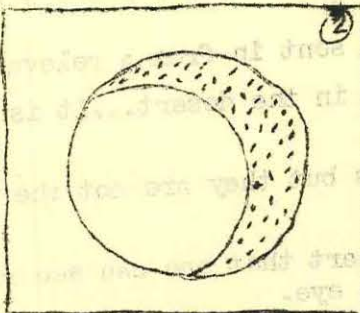
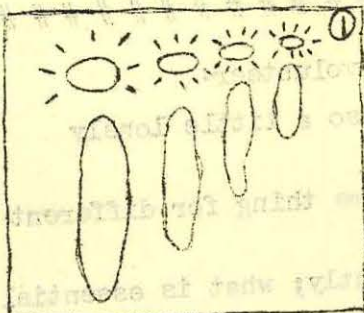
	W	L	T	Pts.
Boston	39	21	12	90
Buffalo	32	25	15	79
Toronto	30	31	12	72
Minnesota	27	33	11	65

Norris Div.

Montreal	46	16	10	102
Pittsburgh	32	28	12	76
Los Angeles	31	30	11	73
Washington	21	37	15	57
Detroit	20	36	16	56

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WHAT IS IT? Everybody has seen doodles before, those strange designs that look like nothing and turn out to be something obvious, albeit a little ridiculous. Try your deciphering skill with these three, and send in your favorite - but skip the "giraffe walking by a window", we've all seen that one. Answers on a later page.



The English Language II

by Tom Ernst.

My heart goes out to people
Who must study all their days
To learn the stubborn English language
And its enigmatic ways;
For I sympathize with him who
Doesn't quite know where he's headed
Through a maze of do's in Neg's & Q's
Unless they are imbedded;
And those orthographic horrors;
Sundry vowels spelled chaotically,
Gn's meaning different sounds
In "draught" and "ghoul" and "naughtily";
I am certain; in addition,
That Tagalog, Cree and Banta
Lack confusing tag constructions
Such as "Hand it to me, can't you?"
Well, for learning foreign languages
There might be other choices
That have even more deterring structures
Aspect, tense and voices,
But I can't deny I'm happy,
As I sit above the din,
That I'm on the inside looking out --
Not outside looking in.

contributed by Carol
Pino Keita

$\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6, \phi_7, \phi_8, \phi_9, \phi_{10}, \phi_{11}, \phi_{12}, \phi_{13}, \phi_{14}, \phi_{15}, \phi_{16}, \phi_{17}, \phi_{18}, \phi_{19}, \phi_{20}$

Answers to "Triple Meanings"

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. cue | 11. pen |
| 2. dip | 12. bar |
| 3. gum | 13. air |
| 4. ham | 14. gag |
| 5. tip | 15. bat |
| 6. row | 16. bab |
| 7. lot | 17. pin |
| 8. pen | 18. net |
| 9. hop | 19. tie |
| 10. key | 20. nip |

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Some of you may be experiencing difficulty in finding a secondary/summer project. Below are some possibilities which probably haven't occurred to you. Who knows? Maybe one will mesh with your particular talent.

Those with mechanical minds could teach people how to soup up engines and convert mobylettes to choppers. Basic human speed?

- Those of you coming from a state with a long-standing lottery are aware of the gimmicks that induce people to give up their money. Offer your knowledge to the Director of the Tombola Nationale. Basic human greed?
- Handicap the horses and publish a racing form prior to the horse races in your area. Basic human speed? (sorry, last of those)
- Charm lessons for PTE workers.
- Drug counseling for kola nut addicts.
- Unionize the ox cart drivers and water carriers.
- Introduce the beignet ladies to assembly line production to achieve more consistency of quality.
- Write and distribute a telephone book in your village.
- Women's consciousness raising groups.
- Organize a Miss Niger pageant.
- Spend some time in the autogard and gather information in order to write a schedule of arrivals and departures so as to help people avoid long waits.

[illegible]

What's your post noted for? We've all been informed by friends that their village has the best _____. well, share this information. From conversations we've gathered the information below - add to it or argue with it.

Madoua mats

Guidan Roumji - mortars & pestles

Mirrah - pottery

Baleiyara blankets

Agadez - gold & silver jewelry

Matamayo, Kuyukhe as drums

Tessacca *hilishii*

Zinder

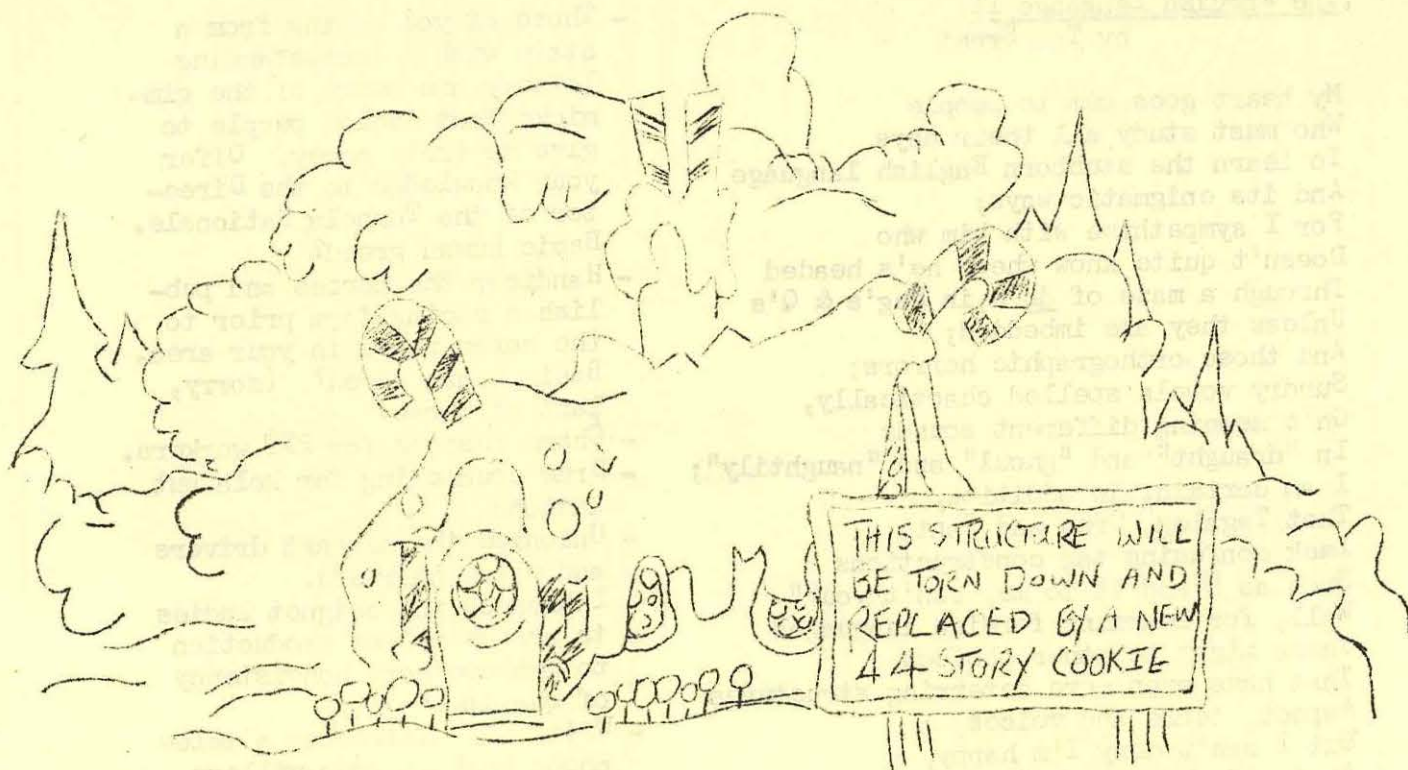
Magaria leather goods

Dogondoutchi

[illegible]

Life is what happens to you while
you're making plans.

anon.



- found on a banco wall in Keita town (thanks, Carol)

TRICK DACEY and The Mystery of the Missing Footprints

No one in the village suspected. No one in the village knew. No one in the village would have even considered the possibility. As a matter of fact, no one in the village would have known Trick Dacey from your average anasara Bloe Jow in town. But this un-average, un-der cover, un-cognito Unasara, casually walking to work day in and night out, sanruing and ina kwanaing Americanly, was not your typical American in the bushes. No indeed. This American was not only a PC Volunteer, but the famous, world-renowned, ever popular Trick Dacey in one of his multiple disguises - this time a mild, amannered miss.

One cool breezy February starry evening, Trick Dacey (alias MMM/ mild mannered miss) was having an un-usual American feeling, the urge for popcorn surged through his body, so he decided to share this actual physical want of popcorn with the 1 contact with the American world in this remote village. Doubled over from the addiction, which I might add is a dangerous addiction in the bushes, merely because supply is limited, he drug his PC body to the other Vol's metal door. They ate, chowed down, pigged out and discussed life and times. Then our hero/ heroine, depending which disguise you're thinking of, walked home again while shaing the iska of the African evening.

Home and content at 8:00, Trick Dacey snuggled down in his sleeping bag, indoors - he sensed too much cold in the MMM's body at 65 degrees; it's too cold for the MMM to kwana waje (you know how misses are), but never forgetting all the while the days of fairing a little camping at 30 degrees or less in the home country. Back to the mystery - Soon sleep captured Trick's mind and his body drifted over the miles, over the millet fields, rain forests, oceans, Appalachians and finally arriving home. At 6:00 AM, Trick felt the urge, shall we say, a basic

BALLAD OF THE RAT PATROL

* with guitar chords

1. ^{*C} Hungry rats, in ^{G7} all the ^G fields
Manging mil, and ^{G7} sorgho ^G meals.
Rats who ^F ate, and raped and stole -
^{G7} Enemies of the Rat Patrol. ^G
2. Trained to live off Niger's land,
Trained in combat teeth to hand.
Rats who fight and take their toll,
Fearless is the Rat Patrol!
3. Formaldehyde, traps, cotton, baffles,
Wire, gloves, LandRovers and moth-
balls -
This and more to achieve their goal,
Equipment promised to the Rat Patrol.
4. Poisons, traps, cleaned habitat,
It was too much for any rat.
Survivors ran back to their holes
Defeated by the Rat Patrol.
5. Their work now done, Patrollers rest.
'Twas their persistence that got the
pests.
Take heed all gerbils, mastomys and
moles,
You'll get no mercy from the Rat
Patrol!

- baffles: metal guard put on silo legs
to rodent-proof
- mastomys: common pest rat, close rel-
ative to the Black or Roof
Rat

- Deb Lewis
Ecuza

#####

Sahel Chess

Rule #1: No one wins.

- Nana Mariama and Hadiza
Zinder

Bak'i

KING: Sarki (Mercedes hood ornament)
QUEEN: Elhadjiya (gold tooth)
BISHOPS: Marabouts (gris-gris)
ROOKS: Mosques (prayer bead)
KNIGHTS: Fonctionnaires (1 fr. piece)
PAWNS: PCVs (peanuts)

YOU TRY TO BE RELEVANT, BUT...

After spending ~~careless~~ nights
composing BHN 3e texts, my volun-
teer job satisfaction rose a few
points on the dadin aykii scale
when I read this effort of one of
my students to fill in a dialogue
as part of a Brevé Blanc. In case
you cannot figure it out, the stu-
dent's responses are in caps.

A: DO YOU LIKE ME?

B: Yes, Madam, how much would you
like?

A: DID YOU KNOW HOW MANY KILOS ARE
THERE?

B: I'm sorry, I didn't hear very
well. How many kilos did you
say?

A: WHO IS YOUR GIRLFRIEND HERE?

B: Here you are, Madam. Is there
anything else you would like?

A: DO YOU KNOW THE COST OF ENERGY
FOODS?

B: How many cans? And how much
peanut oil?

A: TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT LIFE
IN IBADAN.

B: There isn't much oil left, and
there aren't many cans either.
Would two cans of fish and a
liter of peanut oil be enough?

A: HOW MUCH COSTS FOOD PRODUCTION?

B: Oh, two kilos of rice is one
hundred and sixty francs, two
cans of fish is one hundred
francs and one liter of peanut
oil is one hundred and fifty
francs. Four hundred and ten
francs altogether, Madam.

- Laurie Tuller
Matamaye

#####

Fari

Sam Brown (empty tp roll)
Phyllis (half-eaten beignet)
Doctor/Nurse (Flagyl)
Hostels (sardine key)
APCD (Land Rover key)
PCVs (goat droppings)

DROODLES: 1) converted rice; 2) partial eclipse of a sesame seed bun;
3) Lincoln, voting.

PYRAMIDS ARE POSSIBLE

Egypt is definitely a place to consider for vacation. Although I've heard varying experiences from other people, I really enjoyed myself.

A visa can be obtained at the Embassy in the Nasser Building in Niamey. It should only take one day. The Ambassador is an extremely nice gentleman who speaks English very well. He sat us down in his office and asked us why we wanted to go, what we were doing in Niger, if we had any travel plans after Egypt, etc.

American traveler's checks can be bought at BISO in Niamey, but after a certain amount you must receive permission from the Ministry of Finance to exchange further. I advise setting aside 2-3 days to get it all taken care of. It's good to remember that no country outside of French-speaking Africa will touch CFA, not even the French banks.

Egyptian currency is in pounds with coins in piestras. All coins are in Arabic numerals and might be a little confusing at first. At the airport in Cairo you are obligated to exchange the equivalent of \$150-200 on the spot. There are three banks that print the money and it's a little confusing.

I flew direct from Kano. Flying out of Nigeria is a lot cheaper than from Niamey but you take a lot more risks. If you read Bill Miles' article about his trip to Kenya, you understand that Nigeria can be a real drag. I bought my ticket at Sammy's Fabric Shop in Zinder for the equivalent of 200 Naira (one way), Air Egypt. Unfortunately, that service is no longer offered, and you would have to buy a ticket yourself unless you have other connections.

As soon as you leave Cairo Airport, you will be surrounded by tour guide companies wanting to sell you a tour. They are very expensive but can make life easier for you.

There are an abundance of places to stay in Cairo. One possibility is a youth hostel in which you can become a member on the spot. I would suggest going there first. If they don't have room, they will gladly give you addresses of cheap hotels. Most people you deal with as a tourist speak perfect English.

Eating in Cairo is also very inexpensive. The main street foods, mutton and salad, cost next to nothing, not to mention the apples, oranges, plums, grapes, etc. that can be found on street stands. Also in the city are little shops which sell fried vegetable sandwiches which are excellent and cheap. The Nile Hilton, one of the really plush hotels, has real American hamburgers and fries as well as an Italian pizzeria. In the same hotel can be found a place to change traveler's checks and an Air Egypt ticket service.

The pyramids are a ways out of town, but taxis can be rented in the city. They will take you out, park, let you mess around for a while, stop where you want - it's nice. Be sure to bargain with the driver, buy him a cup of street tea. We had one for an hour and it cost us four pounds or so.

The Egyptian Museum is pretty incredible. Although there aren't many labels or informative plaques, the place is packed with art and mummies. It's located behind the Hilton. There is also a silver and gold market which has some absolutely beautiful things to buy.

On the road out to the pyramids there are a lot of night clubs and gambling casinos. The floor shows in these establishments are interesting and could be worth a trip if you're into that sort of thing. The only places where you can buy alcohol is these clubs or the bigger hotels. I didn't see one bar on the street.

A train can be taken from Cairo to Alexandria, but public transportation in Egypt is horribly run-down and crowded. Sound familiar? Alexandria is fun. The sea food is great and swimming is something I really missed. We flew to Luxor and the Valley of Kings and Queens from Cairo. That place is really amazing. On the same flight you can continue to Aswan, but we didn't make the trip.

I've written this hurriedly and without much thought beforehand. If you want more information, feel free to write.

-Kevin King

Things do not change; we change. - Thoreau, Walden

IN PLACE OF THE PEACE CORPS SMITHSONIAN PROGRAM.....

February 1979

Office of Programming and Training Coordination (OPTC)

ACTION/Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525

SUMMARY REPORT :

**WORKSHOP ON PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Peace Corps Office of Programming and Training Coordination (OPTC) sponsored an interagency workshop on the Peace Corps' role in the development and conservation of natural resources, which took place from 12 noon to 3 PM on December 13, 1978. The thirty-six persons who participated were from fourteen organizations or agencies as well as Peace Corps (list in Appendix 1).

The reason for the meeting was : 1) to allow an open dialogue on Peace Corps' goals, philosophy and activities in the field of natural resources conservation; and 2) to use this workshop as a starting point to broaden Peace Corps' cooperation with other organizations working in the area of natural resources development and conservation. . .

Mary E. King, Deputy Director of ACTION, welcomed the participants. She emphasized that ACTION/Peace Corps is aware of the importance of natural resources to people, and that the organization's leaders are firmly committed to continuing a strong program in the field of natural resources development, management and conservation.

2. MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

The workshop provided the participants a forum for discussing views on Peace Corps' program directions in the natural resources field. Many questions and suggestions were aired. Opinions were frank, yet constructive, and the dialogue was a useful opener for future communications and cooperation between some of the groups and the Peace Corps.

A number of persons felt that better communications between Peace Corps and conservation groups and agencies would help avoid the type of misunderstandings which emerged from the decision not to renew the Smithsonian contract. There was a discussion on the reasons for not extending this contract. Technical boards, periodic meetings and other possibilities of better communications were discussed.

Many questions were raised on how the Peace Corps incorporates conservation, especially wildlife projects, into its philosophy of grass roots development, and what criteria are used to develop projects. OPTC staff emphasized that a conservation project can be developed with a focus that will benefit poor people. Some specific Peace Corps examples from the field were brought out including :

(a) cases where local farmers benefit because a PC project provides information to make possible the management of a wildlife or bird species which has been a pest; (b) instances where PCVs help make possible the management of a wildlife species which is an important protein supply to rural people; (c) cases where PCVs gather data needed to understand (wildlife) disease vectors; (d) specific cases where a nature preserve area protects a watershed that is essential for protecting downstream water supplies.

There were many examples. Several persons pointed out that both long and short-term benefits are important, that often the two are closely linked, and cannot be separated.

Several participants raised questions about specialized versus generalist-type Peace Corps Volunteers. Peace Corps, it was pointed out, prefers to recruit less specialized and available PCVs, such as BA biologists or foresters with 1 to 3 summers field experience, then train them to do a well-defined, limited task, and place these skilled-trained Volunteers in villages. Nonetheless there are cases where more highly skilled PCVs are needed, for example, where one or two specialized Volunteers carry out the work of a more reconnaissance nature which will eventually lead to identifying ways to place larger numbers of Volunteers in villages. Specialists also could provide back-stopping, for example, an entomologist PCV might support a number of more general Volunteers skill-trained to carry out agricultural extension work for crop protection. Finally, some countries may simply place an exceptionally high value on having a particular specialist that Peace Corps is able to supply.

"A Basic Human Needs Perspective on Conservation Programming," a paper prepared by OPTC, was handed out. It describes the range of conservation project possibilities under the "basic human needs" umbrella. One person commented that "quality of life" should also be included among the pre-requisites for assessing whether a good project contributes to the basic needs of people.

In the response sheets turned in after the workshop, several participants voiced their definite support of Peace Corps efforts to maintain and build programs in conservation and indicated their interest in assisting Peace Corps in a concrete way.

A number of suggestions also came forth on technical cooperation. These suggestions are listed in Section 3 of this report. One idea on cooperation several persons mentioned was the possibility of a "technical board," to advise and assist Peace Corps in developing its approaches to programming, training and support in the natural resources field. It was agreed by Peace Corps/OPTC that such a board would play a very useful role, recognizing that its recommendations would need to work within the policy framework of "basic human needs".

3. POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION

The form shown in Appendix 3 was distributed at the workshop. It offers examples of how Peace Corps can (or does) cooperate with other organizations. Participants were asked to respond to these ideas or to make additional suggestions. Fifteen responses were received from ten organizations, either at the meeting or during January. There have been follow-up discussions with some persons. The highlights of these various responses are summarized below, grouped under three headings for convenience of discussion.

a) Cooperative Projects, Personnel Exchange and Joint Training

- AID is moving into forestry on several fronts. For example in FY-80 there is to be an AID cooperative forestry project with three Third World Institutes; this would be a good possibility for PC inputs into training or in participation.
- The Organization of American States (OAS) has projects underway in seven countries where PCV participation could likely be very advantageous.
- There is potential for the U.S. natural resources agencies to assist PC in the field with program development, project evaluation and training of staff (A PC Director comment).
- The USDA International Training Division can assist in finding or exchanging qualified trainers/consultants with PC through the Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD).
- The Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of Interior) is definitely interested in developing technical cooperation with PC.
- African Wildlife Leadership Foundation has had joint projects with PC and continues to be interested. In cases, have supplied PCVs with equipment and guidance.
- US Forest Service has a person now detailed to PC/OPTC and has an agreement for other staff members of Forest Service to serve as short-term consultants abroad for PC.
- National Park Service (NPS) drew up an agreement in 1972 to allow its staff to cooperate with PC. This agreement needs updating. NPS is also taking steps to detail an employee to PC/OPTC in early 1979. There are many opportunities for NPS/PC cooperation for staff or PCV training.
- USDA/International Training Division/Office of International Cooperation and Development (OICD) is now assisting PC to develop a forestry training package for one east African country; this is the first example of OICD and PC cooperation in conservation programs.
- PCVs can definitely assist in various "secondary jobs" of great value to other organizations, such as field observations or surveys requiring minor time involvement (participant's remark).
- Defenders of Wildlife notes that it has training programs which PCVs could attend.
- National Wildlife Federation and World Wildlife Fund indicate they could assist PC in locating consultant specialists or trainers.
- PC/OPTC developed a consultant pool in cooperation with US Forest Service in 1978. This idea has already been useful to others. The pool could be expanded in conjunction with other organizations.
- AID regional bureau environmental seminars, now planned, would be one good possibility for PC staff participation.

b) General Information Exchange and Technical Backstopping

- Organizations such as National Wildlife Federation have publicized PC environmental activities and indicate that they will continue.
- National Wildlife Federation has publications available for PCVs or staff.
- ~~Four participants (4 organizations) indicated interest in exchanging newsletters or in exchanges of inputs into newsletters.~~
- AID emphasized the need to share more specific project information, such as technical report sharing.
- More pamphlets, booklets, and other information for distribution to PC staff or PCVs in the field would be very useful in light of the shortage of technical information (A PC Director comment).
- In those specialized areas where PC has no expertise, a technical working group might be formed to assist on requests for information.
- There is a technical assistance branch within OICD of USDA which is a useful source of technical information (in addition to the other OICD areas of cooperation listed above).

c) Technical Advisory Group

- One point of interest to several respondents was the idea of an informal advisory group or board, to assist Peace Corps in developing its conservation activities and in improving cooperation.
- One participant from a conservation organization pointed out that many misunderstandings could have been avoided during 1978 if such a group had existed.

d) Appendix 3, the handout, also noted some other potential areas of cooperation where no comments were received from the participants.

Newsletter

If PCVs in the field indicate enough interest and if resources are available, a simple, small newsletter for conservation will be started either as part of another PC publication, or separately.

Technical Advisory Board

Because of the high interest in such a board, it would be logical to move ahead on it in 1979.

5. COMMENTS AND CONCLUSION

This report summarizes the results of the December 13 workshop and attempts to set some goals for PC/OPTC cooperative work in conservation in 1979.

Any comments, suggestions or corrections would be welcomed. Please address them to :

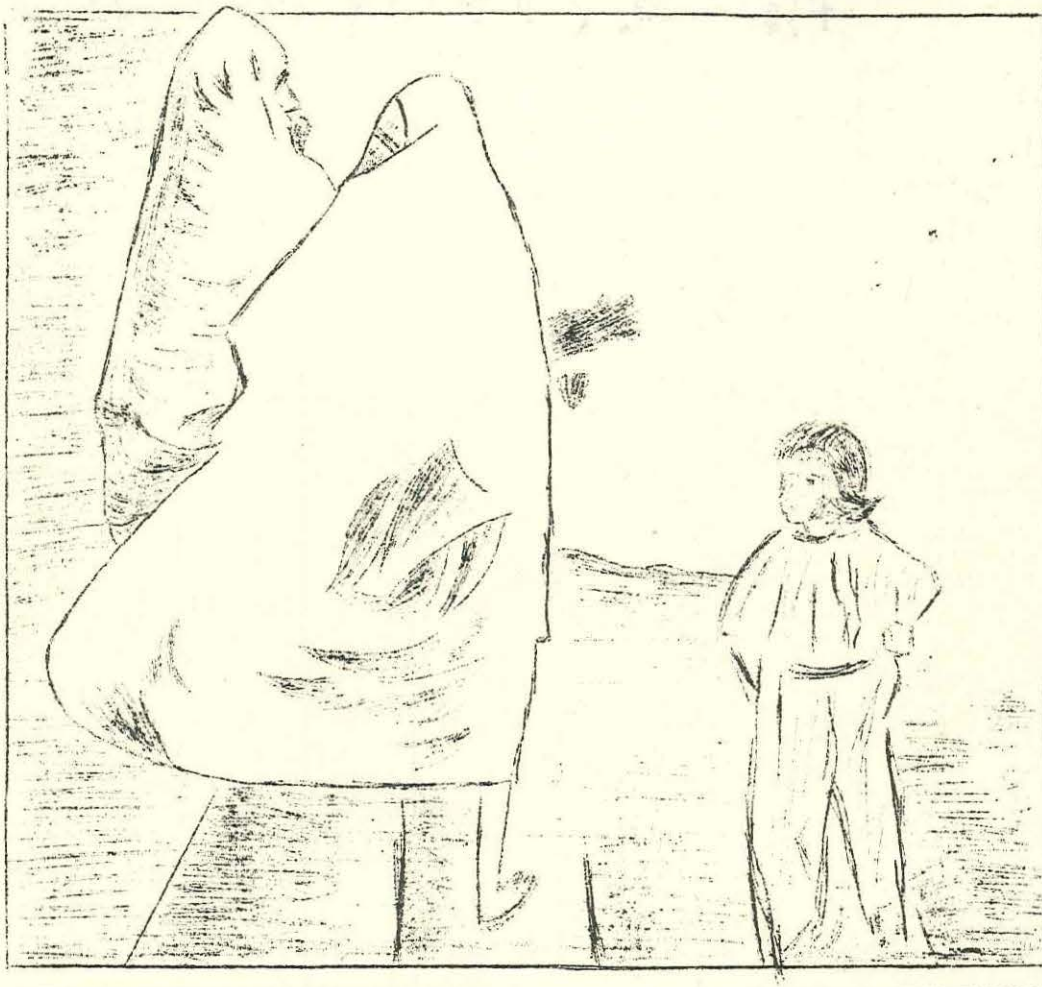
David B. Levine; Director, OPTC
Attention; Sam Kunkle, Conservation Coordinator
Room M-701
Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.

Perdita Huston, North Africa Near East Asia and Pacific (NANEAP)
Regional Director for Peace Corps , has spent a considerable part of her
career observing and writing about the women in the Third World with
whom she has lived and worked.

The attached article, "To Be Born a Woman Is a Sin," is a compelling
statement of the conditions and concerns of Third World women .

"TO BE BORN A WOMAN IS A SIN"

By Perdita Huston



BITTERNESS AND FRUSTRATION SOUR THE LIVES OF WOMEN
IN MANY CULTURES. AFTER TALKING TO 200 WOMEN IN
SIX COUNTRIES PERDITA HUSTON FOUND THAT RESENTMENT
OF MALE DOMINATION WAS A PRINCIPAL INGREDIENT; YET
WOMEN DARE NOT QUESTION MALE AUTHORITY .

As a medical-social worker in a North African village in the early 1960s, I worked closely with rural peasant women and their families. Often, when alone with a woman, I was asked a question which I have remembered through the years: "How do you avoid having a child every year ? "

I learned that the woman felt burdened by constant child-bearing. She knew that continual pregnancy was damaging to her and her family's health, and she wanted to assure the basic needs of the family unit. Even then, women were concerned about their own population problem.

Reading population policy papers in recent years, I have found that family planning officials often presume that women are at the origin of the world population problem. They consistently say that if women are given work, education, or motivation, they will not have " all those children " .

I disagree. Such theories completely ignore the factor of male dominance in women's lives.

Work, education and a sense of self-worth are important factors, but I doubt if they are the basis for a woman's wish to plan her family. The problem is far more complex. It involves the issue of personal autonomy and a woman's freedom to participate in the decisions which govern her life.

What are the realities of women's lives ? Are women really free to plan their families if they live in a male-dominated society where all the decisions affecting their lives are made by the men of their families ?

With this question in mind I travelled to six representative nations selected by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. I was to talk with rural women - the targets of family planning programmes - and ask them about their lives, their needs and their hopes. The villages of Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Mexico yielded 200 conversations with women who spoke of their situation and the needs of their families. Among these women I found only a few wanted " as many children as come ". The others, the vast majority, hoped to be able to limit their families or had done so saying, " I want to have only a few children so that I can give them more: food, clothing and - most important of all - education " .

If the words of these women are true, why is it that family planning programmes have been only partially successful ?

We report here some of the reasons which women gave for planning their families: and some of the things which they said prevented them from doing so. At no time during the interviews did I refer to family planning contraception. If the subject did not emerge by itself, it was never mentioned .

Status of Women, Theory versus Practice

Here we must examine the correlation between women's legal status and her status within the family. When I asked the President of the Family Planning Association of Alexandria, Egypt, Ms. Zahia Mazouk, what she thought were the main barriers to women's advancement and participation, she replied, "Men. The men still don't understand that a woman can do something valuable. Especially after they get married. They think once she is married she is no good. She must sit down and cook and take care of her children and husband. They think she should do nothing. It is because men are selfish. They are going to gain quite a lot; the woman's attention and the work that is done for them. If the woman is not educated, she cannot understand she is exploited. She must be educated to use her rights. There is a law, but sometimes she is not educated enough to understand these things".

Indeed, I found that fear seems to be the governing factor of women's lives, fear of the male authority under which they live. It dominates the woman's access personal mobility and to personal decision-making. Fear of divorce, polygamy and violence are often mentioned by women when they speak of their family status. Wife beating is very common. Rarely did I meet a woman who had not been systematically beaten by her husband, or who did not have a relative or friend who was the object of such attacks. The dowry system, putting an economic value on the woman, is also a restricting factor. Whether the groom's or the bride's family pays the dowry, the result is the same: the woman is treated as a commodity, mostly for reproductive purposes. As a person she knows she has little value.

A 45-year-old mother in a village of central Sri Lanka told about her belief in womanhood, saying, "To be born a woman is a sin. I am a Buddhist and to be born a man is a privilege. To be born a woman is for those who have done a lot of sins in a previous life. Those who have done good things -- have not done bad things -- will have an opportunity to be born a man. I know that whatever a man can do, a woman can do also, but it is still a privilege to be born a man".

TABLE: Division of Labour-Africa

	Percentages of total labour in hours	
	Men	Women
Cuts down the forest stakes out the fields	95	5
Turns the soil	70	30
Plants the seeds and cuttings	50	50
Hoes and weeds	30	70
Harvests	40	60
Transports crops home from the fields	20	80
Stores the crops	20	80
Processes the food crops	10	90
Markets the excess (including transport to market)	40	60
Trims the tree crops	90	10
Carries the water and fuel	10	90
Cares for the domestic animals and cleans the stables	50	50
Hunts	90	10
Feeds and cares for the young, the men and the aged.	5	95

Source: UNECA: Women of Africa: Today and Tomorrow (Addis Ababa, UNECA 1975) p.6

Such beliefs join with a multitude of superstitions and taboos to restrict women's sense of self-worth. In Sri Lanka, one hears tales of the "black prince". A woman is not supposed to go out of her house after 6 p.m. because the black prince will come and tempt her. Being a woman, she could not possibly resist the temptation to go off with him. However, if she is accompanied by a male - even if the male is but an infant in arms - she is protected from the "advances" of the prince.

In Kenya there are nutritional taboos which say that women must not eat chicken or eggs. To do so would endanger a young woman's chances of marrying, or, if she is already married, she would give birth to deformed children. The result is that men have access to protein, while women - who bear and nurse the children - are deprived of it.

Nutrition, Health

The health of majority of women in the rural areas of the developing world is abominable, and, say the doctors with whom I spoke, much worse than that of men. Anaemia, caused by poor nutrition, pregnancies and nursing, is the key factor. Malaria, parasites and constant child-bearing drain the strength of women who are obliged to carry on with their tasks of water carrying, fire-wood gathering, working the land, and tending the family. Women know all too well that they are not healthy; they say: "I am always tired" or "This fatigue is always with me". Some dare not consult a male doctor; either they fear their husband's disapproval, or they are inhibited by simple modesty. "It would be much better", some way, "if more women were doctors".

Change = Cash

As illiterate or poor as they may be, women of the developing nations I visited articulated very well indeed the changing needs they face in a changing environment. They are acutely aware of the basic needs of their families. I learned that change has not usually brought "progress" into the lives of rural women. "Life is more difficult than before" was the reply most often recorded. The change from barter to cash economies seems to be the origin of this response. The need for cash and, thus for a skill for earning cash, was mentioned repeatedly by women in all the countries visited. Lack of land was another frequently mentioned problem. "My parents lived on their own land, but my husband and I don't have any land." They say that being without land necessitates learning a skill which would enable them to earn money. This need for cash often results in the "exportation" of the husband, who leaves the village to seek work in a far-away town. The wife is left to care for the children and fend for herself.

One woman, a 54-year-old member of a cooperative women's group in Machakos, Kenya spoke about the problems of women in her area. "As I see it, there's a great difference from former times. The women of those days did not have to struggle once they were married. It was the work of the husbands to provide them with land and cows and everything. All they had to do was bear children, work in the fields, grow food, and that was it. Also there was no school then, and the children did not wear clothes, so whatever they had was very simple. Food was simple also.

"Now, one has to struggle, one has to earn money: the children have to go to school. And the clothes are expensive, food also. Life is very difficult now and the men are paying less attention to their wives. You see, men interpreted this economic change wrongly because they took advantage of having more money. Instead of using this money properly in developing their family, they spend the money on lodgings with "girls". Many men cheat their wives now because they are employed elsewhere.

" So women are fed up. They think now that relying on a man can be a problem. So they think " We should try to do something ourselves. Whether we get something from our men or we don't get it, we will still raise our children properly " .

This concern for the education of one's children was voiced again and again by nearly all the women I encountered. Yet, they said, to benefit from the advantages of access to education one must have cash. Even when schooling is free, one has to buy notebooks, pencils and shoes. But, as women consistently said " I will do anything I can to see to it that my children get an education". This desire for learning, both for their children and themselves, seems to be equated to earning power. It is only through the education of one's children that women feel they might have a chance to emerge from poverty.

A nineteen-year-old woman in north western Kenya explained the problem many women face, saying, " My life is very different from my mother's. She just stayed in the family until she married and she had eleven children. But life is much more difficult now because everything is dependent upon money. Long ago, money was unheard of. No one needed it. Now you can't even get food without cash. Times are very difficult. I have to work, for without it I will not have enough for today's life. Then, if you get a large family, you can't have enough money for food. I will have only three or four children; that is better in today's life... And I will teach them: " Get an education first, for then you can find work and get some cash " .

This young woman is among many who articulated a sequence:

CHANGE NEED OF CASH EDUCATION EARNING POWER CASH

They know full well that times have changed, that there are new demands upon them, and that large families are not conducive to changing times or the family's welfare. Whether illiterate or not, they do not lack common sense; they seem to believe that "quality of children" is much better than "quantity of children". They want to have fewer children in order to provide them with the food, clothing, and education they need for a good life. One woman in Tunisia, A Beduin woman, whom I met as she worked in the fields, told me, "I was given in marriage at age 13. I hadn't even reached puberty. A month later I got my period and then, again after one month, I was pregnant. I have five children. They all go to school and I want them, both the sons and daughters, to go as far as their capacities let them. I want them to have a good future, a profession, a happy life. I don't want them working in the fields, picking up straws and leftovers like I do. I would like to have gone to school. I would like to have opened my mind. I would have taught other people about things. I want to know everything... everything you can learn if you have an education. I won't let my daughter marry earlier than seventeen. I want them to have time to finish their studies and prepare themselves for marriage. I am only 36 years old and I don't want to have any more children; life is too difficult. That too, is different from before. You can't imagine how many things I tried to swallow to prevent myself having more children. I even used to eat mothballs, thinking that would help " .

Family Planning

Like all the mothers of the world, rural women repeated, " It is joy to have children. Yes. But only if they can be healthy, educated and have some cause for hope ". Also, I found that the women with whom I spoke share a common understanding that their "old age security" resides in the education or training of their children, not in the number of them. It is my belief that the "old age security" theory of large families is out-moded. On the contrary, women readily admitted that "children don't die as much as before", realizing that there is no need to have ten children to ensure that four or five reach adulthood. They think that the education and training of their children is the key to their old age security, for it is then

that their children will be able to earn the precious cash needed to sustain them. They recognize that to be able to educate the children, they must have smaller families.

"But", they say, "my husband wants more sons" or, "My husband would take another wife if I don't give him a child every year" or, "I don't dare to talk about this with my husband, he would beat me".

The pressures for high fertility are many. One young woman in a Sri Lankan village told me, "I'm very much afraid of marriage. Couples don't really talk to each other as they should. Most women, once they have a certain number of children think they should stop. The woman says "Enough!" but the man does not care. It is not his problem. The man wants sex and the children continue to come. After a while, the woman refuses relations out of fear of having more children. The man goes and has sex outside. Men must understand what women's lives are like. They must be taught."

Maria-Luisa, a Zatepec Indian woman of southern Mexico, explained why some men don't want their wives to use birth control methods. When I asked if the husbands of the village would permit their wives to control the number of their pregnancies, she laughed at me, saying, "Heavens, no! They say terrible things about women who want it. Some say, 'The only reason you want birth control is so you can go with other men'. You see, some people are very ignorant."

Another woman, in Kenya, told a similar story. When asked why family planning clinics were poorly frequented in the Mombasa area, she replied, "Women fear their husbands. You see, husbands don't care. You'll never see a man going to a family planning clinic. Men here believe 'Let a woman free of child-bearing and she will go everywhere'. They want a woman to have a child every year until she is old, but the men are free to go gadding about. So if a woman doesn't keep having children, he will get angry and take another wife."

Men Are the Key

Indeed, I found that when a woman was using a contraceptive, there was one of two elements present: either her husband had given his permission, or the leadership of the nation had publicly asked couples to plan their families (Tunisia). In the latter case, even when the husband was against family planning, the woman was able to say, "The President said it is all right". During the entire survey I met only one woman who was "planning" without her husband's consent. A young woman in central Mexico, she admitted she was running a big risk, saying, "If my husband finds out I am taking the pill, he will beat me terribly."

A medical doctor in Sudan reinforced the argument that men should be the objects of family planning motivation efforts, explaining, "Family planning programmes should be aimed especially at men. Women come to see us and want to plan their families; then they return home and the husband says, 'No'. 'Another official, the director of a regional office of the Family Planning Association of Kenya, said, "There is such poor communication between the husband and wife that it is necessary to convince the men of the usefulness of family planning". He added, "We have left the men out and it is a problem."

The majority of women with whom I spoke told me that they have little choice in the matter of family planning. They need their husband's permission to go to the health clinic, they fear the husband's wrath if not pregnant each year, or they know the husband can divorce them or take another wife if he is not continually pleased with them. Cowed by custom, fear and the possibility of rejection, women dare not question this authority.

The result is the age-old form of birth control: the furtive abortion. You don't need your husband's consent to do that. All you have to do is mutilate yourself and then tell him that you are having "some sort of female sickness". He will never know the difference. During my travels I was told tales about abortion, of talismans, of abortifacient teas and charmed coconuts. In their desperate attempt to avoid a new mouth to feed, women have devised a myriad of ways to prevent, or end, another pregnancy. In Mexico, anthropologists at the National Population Council estimate that there are over one million "home-made" abortions performed each year.

Why then do many family planning officials continue to believe that women's attitudes and lack of education are at the origin of the population problem?

Despite vast cultural differences, women of six nations spoke of the same absence of choice in their lives; they condemned male attitudes and their resulting lack of personal autonomy or decision-making power. They want more control over their lives; they want to be able to choose their mates; they want to plan their families and to participate in society. But the barriers to these wishes are many; the tools needed to break down the barriers are not always available. Social legislation, basic education, skill training, building up self-confidence and personal autonomy are required if women are to overcome the myths and traditions of male supremacy which stifle their existence. After hearing the opinions of over 200 women, I am convinced that the focus of family planning motivational programmes should not be women but men.

Alone, without the support and encouragement of the men who govern their lives, women are powerless to make decisions on such an intimate family subject as family planning. An eighteen-year-old married woman in Sri Lanka told me, "Men have more power, that is the way it is. A woman must be submissive. Peace and harmony in the family depends upon the woman always listening to the man. She must give obedience and all that to the husband. Yes, men must wield the power."

Some Possible Resources

Given the context of rural women's lives, surrounded as they are by restrictions imposed by male authority, we must attempt to identify resources already available which might be used to modify negative attitudes.

Women's organizations, potentially a powerful force for change, remain largely ignored by family planning programme designers. In cultures where most information received by women comes from other women, the role of women's organizations is crucial. Skill development, literacy training, family planning or education in all forms can be delivered by the women's network. National leadership should support it, women's organizations financially and morally if members are to be able to serve women in rural areas.

The media--a source of influence in the lives of millions--are criticized by women for their lack of practical teaching programmes. Few women with whom I spoke said that they had received helpful information from the media, on family planning or education in any form. Many said there should be "more women's programmes" or "those which deal with family life".

Sex education at the earliest age possible should be given top priority as part of the family planning effort. In many cultures, modesty prevents women from discussing sex even with their daughters. The ten year olds of today will be of marriageable age within the next few years. Sex education, coupled with teaching on family responsibility and family planning information, should be an integral part of their early learning process. As many women stresses, "It is too late for me, but I hope my children will have smaller families." And the sons must be taught about family planning just as much as the daughters.

An Attitudinal Problem

In an effort to design more sensitive family planning programmes, we might take a suggestion from Rafael M. Salas, Executive Director of the UNFPA. He states, "The pursuit of a successful population policy and full equality for women, both imply that women must be involved in formulating and carrying out that policy". Also, if women were associated with men in the design of population programmes, perhaps those efforts would be more balanced and more understanding of the realities of family life.

This proposition might seem logical, but it should be noted that only once did I encounter a woman at a policy-making level in the field of family planning during my travels. International agencies and government population offices employ women, but usually only as appendages to male officials. I do not mean to suggest that no men are sensitive to the population issue, but I did meet several who were callous and mocking.

During the survey, I met several male officials who, while sitting in air-conditioned offices, scoffed at me for requesting to visit remote rural areas. They asked, "Why do you want to go there to talk with ignorant women?"

By ignoring the realities of rural life, these officials are guilty of a destructive misinterpretation of women's needs. The programmes they design reinforce the notion that contraception is a woman's problem only. Worse still, by preaching family planning only to women, they contribute to disharmony between husband and wife.

Perhaps they would do well to heed the words of Ms. Phoebe Aseyio, Director of the Child Welfare Association of Kenya. She explained, "You have the experts who come and point down, saying 'This is the way you must do it. This is how it will work', basing their argument on what they have seen elsewhere. They don't give time for ideas to emerge from the grassroots. If you are patient enough to take the time, maybe we will strike the balance. I don't think many people have the patience. It is so sad."

The long-overdue concern for women in the total development process is a valid one. But it should be part of a holistic approach, not the "lip service" or "tokenism" to which we are accustomed. If, in the patriarchal mode of thinking, we are to assume that women are the "heart" of the family, then we must pay special attention to the needs and hopes of women. They say they want fewer children. If this is true, perhaps we should refocus our thinking and provide them with the support they need to cope with realities of their lives. In the area of family planning that means that men must be the targets of our efforts, that women must be involved in the design and delivery of population programmes, that we must, as many women said, "Work together. That is the only way."

From Women, Population and Development, UNFPA Profile No.7, 1977
Development Can Damage Women

Development activities have to date in a great many cases had an adverse impact on women. In agriculture, food production and marketing which are traditional areas of work for women, training has been given to men emphasizing new techniques and modern machinery. Men and machines therefore replace women, especially in producing cash crops, and women are assigned the task of merely gathering the residual leaves or fruits and carrying them from place to place for marketing. The socio-economic situation of rural and urban poor women caused by lack of appropriate technology provides evidence that technological advancement, industrialization and other modernization do not really touch their lives or provide them with either economic or social benefits. To maximize the impact of development for women,

especially in technology, there is a need for far more direct contact between the selectors and inventors of technology and the rural/urban poor, especially poor women. Greater knowledge about their basic needs, as defined by them, and including their choice of paths towards self advancement, would improve the use of technology for economic and social enterprises and would genuinely equalize development for both women and men.

Industrial development may provide more paid jobs for women but often exploits them because they are admitted to work only at a low level and in the lowest paid activities. The rapid rate of urbanization brings about exploitation of women on an even larger scale because when women face employment discrimination in the city, they lack even traditional work to fall back upon, many are driven to domestic service or even prostitution to survive.

The debate on a new international economic order does not at the moment deal with the question of changes in the internal economic orders of the developing countries. Such a new order will not necessarily benefit women, unless the composition and characteristics of the rural/urban labour force under present development dynamics are carefully analyzed. Will the fruits of successful negotiations on commodity prices widen women's freely chosen participation, or merely increase their workload in their multiple traditional rural roles? Will successful negotiations allowing for industrial development and export trade increase women's involvement in the industrial sector or will they merely expand the exploitation of female labour in the lowest paid and lowest status jobs--both in developing and developed countries?

From Women, Population and Development, UNFPA Profile No. 7, 1977
Development Can Damage Women

Development activities have to date in a great many cases had an adverse impact on women. In agriculture, food production and marketing which are traditional areas of work for women, training has been given to men emphasizing new techniques and modern machinery. Men and machines therefore replace women, especially in processing cash crops, and women are assigned the task of merely gathering the produce--leaves or fruits and carrying them from place to place for marketing. The result is economic stagnation of rural and urban poor women caused by lack of appropriate technology. Evidence shows that technological advancement, industrialization and other modernization do not really free their lives or provide them with either economic or social benefits. To maintain the pace of development for women,

Feb. 9, 1979

Peter Daino
10 Sawmill Rd.
Dayton, Ohio 45409

Dear Volunteer:

I am including in this letter a breakdown on how the Help Your Village Funds were spent last year. This may give you some ideas on how you might use this fund which is meant for PCVs in Niger. As I mentioned in the letter(sent to donors), we would like to see more of the fund spent by rural development volunteers; foresters, gardeners, agriculturalists etc. If you have any project of this nature, please feel free to send it to Steve North who will send it on to me if he approves of it.

The Peace Corps Partnership is another source of funding which is available to you for small development projects too. Information on this kind of funding is found at the PC office in Niamey.

Anyone interested in getting the Intermediate Technology book which is very useful for applying an appropriate technology in health, farming, teaching or just about anything, should write to:

Volunteers in Technical Assistance(VITA)
3706 Rhode Island ave.
Mt. Rainier, Maryland 20822

You can ask them specific questions about specific problems you need solved.

Volunteers working in hospitals and clinics should also feel free to use the fund more. I also occasionally receive used lab supplies from American hospitals. We have donated something as simple as spoons and bowls for the children's ward. Send your requests to Mamadou Issa and if he approves them, I will send you the aid.

Health Educators and other volunteers might start goat or chicken coops for lending and elevage. Another good project within the normal range of Village fund projects (\$1-\$600) is a model water filter for the PMI.

The purchase of food, clothing, medicine(a poor person's prescription), or vitamins is O.K. when emergency situations arise.

When this letter arrives in March you will be into the meningitis season. Some things to tell villagers about this disease's symptoms: first- a sore throat, a cough, a running nose or stuffed nose, a fever; second- vomiting, severe headache, stiff neck and fever. A baby will sometimes refuse mother's milk and its' fontanelle(soft spot on top of head) will grow. Meningitis which is an infection of the meninges (a membrane covering the brain) makes head movements impossible and eventually paralyzes and stiffens the whole body. The best prevention of meningitis outbreak in the village is to send anyone with the slightest symptoms to the dispensary immediately since this disease only takes a day or two to take full effect. Proper hygiene and sanitation are most important during the dry season(meningitis season). The nose and throat are called the avenues of meningitis infection and any infection in these areas should be checked by the infirmier. Earaches are also a possible symptom. The most common symptom is a fever.

I invite you to make full use of our fund for any health person who wants vitamins for malnourished mothers or children; any gardener who wants to buy oxen for farmers; any forester who wants to buy Ben Meadow tools; any TEFLer who wants to teach leather crafts etc. I really urge foresters, fishery, people, and agriculturalists and rural developers in general to use the fund. Sincerely,

Peter Daino

October 6, 1978

Dear Friend:

The Help Your Village Fund which I started in 1975 has completed numerous small development projects in the last three years because of your continued support. I am taking this opportunity to thank you again for your concern.

Here is how your money was used this past year:

1. Used to buy clothes and food to lepers in Maradi. Also used to plant trees to prevent wind erosion of fertile soil. Project of a Peace Corps volunteer. \$465
2. Used to buy goats which could be milked. This milk was used for the feeding of infants without a mother or for those whose mother had no breast milk. One can say that this effort did save lives. \$2,045
3. Used for food, clothes and medicine in a refugee camp (those who had fled the famine between 1968 and 1975). A sister (nurse) works with this group. \$1,700
4. Used to buy vitamins which were distributed to the most severely malnourished by Peace Corps volunteers working in Nutrition clinics. \$2,000
5. Used to buy oxen to pull plows which would allow peasant farmers to produce more food since all that most farmers use to break up the soil is a hoe. This was the project of Peace Corps volunteers. \$600
6. Used to buy clothes and blankets for lepers in Zinder. Project of Peace Corps volunteer. \$516
7. Used to purchase valuable lab equipment essential to three hospitals. The better detection of Malaria, Cholera, Schisto and other diseases made possible. Peace Corps volunteer project. \$1,378
8. Used to rehabilitate an old building in order to use it for Nutrition Education classes and infant and mother care. \$770
9. Used to buy a movie camera and projector to make nutrition, health, and sanitation lessons which could be shown across the country. Normally, the Nigerien women consider foods and habits discussed at such classes to be White Folk ways. The aim of the film is to show African women like themselves practicing these nutritional and sanitary habits. This project is the work of the African assistant director of the Peace Corps. \$1,225
10. Used to buy forestry equipment as well as trees for wind erosion control. The project of a Peace volunteer. \$364
11. Used for a leather craft project aimed at giving a skill to a number of unemployed youth. This money also bought a microscope for a clinic and was used to purchase vitamins for the village of Tabask. \$650
12. Used to buy powdered milk for children in the refugee camp mentioned above and for several clinics. \$587

Please send in any suggestions you might have about how we might better divide this money and new ideas or projects in Third World Development. Also, please send whatever within your means financially. You are our only support.

One change I would like to see is more money put into agricultural projects. Of the \$12,300 spent from 1977 to 1978, only \$964 went into Agriculture. This coming year I am going to push volunteers to develop agricultural projects. My feeling is that health and nutritional awareness programs are useless if food production dips.

Remember, HYVF is entirely run on volunteer labor and so 100% of your donation goes where you want it to go!

Please notify me of any change in address so I can keep in touch. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and God bless you for sharing His bounty.

As they say in Niger - Na-Godi Allah Shi Barka.

Thank you,

Peter Daino

Peter Daino

HELP YOUR VILLAGE FUND

% PETER DAINO

3648 WILLOW DRIVE
ENDWELL, N. Y. 13760