Eway rintpay hatway eway etgay. Fiay oneonesay niay gadezaay oesn'tday ikelay tiay, et'slay earhay inhay 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 Djibou.) 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

---

SPIASH!

The theme of the issue is mental maps. Here's mine. Swimming on the brain. Water in my tuhunya. 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 Corzo's gone slum. Tahawa's neighborhood pools are eight hundred kilometers to the west, Niamey's American Center and the Piscine National are a thousand. Ouallum's farther. Gaye, the Park W, Gotheev: 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,
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 bunch
Amused and quite confused
That someone dared to clown.

-Mary Pat

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

Eat your heart out Joel.

Mahamadou Halidou needs applica-
tions for the position of
Coordinator of the Village Technology aspect of this-
summer's training session.
(4/13)

Excerpted from a letter by
Richard Celeste, Dec. 30, 1972

Mr. Carruth adds that the article might be
still more interesting if it were co-authored
with a Niamay.
Those of us who, through no fault of our own, find ourselves living in luxurious dwellings must endure the jibes of our bane brothers or, worse yet, must cower under the self-satisfied grins 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 Crotalus Torture of having air-conditioners and water-heaters and being unable to use them. By arguing thusly, my similarly well-dressed compatriots cause the discussion to degenerate into a dispute over who is suffering more rather than who is having the more enlightening experiences. 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 visit: an army of mice in fighting incessantly to assert 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. By 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 echoes and is for less vocal than the recent 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.

Moreover, 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 go awry." So let it be with me.

—David Steinor

A LETTER FROM DAVID

Whenevery 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 be able to communicate with even your closest friends." Though I scoffed at this at first, I now well believe it after seeing communication barriers erected even here between PV's in different programs. By first real conversation with experienced PV's took place at the roo 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 brooding habits of Euphyues Nigericae. The plaintiffs must keep in mind, however, that TEFLers do comprise the plurality here. Furthermore, we control the Camal Expresso. 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 all of 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 vilifi Sinderles of being this year's D.G. He also made reference to my descent down a rather deep Beyoche 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,
lost anyone should accuse me of clumsiness, this fall was no more
accidental. 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 disagree. We must proceed to the subject at hand.

Both in Stage and Recyclage, we had workshops on discipline. Yet,
the major problem was never covered, i.e., 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
at Tahoua's Ecole Normale, Lycée, and CEM I in support of the Zinder
strike. On the way home from CEM 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 scholastic plans with a member of the "Establishment." Having
faith in the devoted character of my student's minds, it was with
the utmost contentment that I walked home that day, sure that I would
avoid 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 con-
gratulated those of CEM 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 Zinderdis. wishing it never
to be said that I ignored a slight, I dispatched two of my Tahoua
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 Zinderdis could not accept my challenge since he was not in
fighting trim. "All great men are lying," they were told, "he feels a
little sick himself."

—This Year's Dave Gibbs

FROM THE DOCTOR

Dear Dr. Pierce:

Lest the epidemic meningitis in Africa is due to serogroup A.
This naturally because of the inadequate laboratory facilities serogrouping
is not often done. The bivalent A-C vaccine would therefore be appro-
propriate 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 meningoc-
cecal vaccines, are generally quite immunogenic and protection
should last for 1-5 years or more.

—Walter P. Schloch III, M.D.

Based on this information all volunteers will receive the bivalent A-C
cocine 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 CO8 exams. Physical exams and lab work must be completed before your CO8 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 CO8 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 Tanaske. The stove has attracted a lot 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
   3/06 Rhode Island Ave.
   Mt. Vernon, Maryland 20022

2. Estacion Experimental Choqui
   Apartado Postal 139
   Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
   Central America

3. Ralph Royer
   Consultant for Appropriate Technology
   Church World Service
   B.P. 11624
   Mission

Mr. Royer has built some stoves at his office in Mission. 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 fuel mixture; drying time; cost breakdown; design plans; material and labor sources, etc., can be obtained from Namou Issa.

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

Peter Daime
Marist Novitiate
443 East 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. Data forms complete.

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
Tanaske
1A. Miscellaneous

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

"Maugle's Peace Corps Suppliars" Ignore the sticker, it's a sticker. 
545-C09 I, Maracle 
* * *
30. Messages

We would like to remind all the PCVs that, if you have sixty days in advance of your CCC date, in requesting your Medical Coverage to be effective after your tour with the Peace Corps, your request will be deducted directly from your readjustment allowance. You will not have to bother with sending a personal check.

Peace Corps Namay 
* * *

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

52. Obituaries


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 Miamay.

* * *

The English Language Program at the American Cultural Center in Miamay is looking for experienced English language teachers for a wide variety of EFL projects. For further details contact Bill Anzio, Centre Culturel 41201, Miamay

* * *

122. Personal

Hi, or rather good-bye. We're about to take off on that big taxi brouse ride. We've been thinking of all the People here and decided to just write something for the Casar Express. Here it is:

To all of you who know; leaving is hard. We couldn't write about it. We love you. We wish you well.

-Harley and Diane Rado

* * *

1300. Travel

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

* * *

-Patti Nai Shah

* * *

Volunteers that have been thinking about taking the Kano connection on their travels this summer might want to consider the black market exchange rate for the naira has gone from 250 CFA to 500 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 is planning to travel to Kenya and wants to go. She asks whether there is anyone she might hitch up with. Write

Mary Kay

Oc Dispensaite du Kao
Arromanches-Plaisir-Tulcandon
Last year the N'Guigni Ladies Auxiliary and Yacht Club decided to compile a collection of rice recipes, geared to spice up the lives of those brousards 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'walé,' 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 stiriin!

Ingredients for "Spécial N'walé"
- meat (Hamburger, beef, wonton, 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)
- dishes (2)
- green pepper (1-2)
- green onions (scallions)
- ginger (pounded)
- any other vegetable or spice
- eggs
- pineapple
- parsley

Preparation of the "Special N'walé" (which you mix with the rice before serving)
- Chop 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, 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.
CHEESECAKE BROUSSARIE

Ingredients:
-1 can half sucree
-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 Feik
ancien PCV

---

LETT ETS 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, mayonaise, and calf’s brains. Tell Clem to put clean sheets on the bed.

Jerry Brown
Niamay

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
Matameya

Dear CE,

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

Mahamadou Halidou
Niamay
A JOURNEY TO THE OUTER LAND

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

* * *

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

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

The dust laden traveller eased himself into a low Long chair. The first volunteer brings a huge 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 Miamy at a good hour with our mighty Toyota laden with four freshly minted volunteers, their luggage and those few provision which the traveller and his driver, Sandou, Moko, Demalaw, and the others.

"We found Barbara; Wilson in the DⒽez 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; 'Scheer will hold forth as a nurse. By evening our vehicle rolled into the yard of the Zinder Hostel where Djibo presides and Olem resides. Out of the dark avenues 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 Miamy 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 GOU the need to go further and do better in Agriculture and Rural Development programming, of holding the Health sector programs, as needed as it is, and of trimming gradually the number of English teachers. It will take 12 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 GOU-USG bilateral discussions starting the tenth of March will include new programming in Peace Corps.

2. The next summer training session will most likely be held outside Miamy. 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 Miamy 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 Ruppe has been nominated Director of Peace Corps Washington. She has travelled widely in North Africa, Egypt, and attended the African Conference in London in 1978. Her husband was six times Congressman from Michigan. A note from the Peace Corps 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 paneling 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 GADAROUING

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 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 Nigerian and non-Nigerian "warriors" in terms of dress/hospitality/entertainment, etc.?

With rosy-fingered dawn, the traveller and Sando the chauffeur set off down the road which led past Mirrash, Guidimouni, Gouré, Maindé Soroc, Diffa, and finally to Niamei.

Since Deb was back in Zinder for a three-day conference on sports regulations, the stop in Mirrash was a brief visit to her CEO Director, a chat with Stephanie outside her classroom and a few minutes with the Senator recently assigned from Madaouma.

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 sore, especially since we were stuck behind a government trailer which plunged on and on leaving great billows of dust for us to eat. It was somewhere around here that our Dear 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 100 kilometers of Niamey. Taxi busses 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 assamirs that no means no and that TEL teachers need time to prepare for class.

In Maindé-Soroc Fag has moved off campus to a neat little concession some five blocks away. When I arrived at the CEO Pam was working on will 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 trod off to visit with the Director of the CEO 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 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 gallon drums stacked around the yard takes some getting use to. Nancy Dillon stayed at her post through lunch so
that she could keep a promise to return corrected exams to her students at three PM that afternoon. The Lycee Director remarked that many of her students were ones that she had had the year before at Maârié-Sorcra 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 rakes and pulling light poles into place along the main street. The Adjoint Prefet tells me he has fourteen committees going on the prepa-

\[...

\[...

\[...

ations 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 Mâdarouma 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 functionaire's home. I really liked N'Guigmi... a physical openness that goes with lying 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 CEJ to see how Eric was going along. The Director, Guy and I wound up in Baleo'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 in his main adjective 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 monkeys. Lunch at the restaurant behind the auto gare in Diffa. A quick stop in Mâdré sorcra 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 Pirnin Kasôd.

"Saturday morning, equipped with a basket of vegetables that Susan had put to-

\[...

gether, we set off to find Carol Ferris 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 CEJ is but a few sand dunes away where we met her Director and after him the Sous prefect 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 Depart-

\[...

\[...

\[...

"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 Randé and Mageria. To me the latter locale looks as though it might be outside Wamey on the road to Kojo. 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 Owen 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 Mageria who we found sitting beneath a large well established tree growing beside his office. It was a casual scene as one or another director functionaire 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.
"In Natameye the gang of four...Mary Pat, Joye, Edith, and Margaret...were in high form and good spirits. They would have me believe that Natameye 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. Margaret's Majore took me through the records of recent tournées to neighboring villages and then out for a coke at a place that is Natameye'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. Margaret is hedging her bets by keeping ducks.

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

Susan Sokwa had already set off down the Route Nationale on her bicycle for Aguihe. 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 Aguihe she showed me the bike...a pretty business like machine.

Deborah Lowe rode back with us from Tessama to Aguihe. Souadou 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 Aguihe.

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

All was sitting on the CGO 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 dictated that he's like to see some wells dug at Aguihe. Time to check with the Sous Prefet at Aguihe. Larger events have caught up with Aguihe which is to have a forge and a water tower with a distribution system. I am not sure this will happen in time for Ali 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 Kosmosion economics and what we could happen under the new American administration.

Aguihe, 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 as 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 nice 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 Adjunct Prefet of Maradi, the Sous Prefet of Madarounfa and various Chiefs 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.
One of those ninety-nine graves... Madar. ufa 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 Pickett and Saadou with his relatives who live across the street from the in the Pickett front yard so the kids were occupied with it. I a days travelling among the nomads

As we drove on of Haradi we visited each of the markets but we were too early to visit the vegetable stalls along the road we stopped young girls carrying large pans of tomatoes. 'We bought but possibly five kilos for 450 CFA. Thus we arrived in Dakoro where 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 to the Route National.

Now you may wonder why this traveler'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 en ville, there are some very unique challenges but they take extremely different forms. Isolation. Extremely limited diets. Climatic harshness. Social and community pressure.

And there are some very neat and exciting experiences and accomplishments which are still unmentioned. The traveler wondered aloud how midst such diversity Peace Corps Niger remains one community.

-Jill Carruth
March 8th, 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.

-Jery Gervais
NAME: RUSSEL BAHRE
BORN: 20th Century, Chicago
HOME: Zed Club, Miami

FLUENCIES: French and Futur antérieur, Arabic, German, English
HOBBIES & INTERESTS: changing addresses, going out on first dates

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: found New Mag in the Grand Marquis
RAISON D'ÊTRE: French jeans, Armani suits, Alfa Romeo, The Clash
CURRENT PROJECT: giving Miami a taste of Avant-Garde
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 PREFERENCE: Grande Flag. It's a lot like Niger.

JOHN CHIBASSEN
1952, The South
Tennis Court, Apopka Rec Center
Cajun charisme and other Mississippi Delta dialects

any sport that requires special clothes and finding the right pair of shoes to watch
found a geisha who knows how to layer hair
Delta Queens, Parisienne: "blondes, brunettes, redhead..."
getting a Pei Diem out of Peace Corps
There can I get a copy of Sensuous Hardjicke? How can I meet Eileen Larkig?

Zinder
works at the "V" station
"You're from Virginia? I always wanted to date a Southern girl."
Grande Flag. The Rec Center doesn't serve Mint Juleps.
GRANDE FLAG PROFILE

NAME: JOEL MAYER

REGION: with a Boston accent

HOME: University of Niamy

Hobbies & Interests: shuffling and dealing

Recent Accomplishment: had a conversation with another American and only mentioned Zinder once

Current Project: Making being a Niamy volunteer fashionable

FAVORITE PLACE: Rec Center on a Friday night with a friend from Zinder

LAST BOOK READ: The Card Game, and other essays in contemporary symbolist literature; by Gore Vidal

SPARE TIME: writes for the Camel Express

MEMORABLE QUOTE: "As soon... just one more game."

POISON PRESCRIPTION: Grande Flag. Because Tom Doneker drinks it.

MARC SULLIVAN

(again) the first time he read Hemingway

CEG, Agades

English as a dead language

something you'll never do

hopes to establish an Agades franchise of his college fraternity

acting as if he is the P. Scott Fitzgerald character in The Snows of Kilamanjaro

a clean, well lighted place

The Importance of Being Like Ernest Hemingway; by Norman Mailer

re-writes his resume, talks about the grades he got in college Lit classes

"Women are attracted to me because of my intellect, not because of my looks."

Grande Flag. It's so masculine.

TAHOUA

In between Niamy and Agades 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 mai-phobur, 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

DEPHT
Well, the news from N'Guigmi is not particularly exciting, stimulating, or titillating. 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, "Whedjod?" No, don't print that. My New year's 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. No and him and the director went and had a beer and generally confirmed the value and inherent goodness of all PCVs in N'Guigmi.

Susan No, 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 commodore I will officiate at the Festival de Juanaese Regatta and Beer Pound, with Cap'n Schnesberger acting as bartender and bouncer. Stout fellow vamos.

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 Cleo, and you Sully, and you Chris. There's no excuse for you Pally 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 Cruising, we all want to the Beausan Mt Range in, were intent on exciting thru the front windshield. It was a 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, Patsy except for the dune Eric who stayed in N'Guigmi and held grammar review classes that weekend. Was a good party and even had a surprise visitor, "Jim. Somehow or another it moved to Ray's (a mosaic and lime disease car 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 pague 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 Lee Chad is down and out. As Tom Donner can tell you, the pilgrimage to our 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 accede 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 particidipator) to the oft disputing and drunkenly habits of the editors of the Guam 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

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

Have you been losing a lot at Huits 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-balled adversary dumped his joker when you called “carte!” Yes, you’ve been making all the clever moves of the coolest huitour, 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 frettin’; it’s time you learned the ABC’s of Huits, and C stands for Cheatin’. 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. Tramp tard, quid. (You can even show them later so they can see how clever you are.)

2. Use a "9" 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 "9", 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 "9" 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 that 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. Go 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 charged, don’t pick up all the cards you’re supposed to. For example, cover up the dock with your hand, tap twice, but only pick up one card. Or tap four times and only pick up two cards. If the others are too busy looking at their cards or meaning 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 29, 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 Huits, 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 HUITS

Stage Notes
I'm delighted to report that the February crop of new volunteers has developed into a crew of real money hunters and Huitcusses. Hired as Special Consultants by Stage Director Diane Racher, John Chiasen and this author initiated the trainees one hot Tuesday afternoon in November. They took to the game so fast they poached any practice hands and insisted on hard-nosed sanctioning and ruthless charging right from the start. Directrices Racher and Hildi George have monitored the stagiaires' progress steadily and are quite pleased with the results. In an exclusive interview with the CE, Racher 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
Morro McCoy and Jeff Drumtra made a trip home from Zinder through Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Greece, Austria, France, England, and home. They sent this information:

**Zinder-Kano taxi** — 1500 GNA

**Taxi to CUSO Hostel in**
- **Sabon Garai** — 3 Naaira
- **CUSO Hostel** — 2 $ per night, per person

**Travel Agencies in Kano**

- **Naibis**
- **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 Naibis at Nigerian Airways were not accurate and did not match Kano rates. We changed out a may in Zinder with no hassles but a lot of nervous tension until we got out of Nigeria. Hints: Take an international flight from Kano to Lagos and you can often pass through customs as a transit passenger. The Lagos airport was muchnier 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, 6, or 7 to the IYH is easy enough. Other PCT/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), Parai (Indian food). To arrange safaris at a reasonable price (most are outrageous!) try Bruce Travel, Keinage St., or Kimble Kenya, Market St. for camping safaris to Masai Mara Game Reserve. Masai Mara is generally regarded as better than other Kenya game parks.

**Husbassan**

Kényan coast on the Indian Ocean.

By overnight train from Nairobi
- **First Class** 130 s
- **Second Class** 60 s
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 Mombasa: 15 s
- Private bus from train station: 30 s
- Hostel: 5 s

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 Mhara'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: museums, 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.

**Ararim**, 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 = 1.65 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: 3.30
- Leroy Hotel: 2
- 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.
Oh yes, the taxi we rode in was a horse-drawn buggy.

Things to do: Shop, visit Nahama Beach (take bus number 120 or 20), Palace Grounds at Mombasa. 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, "Epresso Egitto." The ticket to Piraeus (the port of Athens) cost 150 Dollars, 3rd class in 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 piastras. 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 (suburb) but buses can be found 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 supply, even on the furthest islands. We visited Halki, the largest and most mountainous of the Greek islands, and loved it. Our hotel was off the beaten path and because it was 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. Try 4th or tourist class.

VIENNA (13 1/2 shillings = one dollar)

Train from Athens (36 hours)

Pension (double) 330 s
3 day tour ticket 110

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

PARIS

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

London

Charing House near coach station and Pan Am air terminal. 6 pounds British Airways had the cheapest standby flights—cheaper than Baker.

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 Mocdi. In Kenya, do not try the black market exchange, half the police force works under cover.