

CAMEL EXPRESS

THE CAMEL EXPRESS
Peace Corps Niger
April, 1981

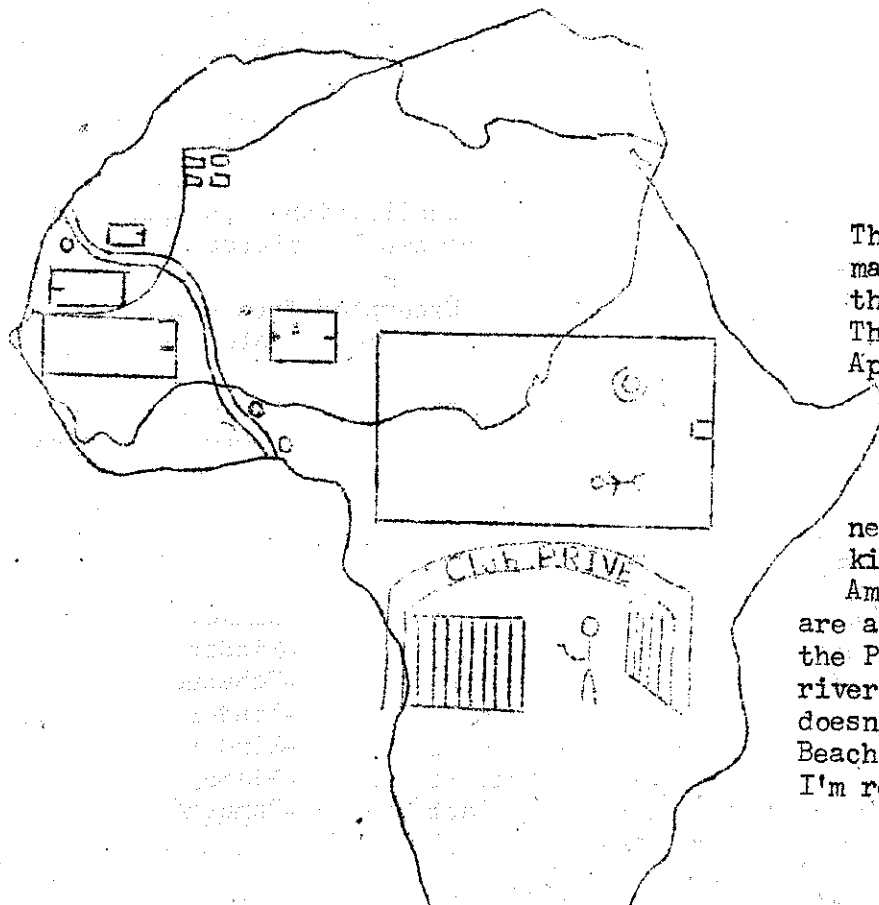
Eway rintpay hatway away etgay. Fiay omeonesay niay gadezaay oesn'tday
ikelay tiay, et'slay earhay imhay omecay ackbay ithway ishay itway..

Tweedle-dee, tweedle-dum, onekerday and elehantyday are almost done.
It would be keeping with a proud tradition and earlier on Peace Corps
trucks if the Camel Express stayed next year in Damagaram, Camel's paradise.
John Pitts, among others, is considering a shift to one of Zinder's second
cycle schools, and he would agree to take on the work. We hope he will.
Otherwise, the typewriter and stencil machine are here in our newly
decorated offices, we'll leave instructions, and whoever has the energy
may lay claim. If you're interested, write to us. In theory, the CE
could operate out of any Peace Corps post, though keeping in ink, paper,
and stencils is challenge enough in Zinder.

We'll have one more issue out in June. If you write some things we'll
print them, only rarely using any editorial discretion at all (you'll
notice). The Camel Express tends to be a fresher read than most of the
other Peace Corps newspapers. (We receive all of the West African ones
through Madame Djibo.) This is partly because we try not to always take
ourselves very seriously, but mainly because we rely almost entirely on
what our own volunteers and staff contribute. These are two editorial
policies we will urge on our successor. But to keep it up, you'll all have
to keep writing. We're saying, "Good work, and let's see more!" The sooner
the better for next issue.

P.S. Thanks to Jaye for her typing help.

Jim and Tom
Zinder



SPLASH!

The theme of the issue is mental
maps. Here's mine. Swimming on
the brain. Water in my tukunya.
The other way around? Oh dear
April. Temptation's own desire
in my own backyard, the private
French Club pool, and not a
drop to sink in. Maradi's Djan
Gorzo's gone slurp. Tahaoua's
neighborhood pools are eight hundred
kilometers to the west, Niamey's
American Center and the Piscine National
are a thousand. Ouallum's farther. Gaya,
the Park W, Gotheye: they're over the
river. Let's get out of here! A shower
doesn't do it anymore. Niamey, the Lomé
Beach, Lake Winnibigoshish! I think
I'm ready. -JD

Bozo. (s)

In a park or anywhere

A man, with pockets patched and full of time

Steps to catch the stares of those

Who see the silver in his step

The midnight in his afternoon

The doctrine in his mind

He doesn't have a watch and chain

The dust that's in his hour-glass has not

yet turned to grains of sand

He walks the pavement up and down

While people-just a boy

Amused and quite confused

That someone cared to clown.

-Mary Pat

RENT THIS SPACE!

WASHINGTON (A.P.) Odilon Long, the oldest active Peace Corps Volunteer, hopes to celebrate his 79th birthday this month working in West Africa. It will be his sixth term.

*

Eat your heart out Joel.

Mahamadou Halidou needs applications for the position of Coordinator of the Village Technology aspect of this summer's training session.

(4/13)

Let Peace Corps Volunteers,

Most Volunteers are familiar with two of the goals of the Peace Corps--to help people of developing countries and to increase their understanding of Americans. But there is a third goal: To increase Americans' understanding of the people of the world.

If you accept this notion, then you will recognize the value of sharing what you've learned. I'd like to suggest that you take some time to write a brief article about your Peace Corps experience--the people you've met, the culture of the country, your job, what you've learned, etc., and send it to your home newspaper, high school paper, college paper, or alumni publication. The point is, there are a lot of people interested in what you're doing.

Excerpted from a letter by Richard Celeste, Dec. 30, 1962

Mr. Carruth adds that the article might be still more interesting if it were co-authored with a Nigerien.

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Mary Pat Chanpeau	-Matamaye	Gary Gervais	-Niamey
Merre McGehee	-Colorado/Zinder	Tom Doneker	-Zinder
Jeff Drumtra	-Illinois/Mirriah	David Steiner	-Tahaoua
Joel Mayer	-Niamey	Janet Beik	-Zinder
Vivian Swift	-Niamey	Jiri Delehanty	-Zinder
Guy Carpenter	-Niamey	Dr. Phil Pierce	-Niamey
Roy Simpson	-Tahaoua	Ed Jarkin	-Tamaské
Bill Carruth	-Niamey		

REQUIEM FOR A REPTILE

Those of us who, through no fault of our own, find ourselves living in luxurious dwellings must endure the jibes of our banco brothers or, worse yet, must cower under the self-satisfied gazes of those who believe themselves to be having the real "Peace Corps Experience." Our defense has always centered around our higher cost of living and the Tantalusian Torture of having air-conditioners and water-heaters and being unable to use them. By arguing thusly, my similarly well-lodged compatriots cause the discussion to degenerate into a dispute over who is suffering more rather than who is having the more enlightening experience. I, on the other hand, think of myself as privileged to be the observer of two warring factions who are vying for control of my house. To wit: an army of mice is fighting incessantly to wrest control from the occupying lizards. The reptilian side has firm control of the attic though the insurgents have made deep inroads on the floor. The other night I was awakened by the sound of a struggle between two of the combattants. After turning on the light it was clear that the mouse had the upper hand over the lizard who, by descending to the floor, had entered enemy territory. My extraneous nature in this conflict has spoken for my mentality, though I do harbor an affinity for the reptilian side which I do not believe carries robes and is far less vocal than the rodent adversary.

The lizards have an advantage in that they can make vertical climbs to their attic stronghold. The mice, however, possess greater intelligence and are by far the better strategists.

Soon I shall add a third factor, a cat, who should end all ground-level conflict and leave the lizards in control of the attic. The mice, their superior intelligence notwithstanding, will be defeated and summarily eaten. Our house will be equally divided between us, with myself occupying the lower regions and the lizards firmly installed above.

However, in eighteen months I must leave and, in all probability; so must the cat. The lizards, presumably the least intelligent of the three, will be victorious. No plotting by the rodents or myself can prevent this. A great man once said, "The best laid plans of mice and men oft times gang agley." So let it be chez moi.

--David Steiner

A LETTER FROM DAVID

Whenever homesickness strikes, I temper it by remembering the words of the older and wiser volunteers: "It's harder to go home than it is to come here. Back in the States you'll not be able to communicate with even your closest friends." Though I scoffed at this at first, I can now well believe it after seeing communication barriers erected even here between PCV's in different programs. My first real conversation with experienced PCV's took place at the rec center the night after my arrival in Niger. A one-year volunteer in Eaux et Forêts told me that TEFL volunteers drive other people crazy because our conversational repertoire consists solely of classroom disciplinary problems. I can well understand their complaint. After all, discipline can hardly be expected to hold the interest of those whose minds revolve around the breeding habits of Karpus Nigericus. The plaintiffs must keep in mind, however, that TEFLers do comprise the plurality here. Furthermore, we control the Camel Express. And yet, no one ever writes anything about discipline, so it is to this problem that I wish to address myself here. I feel that of all the TEFLers, I am the most qualified to write on this subject. Not because I have experienced especially bad discipline problems, but because I have been accused by a certain vile Zinderois of being this year's D.G. He also made reference to my descent down a rather deep Gotherye hooter. Laugh though he may, I am proud of having extricated myself single-handedly without disturbing the three sleeping women inside, which, I believe, would have been undignified. Furthermore,

DAVID continued...

lest anyone should accuse me of clumsiness, this fall was no mere accident. Rather it was done at the behest of a certain TEFL teacher in Gouré who has often suggested that I be "taken off and buried." But I digress. We must proceed to the subject at hand.

Both in Stage and Recyclage, we had workshops on discipline. Yet, one major problem was never covered, ie, what to do if one's students are too good. Let me explain/

After weeks of teaching students who have exhausted Mr. Chips, it was with utmost pleasure that I learned of the walkout by the pupils of Tahoua's Ecole Normale, Lycée, and CEG I in support of the Zinder strike. On the way home from CEG II, three of my students accosted me and asked if I was au courant with the situation. I informed them that I was and asked them if they intended to follow suit. "Non, monsieur," they responded, "nous sommes ici pour travailler!" This did not disturb me for one could hardly expect students to discuss their seditious plans with a member of the "Establishment." Having faith in the maelvolent character of my student's minds, it was with the utmost contentment that I walked home that day, sure that I would spend the rest of the term in blissful retirement.

Such was not to be. The next day, true to their word, the little monsters were back. To make matters worse, our director ordered all the teachers to remain at school six hours a day to guard against striking intruders. As the days dragged on, I became so frustrated that I broke the cardinal rule of TEFL and spoke to my students in French; "Vous n'êtes pas ensemble!" I yelled in exasperation. When the strike finally ended, the teachers in Tahoua's other schools congratulated those of CEG II on their competence. But for me, the praise was but a hollow triumph, for I have heard from a certain reliable source that this sudden (and short-lived) attack of angelicism was the product of the evil mind of a certain brilliant pupil who had found a way of aggravating me without getting into trouble.

Before concluding this otherwise lackluster article, I wish to say a word about the aforementioned vile Zinderois. Wishing it never to be said that I ignored a slight, I dispatched two of my Tuareg acquaintances to Zinder to arrange a time and a place where we might settle this matter as gentlemen. Upon their arrival in Zinder, my two acquaintances were met by two of his who informed them that said vile Zinderois could not accept my challenge since he was not in fighting trim. "All great men are dying," they were told, "he feels a little sick himself."

—This Year's Dave Gibbs

FROM THE DOCTOR

Dear Dr. Pierce:

Most of the epidemic meningitis in Africa is due to serogroup A. Naturally because of the inadequate laboratory facilities serogrouping is not often done. The bivalent A-C vaccine would therefore be appropriate for individuals who may be exposed to epidemic Meningococcal meningitis in Africa. The vaccine is effective for age groups likely to be Peace Corps volunteers. No booster needs to be given as I would agree that a minimal level of three years of protection is given. Polysaccharide vaccines such as the pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccines, are generally quite immunogenic and protection should last for 3-5 years or more.

—Walter F. Schlech III, M.D.

Based on this information all volunteers will receive the bivalent A-C vaccine during stage. No boosters will be given during the remainder of service since the level of protection is more than adequate.

FROM THE DOCTOR continued...

Two further reminders on COS exams. Physical exams and lab work must be completed before your COS date even if you are staying in country. Health insurance must be purchased in country. If you deduct it from your readjustment allowance you must do it 60 days before your COS date. The coverage is good and very cheap. Highly recommended.

--Dr; Phil Pierce

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

LORENA WOOD STOVES

Dong, from Keita, and I built a lorena wood stove for use at nutrition demonstrations in Tamaské. The stove has attracted alot of interest and we hope it will be the first in a series of stoves to be built in our area.

If anybody is interested in building a stove, good information can be obtained from:

1. Volunteers in Technical Assistance
3706 Rhode Island Ave.
Mt. Ranier, Maryland 20822
2. Estacion Experimental Choqui
Apartado Postal 159
Quezaltenango, Guatemala
Central America
3. Ralph Royer
Consultant for Appropriate Technology
Church World Service
B.P. 11624
Niamey

Mr. Royer has built some stoves at his office in Niamey. I went to see his stoves in November and he was very patient and helpful in explaining the basic concepts to me.

A copy of the report on the stove he built including information on mud mixture; drying time; cost breakdowns; design plans; material and labor sources, etc, can be obtained from Mamadou Issa.

Funding was provided by the "Help Your Village Fund."

Peter Daino
Marianist Novitiate
4435 E. Patterson Road
Dayton, Ohio 45430

In applying for money from the "Help Your Village" the following questions should be answered in any proposal:

1. What are the goals of your project?
2. Who is the fund intended to help and how?
3. What will be the anticipated long range results?
4. Please give a timetable for the enactment of the project (starting and completing date).
5. Is the immediate supervisor aware of the project?
6. Itemize prices of materials and labor.
7. What will the people to benefit contribute?
8. Name and address. Date form completed.

These stoves are not cheap to build unless you provide all the labor. Our stove has cost over 20,000 not including the hangar or paint.

If you do build a stove, the "Choqui" people would like pictures, postage stamps, and information on any problems encountered and design modifications.

--Eileen
Tamaské

[illegible]

ZINDER
VOLUNTEER'S
OF NIGER

UNEXPLORED

DAMAGARAM

A hand-drawn map of the Kigali city center, showing various locations and landmarks. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key locations include:

- Top Left:** N W A L A (vertical text), La Grotte, STADE.
- Top Right:** TUDUN JAMUS, DISCOTEQUE, MT.
- Center:** ZENG, Liberté, Centre Hotel, French Store, French Club, SABON GARI.
- Bottom Left:** EN, Irirubungu, Villas, atameye.
- Bottom Right:** K A S S U M A (vertical text), Birirubungu, BIRNI, MOSQUE, SULTAN.

Le Désert

Dunes de Tal

Lac.
Tehad

It makes CENTS to use Camel Express Classified! Send us your list today!

1A. Miscellaneous

One Remington Portable Typewriter
10,000 CFA.
One Leather Backpack. Handmade &
SIM. 6500 CFA.
One Polaroid SX-70 Camera. 6000.
One sleeping bag. 5000.
One AC/DC Radio Cassette Player.
11,000.
One AC/DC Shortwave Radio. 6000.
And Transformer. 2000.
One thousand six hundred thirty
two empty one-liter wine bottles
3000.

"Naugle's Peace Corps Surplus
Suppliers" Ignore the
sticker, Lets dick.
s/c-CEG I, Maradi
* * *

3C. Messagess

We would like to remind departing PCVs
that, if you act sixty days in advance
of your COS date in requesting Re
Medical Coverage to be effective after
your tour with the Peace Corps, their
charge will be deducted directly from
you readjustment allowance. You will
not have to bother with sending a per-
sonal check.

-Peace Corps Niamey

* * *

A number of volunteers have asked us
to print the home addresses of those
who will be leaving in the next six
months; participants in the Summer,
'79 Omnibus training session, that is.
If you send us an address before our
June issue (the sooner the better)
we'll include it on the list. Someone
says, "Don't forget!"

* * * The Editors

5Z. Obituaries

Garfield, "Gar" Bricker-Hearey.
Lost and presumed dead: Disappeared
one night on the prowl. Masters agree,
it's an honorable way to go. Survived
by mother, Bitch, full brother, Tabby,
an infinite number of half brothers and
sisters, his grieving master, Clem, and
the rest of the world. Services held
in Zinder. No flowers. Memorials, in
cash, to the Zinder volunteers.

6B. Wanted

Someone to manage the Rec Center.
Position available in or about April.
If interested, contact Kathy or Lisa
at the Rec. Center in Niamey.

* * *

The English Language Program at the
American Cultural Center in Niamey
is looking for experienced English
language teachers for a wide variety
of EFL projects. For further details
contact Bill Ames, Centre Culturel
11201, Niamey.

* * *

12Z. Personals

Hi, or rather good-bye. We're about
to take off on that big taxi brousse
going...
We've been thinking of all the people
here and decided to just write something
for the Camel Express. Here it is:
To all of you who know: Leaving is hard.
We couldn't write about it. We love you.
We are with you.

-Niki George and Diane Rad

* * *

13CC. Travel

Those PCVs planning to include Ireland
in a European tour after termination
would be well advised to avoid the Blarn
Stone, which has recently been proven
fraudulent. Says Dublin APCD for Educat
Bill O'Carney, "The bloody thing's a
bromide."

-Pati Mai Shai

* * *

Volunteers that have been thinking about
making the Kano connection on their
travels this summer might want to consi-
der that the black market exchange rate for
the naira has gone from 230 CFA to 300
since December, and at this rate, if it
continues, the price advantage of that
route is rapidly diminishing.

-The Editors

Is there anyone looking for a travel
companion? Mary Kay Fox says that he
remains to travel to Kenya and points
beyond. Or she asks whether there is
a group she might hitch up with. Write
Mary Kay
s/c Dispensaire de Kao
Arrondissement Tchou-Tabaraden

RECIPES

Last year the N'Guigmi Ladies Auxiliary and Yacht Club decided to compile a collection of rice recipes, geared to spice up the lives of those broussards whose diet consists of shinkafa, shinkafa, and more shinkafa, with a little sand thrown in for flavor. They are now actively soliciting contributions to this charitable enterprise. The first, Riz Spécial N'wala, is printed here with the permission of the chef.

* * *

Ingredients for preparing the Rice

- 2 cups dry rice (if you wash it, dry it before cooking it)
- oil
- garlic
- chicken bouillon (or Maggi Cubes): 4
- lemon juice
- salt
- pounded ginger
- black or white pepper
- Arome Maggi
- piment

Preparation of the Rice

- Put a generous amount of oil in the pot, medium heat.
- Put in sliced garlic cloves and a pinch of ginger
- Put in Rice and stir until slightly brownish.
- Crumble chicken bouillon into rice and stir well.
- Give a few good shakes of Arome Maggi and listen to the sizzle.
- Pour in four cups of water and turn heat to high.
- add salt, lemon juice, pepper, piment.
- when boiling, cover, reduce heat to very low (simmer), and let cook for 20 minutes. DO NOT DISTURB it by peeking or stirring!

Ingredients for "Spécial N'Wala"

- meat (hamburger, beef, mouton, chicken).
- onions (2 big or 3 medium).
- garlic (at least 5 cloves).
- piment.
- salt.
- pepper.
- peanuts.
- as available or au choix:
- carrots (1 big or 2 medium).
- edishes (2).
- green pepper (1-2).
- green onions (scallions)
- ginger (pounded).
- any other vegetable or spice.
- egg
- pineapple
- parsley

Preparation of the "Special N'Wala" (which you mix with the rice before serving)

- cut up vegetables and meat into very small pieces.
- put garlic and ginger into oil on low heat for a spell.
- then turn heat to medium-high and stir fry the vegetables.
- add the meat and stir fry--throw in salt, pepper, piment, and a few shakes of Arome Maggi with the meat.
- add the egg and stir it in.
- add the peanuts, crushed, if possible.
- add the rice when cooked and stir well.
- add the Arome Maggi and stir well.
- add the pineapple and stir well.
- add the parsley.

- serve with raw tomatoes and salad or both on the same plate.
- enjoy.

RECIPES

CHEESECAKE BROUSSARDE

Ingredients:

- 1 can lait sucré.
- 2 cups yogurt.

Preparation:

- mix together.
- bake about 1/2 hour in a slow oven (minimum heat).
- let sit in the oven for 10 minutes after the heat is off.
- chill.
- serve.
- good served with fresh fruit or canned pineapple chunks.
- don't put lemon juice in it before baking, as it won't set.
- you can experiment with crust if you like, but it's good plain.

Janet Reik
ancien PCV

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear CE,

Let me put it this way. I've been robbed again. Send money.

Alice Bonner
Lagos Airport

Dear CE,

I'll be in ZR on April 5th. Tell Johannes to stock up on cheese, mayonnaise, and calf's brains. Tell Clem to put clean sheets on the bed.

Jerry Brown
Niamey

P.S. I'm bringing my own Fly-Tox.

Dear CE,

What do you call an Irishman with no fingers? A leperchaun.

Nina Lorch
Zinder

Hi guys,

My tooth hurts. What can I do?

Jaye Krasnow
Matameye

Dear CE,

Who wants to work stage? Does anyone want to work stage? What about you Gavin? Please write.

Mahamadou Halidou
Niamey

Dear CE,

Well, Clem, we bagged another one.

Mike Naugle
Maradi

Dear CE,

What's a fishway? About one kilo.

Sean Boyle
Madarounfa

Dear CE,

Eric Schwamberger
N'Guigmi

Dear CE,

En la porte. Je te dis toujours, "There, now it's in The Camel Express s." I hope I never have to say it again.

Madame Djibo
Niamey

Dear CE,

Jebbie-jeeboe. Rheet. It's hard to find flour now. Snort-snort.

Mike Klinger
Guidan Roundji

A JOURNEY TO THE OUTER LAND

Being the true account of the sallies forth from Niamey of the hardy and ever-cheerful leader of our group, the honorable Mr. Carruth, containing numerous tall adventures encountered therein.

* * *

"Speak to us of Niamey, that other world in which you live!" said the wizened volunteer from Zinder.

"Speak to us first of our brothers and sisters along the sandy paths you travelled to N'Guigmi, Tanout, Mayahi and Dakoro!" said another.

The dust laden traveller eases himself into a low slung chair. The first volunteer brings a hugh cup, the second brings water from a takunya jar. The traveller slowly begins to tell his story with the hesitancy of one who has seen more than he has understood. Whether this is actually his story or what he dreamed is still unclear.

"On Tuesday last we departed Niamey at a good hour with our mighty Toyota 4 laden with four freshly minted volunteers, their baggage and those few provisions which the traveller and his driver, Saadou, needed themselves.

"We found Barbara Wilson in the Dosso Health Laboratory and left Marie Elles with her for a week of on the job training. Dorothy Delaney was last seen looking about for her Chef who was to accompany her back to Gaya where she has been posted.

"We sped east toward fabled Maradi where Thyne Sieber will hold forth as a nurse. By evening our vehicle rolled into the yard of the Zinder Hostel where Djibo presides and Clem resides. Out of the twilight darkness came the many voices of the Zinder family with whom we broke bread, sliced cheese and drank wine. One must keep fortifying himself for the trip EAST.

"It was here that most of the questions about Niamey came forth. I propose this interlude to respond:

1. Peace Corps Niger, amidst the uncertainties of waiting on the initiatives of a new Director in Washington, has been discussing with the GON the need to go further and do better in Agriculture and Rural Development programming; of holding the Health sector pretty much steady as it is, and of trimming gradually the number of English teachers. It will take 18 to 24 months to identify, test out, and confirm the viability of new assignments...so we are talking of a direction we hope to follow rather than a fait accompli. The GON-USG bilateral discussions starting the ninth of March will include new programming in Peace Corps.
2. The next summer training session will most likely be held outside Niamey. It should comprise some 50 trainees, but that figure is a function of the yet to be decided budget for next fiscal year and for the balance of this year. Add to that all the talk in Washington of reducing the size of Peace Corps and you can understand our uncertainty about the number of trainees and their distribution by technical sectors. Peace Corps Niamey welcomes applications from volunteers who wish to participate in the training session. The arrival date should be about the tenth of July, but workers will have to start in advance.
3. Loret Miller Ruupe has been nominated Director of Peace Corps Washington. She has travelled widely in North Africa, Kenya, and attended the African Conference in London in 1978. Her husband was six times Congressman from Michigan. A note from the Niger Desk Officer mentions that Loret has been active in volunteerism and has said that one thing she wants to do as PCD is to make conservative Americans recognize how important Peace Corps is. The Desk Officer also mentions that Tom Pauken, a former congressional candidate from Texas, has been named ACTION Director.
4. We have been in touch with Washington since last November regarding Jerry Brown's replacement, who is due in about June. What usually happens is that Washington convenes candidates and runs them individually past a panel of staff and former volunteers. We know of two candidates recommended for this panelling but have yet to receive a response to our last inquiry as to what is going on. In brief, our request for a replacement and description of the position need has been in Washington for several

CONTINUED CARRUTHIAN GADABOUTING

months...but we do not know the status of the search. In the ideal, Jerry's replacement should be here in late April or early May so as to allow for an overlap.

5. As Peace Corps Volunteers your sources of taxable income are two fold, and sometimes three: a) Your monthly living allowance, b) your readjustment allowance, and, c) if you were a trainee during the last year, your walk-around allowance. All of your walk-around allowance and your readjustment allowance are taxable, but only the following portions of your living allowance are taxable: domestic help, clothing, recreation/entertainment/reading, transportation, incidental expenses, vacation (at the equivalent of 18 dollars per month).

6. We did meet with the Niamey volunteers who asked that the reduction in the living allowance to 70,000 CFA be reconsidered in as much as they believe it is not adequate to their situation, specifically to meeting the immediate cost of living. Admittedly it is tight for the Niamey volunteers and the Director said he would inquire with other country directors to learn what happens when two living allowances are instituted. While not giving encouragement, he will look into the matter. That same conversation gave rise to the question as to just what we think the role of a city volunteer is outside his or her formal work setting. Do we expect the volunteer to live as in the bush?...a question which I believe answers itself, are they to keep pace with Nigerien and non-Nigerien workers in terms of dress/hospitality/entertainment, etc.?

"With rosy-fingered dawn, the traveller and Saadou the chauffeur set off down the road which led past Mirriah, Guidimouni, Gouré, Mainé Soroa, Diffa, and finally to NiGuigmi.

"Since Deb was back in Zinder for a three-day conference on sports regulations, the stop in Mirriah was a brief visit to her CEG Director, a chat with Stephanie outside her classroom and a few minutes with the Sou-Préfet recently assigned from Madarounfa.

"Barbara was outside her Dispensaire when we rolled down the side street of Guidimouni. Happy, busy, but lonely, she said to tell them all to write.

"The dirt road to Gouré was a scene, especially since we were stuck behind a government trailer which ploughed on and on leaving great billows of dust for us to eat. It was somewhere around here that our party Toyota had the first of its four break downs. The fan belt gave out. Now that's not serious. Little did we realize that by the time we reached Diffa five out of the eight "pedals" on the radiator fan would have been eaten away. Or that by the time we reached Magaria the seal between the block and the water pump would give way allowing a jet of water to escape continuously. The final surprise came at 10 PM of the last day when the water pump itself blew up when we were within some 100 kilometers of Niamey. Taxi brousse got the traveller home by midnight.

"Susan and Chippy are installed together in Gouré in a house that includes a handsome water closet with a first rate western toilet less running water. They are still working at convincing their local admirers that no means no and that TEFL teachers need time to prepare for class.

"In Mainé-Soroa Peg has moved off campus to a neat little concession some five blocks away. When I arrived at the CEG Pam was working on wall sketches, depicting trees on a hillside, which her Director had agreed she could put on the wall of her living-room. Somehow this is related to a larger plan to repaint the house...but the quality of the drawings suggests that at least one wall not be repainted. The next morning we all trekked off to visit with the Director of the CEG and the Sou-Préfet, two very pleasant people with whom to meet.

"At the hospital laboratory in Diffa, Karen Martenson was installed behind her microscope and surprised to have the traveller walk in the door. She had no notice that we were on the road. Lunch in her concession is an experience, the food is good yet the view of a hundred 55 gallon drums stacked around the yard takes some getting use to. Nancy Dillon stayed at her post through lunch so

FANTASTIC VOYAGE

that she could keep a promise to return corrected exams to her students at three PM that afternoon. The Lytee Director remarked that many of her students were ones that she had had the year before at Maïné-Soroa and that she is like a mother who has found her children. I never got a chance to ask Nancy if that is the way she feels about it.

"Diffa. They are working twenty four hours a day on the water tower and the TV antenna. As you drive down the main drag there are committees of people out working with ropes and pulling light poles into place along the main street. The Adjoint Prefet tells me he has fourteen committees going on the preparations for the festival...and that Diffa will be ready.

"Little did I realize that in our travels we would be at Tanout three before the Zinder Department eliminations, or at Madarounfa the day the Maradi Department eliminations for dance were starting. Next time I should plan to take in some of the festivals.

"North to N'Guigmi where Eric, recovering from an apparent case of malaria, ... and Guy hold forth in a former fonctionnaire's home. I really liked N'Guigmi... a physical openness that goes with living on the edge of the desert...but that is not to say how I would weather there after a year or two. The pea-cock died but the pea-hens live on. A lot of students stopped in at the house to pay a visit, as did the Director of the CEG to see how Eric was coming along. The Director, Guy and I wound up in Balko's by seven that evening...a kind of Magazine General combined with a modest bar.

"The next morning I asked the Sous Prefet what is his main abjective is in N'Guigmi. Urbanisme.

"With regret and sand in my eye we left N'Guigmi and headed back along the road. A few miles outside N'Guigmi Saadou spotted twenty large monkies. Lunch at the restaurant behind the auto gare in Diffa. A quick stop in Maïné soroa to pick up Peg who travelled back to Zinder for a required medical shot. The final dash to Zinder; we stopped off to look at the old Peace Corps lodging beside a still older dispensaire in Birnin Kaze.

"Saturday morning, equipped with a basket of vegetables that Susan had put together, we set off to find Carol Terris in Tanout. Now that's another part of the world. Carol lives in a smallish house which is essentially one long room. What little there is has been used nicely. Outside her concession door there is a camel park...or a cattle park depending on the day. Her CEG is but a few sand dunes away where we met her Director and after him the Sous prefet and Adjoint. The Director gave Carol some eggs and I dug a can or two of fruit out of the truck. Nice people. A week earlier there had been a special ritual/celebration by one of the neighboring groups in which the men dance and...after a week of dancing...the women pick their husbands. As usual I was too late. On the other hand the town was preoccupied with preparations for the Zinder Department eliminations during which Tanout would host a thousand or more people. Time to leave before the crowds arrive.

"We drove south across three markedly different environmental bands and spent the evening in the area of Bandé and Magaria. To me the latter locale looks as though it might be outside Niamey on the road to Kolo. Karen Godley has this very powerful looking telescope for watching the stars but neither of us could agree on just who/what is that bright star that shows up lately at eleven in the evening. Mara and Gwen gave Saadou and me a nice dinner and a much needed chance to relax when we thought the Toyota had really given up the ghost.

"Sunday morning we went to the Sous Prefet of Magaria who we found sitting beneath a large well established tree growing beside his office. It was a casual scene as one or another director fonctionnaire or citizen came looking for advice or permission for something. All we wanted was a mechanic on Sunday morning...which he produced and the repair was done within 90 minutes. The local Commander of the Brigade was there and we got into a nice discussion around the days he has spent travelling...some of which were in Algeria about which we could compare notes.

VAGABONDING IN NIGER

...
"In Matameye the gang of four...Mary Pat, Jaye, Edith, and Margeret...were in high form and good spirits. They would have me believe that Matameye is the greatest city in Niger. I can only note that their concessions are nice. I guess Mary Pat occupies the oldest Peace Corps residence, a fact that she substantiates by the minimal amount of space remaining in her hooter. Margeret's Majore took me through the records of recent tournees to neighboring villages and then out for a coke at a place that is Matameye's version of N'Guigmi's Balko. Perhaps this is a three star edition while Balko is somewhere between one and two stars. Everyone got in the Toyota and we drove off to pay our respects to the Sous Prefet. It being four o'clock Sunday afternoon we managed to get him out of bed...but he quickly gained his composure, took command of the situation by reviewing the condition of everyone's concession and confiding that he had just lost thirty new chickens to the cholera. Mary Pat lost three. Edith knows something that the rest of us do not and has three healthy birds running about her concession. Margeret is hedging her bets by keeping ducks.

"By Sunday evening we reached Tessaoua where Robin served up a meal and Stephania and I went off to visit Christy who had just come down with malaria. She was asleep and one does not wake the ill. Stephania lives on the CEG grounds in a nice facility save for the constant presence during the day of the kids playing outside her door. The rest of the time the CEG appears removed from the town.

"Susan Sakwa had already set off down the Route Nationale on her bicycle for Aguié. I guess recent high winds have been keeping her trips down. I remember her saying that she had gone as far as Madarounfa with out difficulty. Later that evening in her concession in Aguié she showed me the bike...a pretty business like machine.

"Deborah Lowe rode back with us from Tessaoua to Aguié. Saadou and I felt this was not the evening to go dancing so we sat in Debbie's concession, watched the stars and talked a lot about her year and one half in Aguié.

"A lot of these fobs takes a great deal of gumption; perhaps all but in different ways; perhaps all but in a manner which it is impossible to measure or honestly compare. That was the evening I reflected on and marvelled at what Peace Corps Volunteers do in so many different settings and with so many different styles of response.

"Al was sitting on the CEG Director's door step the next morning. He was limping but had placed at Maradi in the shot put, one hundred and two hundred meter race in Diffa.

"The Prefet at Maradi had once indicated that he's like to see some wells dug at Aguié. Time to check with the Sous Prefet at Aguié. Larger events have caught up with Aguié which is to have a forage and a water tower with a distribution system. I am not sure this will happen in time for Al to get a shower. The Sous Prefet was interested in Debbie planning to study international relations and economics...so the discussion got off on the Keynesian economics and what would happen under the new American administration.

"Aguié, as you know, is close to Mayahi where Karen Chittenden and John Pitts hold forth. Mayahi is a good piece north of the Route Nationale and the terrain reminds me of Tanout...not quite so severe...or Dakoro.

"Lunch at Maradi and a late afternoon dash to Madarounfa where Peter, Shawn, and Mary Jo took me on the grand tour of the lake's and managed to paddle me out to the gardens on the island. Very neat gardens but apparently it takes an awful amount of work to lift enough water from the lake into the gardens. Peter says that Africare came through earlier in the week with the Adjoint Prefet of Maradi, the Sous Prefet of Madarounfa and various Chefs to discuss a very big project that would build a gate at one end of the lake and bring in perhaps ten pumps. Spirits were high. I suggested that we should all come back in ten years and retire at the lake but the others thought a reunion visit in five years was a sufficient promise.

JOURNE WITHOUT MAPS

One of those ninety-nine graves Madar mfa is just outside Peter's concession; I am glad my kids were not there because Rachel might have taken the cement enclosure for a sandbox.

Monday evening I stayed with the Picketts and Saadou with his relatives who live across the street from the Grand Mosque. Someone deposited a puppy in the Pickett front yard so that when we woke up Tuesday morning their kids were occupied with it. I asked Walter to write up the story of his twelve days travelling among the nomads checking on tomato seeds and well usage.

As we drove out of Maradi we visited each of the markets but we were too early to see vegetables. I felt bad heading off to Dakoro with a couple of cans of juice. Girls carrying large pans of tomatoes. We bought an entire pan full...I am not sure but possibly five kilos for 450 CFA. Thus we arrived in Dakoro where Karen Rose enjoys her work as a nutritionist, Judith Pelchat adds the experience of having lived there for two years, and Jimmy Redman is recovering from something which has really thinned him down. The volunteers at Dakoro enjoy life there and see little need to travel out to the Route National.

Now you may wonder why this traveller's story has been so long. It could be still longer of course if he touched on all the conversations, expectations and joys which bear on this remarkable community of volunteers. But it should be enough to say that the very variety of situations in which they work and live, and the uniqueness of their individual responses and reasons for doing what they are doing is very impressive.

So many people have defined in a fairly unique manner what it is to be a Peace Corps Volunteer. Whether on brousse or in ville, there are some very unique challenges but they take extremely different forms. Isolation. Extremely limited diets. Pressure. Climatic harshness. Social and community pressure.

And there are some very neat and exciting experiences and accomplishments which not go unnoted. The traveller wondered aloud how amidst such diversity Peace Corps Niger remains one community.

-Bill Carruth
March 6th, 1981

SNEAKY LITTLE BASTARD

Dear Editors,

There is a sneaky little bastard with a lisp (now going by the name of Habou or something similar) who is visiting volunteers across Niger, telling them I gave him their address and they should lend him some money, which he will return to me.

Anyway, some people have fallen for this bullshit, which I regret. This jerk showed up at my door one day and asked if he could translate a letter into English for him to send to his uncle in Nigeria. To make a long story short, it was a meeting I've been suffering from ever since. I don't like this guy, and if anyone sees him, please ignore him, or preferably, break his face.

-Gery Gervais

GRANDE FLAG PROFILE



NAME: RUSSEL DRAKE

BORN: 20th Century, Chicago

HOME: Zed Club, Niamey

FLUENCIES: Passé and Futur antérieur, Arabic, GreenWhich Village slouch

HOBBIES &

INTERESTS: changing addresses, going out on first dates

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

found New Man jeans in the Grand Marché

RAISON D'ETRE: French jeans, Armani suits, Alfa Romeos, The Clash

CURRENT PROJECT: giving Niamey a taste of Avant-Guard

LAST BOOK READ: (and re-read) Lolita, Nabokov

FAVORITE PLACE: no place in Niamey, Niger, or Africa

SPARE TIME: teaches his houseboy sub-continental cuisine and how to wear a leather jacket

MEMORABLE QUOTE: "So some friends said hey, why don't you go make some films in Africa, man? So I thought like why not, the third world might be a happening place."

BOISSON PREFEREE: Grande Flag. It's a lot like Niger.

JOHN CHIASSON

1952, The South

Tennis Court, America Rec Center

Cajun charisma and other Mississippi Delta dialects

any sport that requires special clothes and finding the right pair of shoes to watch

found a coiffeuse who knows how to layer hair

Delta Queens, Parisiennes, (blondes, brunettes, redheads...)

getting a Pea Diem out of Peace Corps

Where can I get a copy of Sensuous Hadjia? How can I meet Eileen Larkin?

Zinder

works at the TV station

"You're from Virginia? I always wanted to date a northerly girl."

Grande Flag. The Rec Center doesn't serve Mint Juleps.

GRANDE FLAG PROFILE

NAME: JOEL MAYER	MARK SULLIVAN
BORN: with a Boston accent	(again) the first time he read Hemingway
HOME: University of Niamey	CEG, Agadez
ALIQUENCIES: shuffling and dealing	English as a dead language
HOBBIES & INTERESTS: Playing Hiuts Americans, achieving one-ness with the ghost writing about Huits Américains, of Jim Morrison talking about Huits Américains	
RECENT ACCOM- PLISHMENT: had a conversation with something you'll never do another American and only mentioned Zinder once	
CURRENT PROJECT: Making being a Niamey volunteer fashionable	hopes to establish an Agadez fran- chaise of his college fraternity
RAISON D'ETRE: the Boston Red Sox	acting as if he is the F. Scott Fitzgerald character in <u>The Snows of Kilimanjaro</u>
FAVORITE PLACE: Rec Center on a Friday night with a friend from Zinder	a clean, well lighted place
LAST BOOK READ: The Card Game, and other essays in contemporary symbolist literature; by Gore Vidal	The Importance of Being Like Ernest Hemingway; by Norman Mailer
SPARE TIME: writes for the Camel Express	re-writes his resumé, talks about the grades he got in college Lit classes
MEMORABLE QUOTE: "Aw c... on... just one more game."	"Women are attracted to me because of my intellect, not because of my looks."
BOISSON PREFERENCE: Grande Flag. Because Tom Doneker drinks it.	Grande Flag. It's so masculin.

TAHOUA

In between Niamey and Agadez there exists the city of Tahoua. If you were just passing through, you probably observed a lot of ugly buildings, dirt, and beggars. Your first impression probably wasn't very good. But did you take time to look? Because if you did you might have seen a different side of Tahoua. Mainly the people. If you take the time to go for a walk through the back streets you'd see what I mean. By having a cup of tea with maïtebur, a bowl of tuwo at Fati Mata's, or by talking to the old men on the streets you'd experience where Tahoua's real beauty lies.

So next time you happen to be passing through Tahoua, give her a second chance!

Roy Simpson
INEDIT

THE END OF THE ROAD

Well, the news from N'Guigmi is not particularly exciting, stimulating, or titilating. The days glide by in a melange of idleness, "work", and damned if I can figure out where the rest of it goes. Ah...there is Scrabble, a game which both Eric and I excel at and enjoy. He enjoys it as the only thing he ever has to say is, "Whadjodo?" No, don't print that. My New years resolution was to not kid Eric about the fact that he never talks. It's not really true anyway.

Mr. Bill came up to see us late Feb. Brought out some fine cadeaux. Me and him and the director went and had a beer and generally confirmed the value and inherant goodness of all PCVs in N'Guigmi.

Susan Mc, that fun-loving and good natured nurse we all know and love, now graces Zinder with her presence. However the Yacht Club is sailing stiff and true. While she retains honorary commodoreship I will officiate at the Festival de Jeunesse Regatta and Beer Pound, with Cap'n Schwamberger acting as bartender and bouncer. Stout fellow wanna

We spent fifty fucking bucks on one of those pressure kerosene lanterns; so all you people who said you'd come out and visit during the festival.... All that dinero for you Clem, and you Sully, and you Chris. There's no excuse for y'all not coming out now, Diffa's not that far. (Bring lots of \$.)

If there's ever any question raised about the off-road driving abilities of either Paul L. (how do you spell his last name?) or Sully let it be known that they have absolutely none what so ever. I can testify (under oath if necessary) that once behind the wheel they turn into crazed and frustrated madmen capable of any lunacy imaginable. Allah help any creatures on the road between them and their destination. Probably Barbara Hahn is in agreement, as we had the grim responsibility of catching flying objects which, after having been propelled to incredible speeds due to fantastic fishtails and amazing flights of the Land Cruiser we all went to the Bagzan Mt Range in, were intent on exiting thru the front windshield. It was one hell of a way to end a vacation. Thanks Paul.

Valentine's Day was celebrated by the Eastern PCVs in Diffa. All of us were there, Nancy, Karen, Pam, Peggy except for the druge Eric who stayed in N'Guigmi and held grammar review classes that weekend. Twas a good party and even had a surprise visitor, Wina. Somehow or another it moved to Ray's (a mechanic and limbo dancer par excellence) trailer where all his liquor and wine mysteriously disappeared. An excellent meal was presented by Nancy D., who was vivacious in a particularly vibrant and colorful pagne that night.

There's no doubt in my mind now that the end of this world as I know it is near. The frigo at Bar Lac Chad is down and out. As Tom Doneker can tell you, the pilgramage to our one only local PC shrine is a moving and emotional once-in-a-term-of-service event. Our friend (and proprietor) Ali has been working diligently on his English, and is quite ready to accomadate the hoardes of PCVs we have assured him will flock to Guigmi to pay homage and to drink tepid beer. Bring money and be prepared to shave your head.

Having been witness (and partial participant) to the oft disgusting and drunkardly habits of the editors of the Camel Express I have my doubts whether any of this letter will appear timely. Of course they'll make excuses, "it arrived too late," or "the door to the hostel was locked, we couldn't get in to type it," etc.. In any case I'm willing to forgive in advance and let bygones be bygones. Hope to see y'all in April.

Guy M. Carpenter
Guigmi

P.S. David S. wire me if you need more bail money, and be more careful next time.

MAYER ON HUITTS

Have you been losing a lot at huitts lately? And you probably thought you'd been improving--arranging your cards to make nice little runs, changing suits to thwart your opponent's strategy, saving your chargeurs to go out with after your yellow-bellied adversary dumped his joker when you called "carte"! Yes, you've been making all the clever moves of the cagiest huiteur, and still you keep on losing? Well, my friend, I hate to shatter those rose-colored glasses, but chances are... people have been cheating on you!

Impossible? Hardly. Stop fretting; it's time you learned the ABC's of Huitts, and C stands for Cheating. Don't be a sucker! If you want to hold your own with the best of them, here are a few pointers:

1. Play the wrong card. This works best when the game is moving rapidly. Just make sure it's the same color as the card you're covering up. The next player will just assume he saw the previous suit wrong, and follow your suit. Once the next card is played, you're in the clear. It's impossible to sanction you, even if you're discovered. Trop tard, quoi. (You can even show them later so they can see how clever you are.)
2. Use a "7" of the wrong suit and cover it up with the suit being played. Again, be sure it's the same color card. Of course, if you're playing on a "7", use any 7 and then another card of the same color, different suit. In either case, throw down the cards so that only the number "7" is visible, but not the suit. This calls for a certain amount of premeditation.
3. Follow the suit being played, then call for another suit as if you had played a Huit. Your opponents will be so flustered by the change in suit that they'll either follow your call or pluck before examining your card. And then it's trop tard to do anything. This works best with a "6" or a nine.
4. What to do when you're stuck with an "8" or a joker at the end: First of all, play wearing a shirt or a blouse with a big pocket, and have a couple of papers in it. When you sense that you're about to get "stuck", slip the hot card into the pocket while everybody else is watching the table. Another device is to drop the card onto your chair and cover it up with your thigh. Either of these ways permit you to make use of the hot card in subsequent hands. Some people think they're smart when they drop the card on the floor. Odds on getting away with this are slight (unless you can project the card under someone else's chair); it's just too obvious. Besides that, you can't use the card again, and you just get the cards dirty. Ce n'est pas malin. If you don't get rid of the card in time, throw your hands up in the air, crying "Oh no!", and let the card drop behind you, preferably onto your chair.
5. When you're charg  d, don't pick up all the cards you're supposed to. For example, cover up the deck with your hand, tap twice, but only pick up one card. Or tap four times and only pick up two cards. The others are too busy looking at their cards or moaning and they'll assume that each tap meant a card being picked up.
6. Count wrong. Suppose you have 79 points in your hand. Just fold them up, announce 24, and put them back face down on the deck. This takes real self-assurance and an honest face, as such a play almost always arouses suspicion. Make sure your hot card goes down lowest on the deck. Then when your incensed opponents inspect the deck and ask you how many cards you had left, you tell them one less than the real number and at least you have a fighting chance.

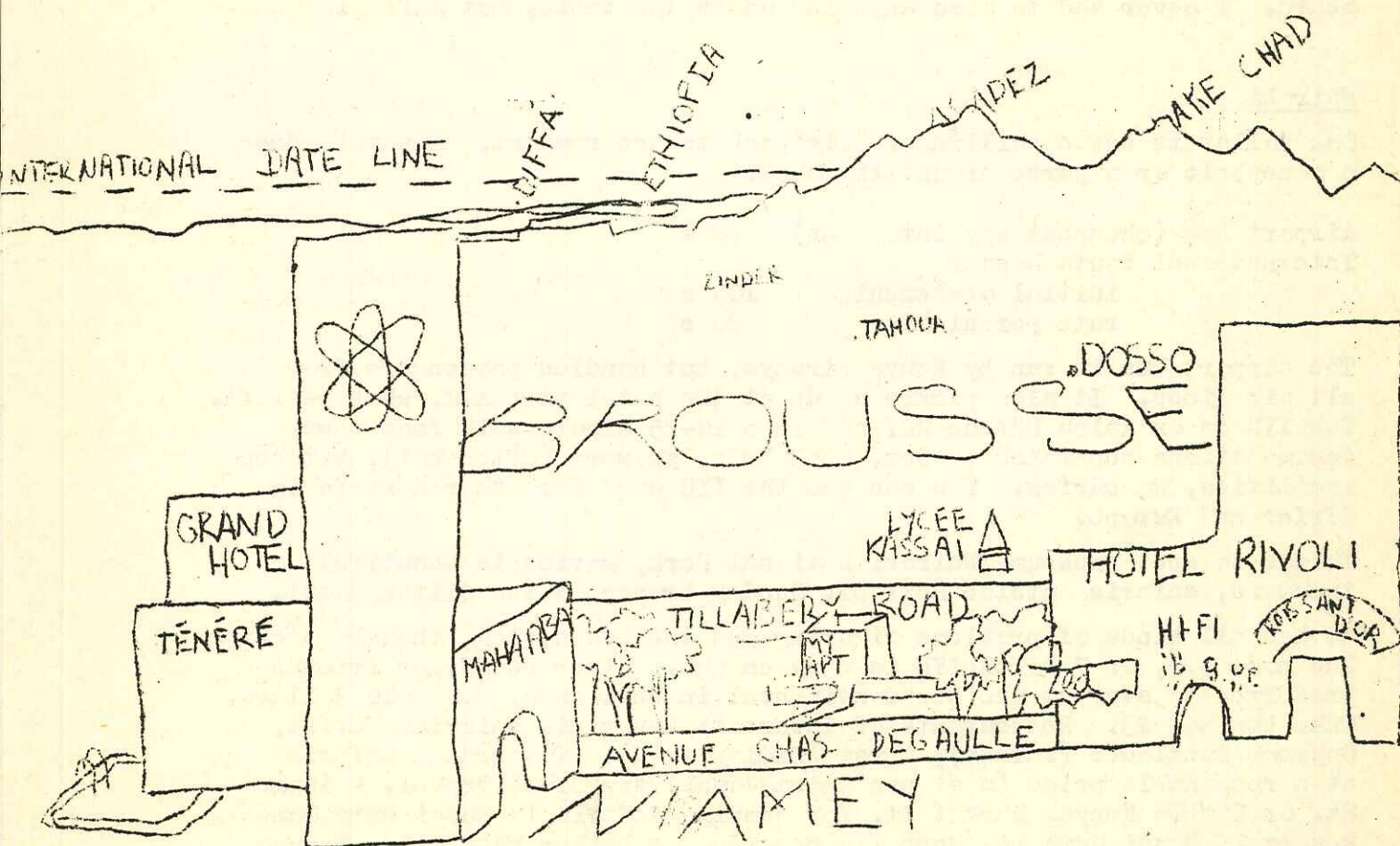
There must be dozens of other ways to cheat at Huitts, but these are a few basic ones for starters. The best thing is to develop an individual twist to your cheating in order to outwit your untrusting adversary. As the great W.C. Fields said when asked if the card game he was playing was a game of chance, "Not the way I play it, no."

MAYER STILL ON HUIITS

Stage Notes

I'm delighted to report that the February crop of new volunteers has developed into a crew of real mean huiteurs and Huiteuses. Hired as Special Consultants by Stage Director Diane Rachor, John Chiasson and this author initiated the trainees one hot Tuesday afternoon in November. They took to the game so fast they poc-pooched any practice hands and insisted on hard-nosed sanctioning and ruthless charging right from the start. Directrices Rachor and Nildki George have monitored the stagiaires' progress steadily and are quite pleased with the results. In an exclusive interview with the CE, Rachor issued a stern warning to volunteers around the countryside, "Watch out you guys! These trainees are ready!" The only question mark was professional stagiaire Dick Davis, who had been having trouble getting the hang of the game. Again and again, the Directrices appealed to me to give him private tutoring, and it eventually paid off. Davis beat me last week, winning 7 of the last 8 hands. So after eight months as a stagiaire, Davis was finally allowed to take the oath. Congratulations Dick!

-Joel "Sanction" Mayer



VIVIAN SWIFT'S MENTAL IMAGE OF NIGER

WANDERIN'

Merre McGhee and Jeff Drumtra made a trip home from Zinder through Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Greece, Austria, France, England, and home. They sent this information:

Leaving Niger

Zinder-Kano taxi	-- 1500 CFA
Taxi to CUSO Hostel in Sabon Gari	-- 3 Naira
CUSO Hostel	-- 2 N per night, per person

Travel Agencies in Kano

Habis
Transcap

If you fly one airline at least half the distance of your travel and buy the ticket in one fell swoop there are great discounts; examples:

Kano-Lagos-Nairobi-Cairo	550 N
Kano-Lagos-Nairobi-Cairo-London-Atlanta	990 N

Rates quoted in Niamey at Nigeria Airways were not accurate and did not match Kano rates. We changed our money in Zinder with no hassles but a lot of nervous tension until we got out of Nigeria. Hint: Take an international flight from Kano to Lagos and you can often pass through customs as a transit passenger. The Lagos airport was much nicer than I heard. I never had to pass anything under the table, but Jeff did once.

Nairobi

One dollar is seven shillings. Pickpockets are rampant. Beware! **Wear** a moneybelt or a purse around the neck.

Airport bus (cheapest way into town)	20 s
International Youth Hostel	
initial membership	100 s
rate per night	20 s

The airport bus is run by Kenya airways, but handles passengers from all air lines. It also picked us up at the hotel at 4 A.M. when we left. The IYH is on Ralph Bunche Rd. and is a 20-25 minute walk from town. Accommodations separated by sex, bunk beds, showers (often hot), kitchen facilities, no curfew. You can use the IYH card for other hostels in Africa and Europe.

Things to see: museum, Nairobi National Park, movies in beautiful theaters, safaris outside Nairobi, Sunday brunch at the Hilton Hotel.

We had all kinds of problems figuring out the bus system, though catching Bus nos. 3, 8, or 7 to the IYH is easy enough. Other PCV/Niger friends preferred to stay at the New Continental in Westlands, about 10 dollars. Take bus no. 23. Restaurants of interest: Lavorini, Fairview Buffet, Supreme Sunflower (salads), Parsi (Indian food). To arrange safaris at a reasonable price (most are outrageous!) try Bruce Travel, Koinage St. or Kimbla Kenya, Market St. for camping safaris to Masai Mara Game Reserve. Masai Mara is generally regarded as better than other Kenya game parks.

Mombassa

Kenyan coast on the Indian Ocean.

By overnight train from Nairobi	
First Class	138 s
Second Class	60 s

AROUND EAST AFRICA ETC.

Visitor's Inn
off Haile Salassie

New Carleton Hotel
Moi Avenue near Castle Hotel

Mombasa is really a typical port city with sailors who can find whatever pleasures they seek. Lots of souvenirs too. Things to see: Fort Jesus; harbor; streetwalkers.

Malindi

Public Bus from Mombassa	15 s
Private bus from train station	30 s

Hostel	5 s
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Things to do: snorkeling in the marine park. For transportation to the marine Park (not back!), boat, equipment, entrance fee, the cost is 45 s. Excellent adventure, no skills needed, white beaches! There are few restaurants in town or near the hostel in Malindi, but the hostel has minimal cooking facilities.

Lamu

An island off the Kenyan coast.

Public Bus from Malindi	39 s
Boat to island	4 s
New Mahru's (double)	122 s

If you want, you can pay less than two dollars a night for a place to lay your body at night. Lots of cheap places, one expensive place, and this was the only middle range place we found.

Things to do: museum, town architecture and people, beaches. It's very hot and the beautiful sandy beach is a 1 1/2 hour walk from town. The beach is uncrowded, about 200 yards wide, and generally very few waves.

The island is very Muslim: veiled women, exotic.

Again, when you're in Kenya beware of pickpockets! When you leave Kenya you're supposed to change all your money out of Kenya shillings but only after paying the airport tax of 80 s.

Cairo (One Egyptian pound = 1.45 dollars.)

taxi to town	4 pounds
Hotel Fontana (double)	9.75
Taxi to pyramids--Giza	6

We decided ahead of time to spend as little time as possible in Cairo, except to see the pyramids. Our hotel was very near the railroad station which has the trains going to Luxor or Alexandria.

Alexandria

train from Cairo	3.50
Leroy Hotel	?
Windsor Palace	10.50

The taxi scene at the railroad station was hairy. We ended up paying 1.50 to get to our hotel. We had a hard time finding people that could speak ~~House~~ English. Nor could we read the Arabic signs or numbers.

WITH MARY MCGEHEE AND JEFF

Oh yes, the taxi we rode in was a horse-drawn buggy.

Things to do: Shop, visit Hammam Beach (take bus number 120 or 20), Palace Grounds at Montazah. Egyptians love Americans.

We went to Alexandria to buy a boat ticket to Greece. By dealing through Thomas Cook Travel Agency, we got tickets on the Italian ship, "Espresso Eggito." The ticket to Piraeus (the port of Athens) cost 150 dollars, 3rd class on a luxury ship complete with restaurant, cafeteria, T.V. room, swimming pool and disco. We hear that touring in Egypt can be very nice, especially at Luxor. However, be prepared to bargain for most everything and fight off a lot of pushy people. Also, spend some time figuring out the pounds and piastres. Often people claim not to have change so that a bill of 4.05 is raised to an even 5. Count your change. Short change artists work in the post offices too.

ATHENS (43 drachmas = one dollar)

Our time in Athens was most pleasant because we stayed with a native and avoided a lot of hassles. The electric train runs in a straight line from Piraeus to Kifissia (suburbs) but buses can get you around.

When we were there, Athens was being inundated by strikes from all sectors. This occasionally made life difficult. It seems ridiculous to list all the places to see. The tourist information is fairly helpful. Many Greeks speak English.

After November 1st, most of the islands close down. That is, there are not very many tourists, though you can always find a place to stay and supplies, even on the furthest islands. We visited Naxos, the largest and most mountainous of the Greek islands, and loved it. Our hotel was off the beaten path and because it was the off season we got 50% off the normal rate. Things to do: Bus to Filoti or the other side of the island, go to the beach, rent mobylettes. A beautiful place. Tours are outrageously expensive. You can take a boat from Piraeus to any island. Pay 4th or tourist class.

Vienna (13 1/2 shillings = one dollar)

train from Athens (36 hours)	
Pension (double)	330 s
3 day tram ticket	110

Things to do: Lipazun horses, town architecture and cultural events, Schoenburg Palace. Vienna is very expensive.

Paris

Hotel St. Andre des Arts, 66 rue St. Andres des Arts 60 f

London

Chester House near coach station and Pan Am air terminal. 6 pounds
British Airways had the cheapest standby flights--cheaper than Waker.

A final word: In seven weeks of travel, Jeff's total expenses including all airfares was about 2100 dollars. It could be done even more cheaply. Kenya is worth at least three weeks. We found our travelling quite tiring. It takes longer than you think to see a few sites. Never, never carry money or a passport in a pocket. Get a good leather purse in Zinder of Maradi. In Kenya, do not try the black market exchange, half the police force works undercover.