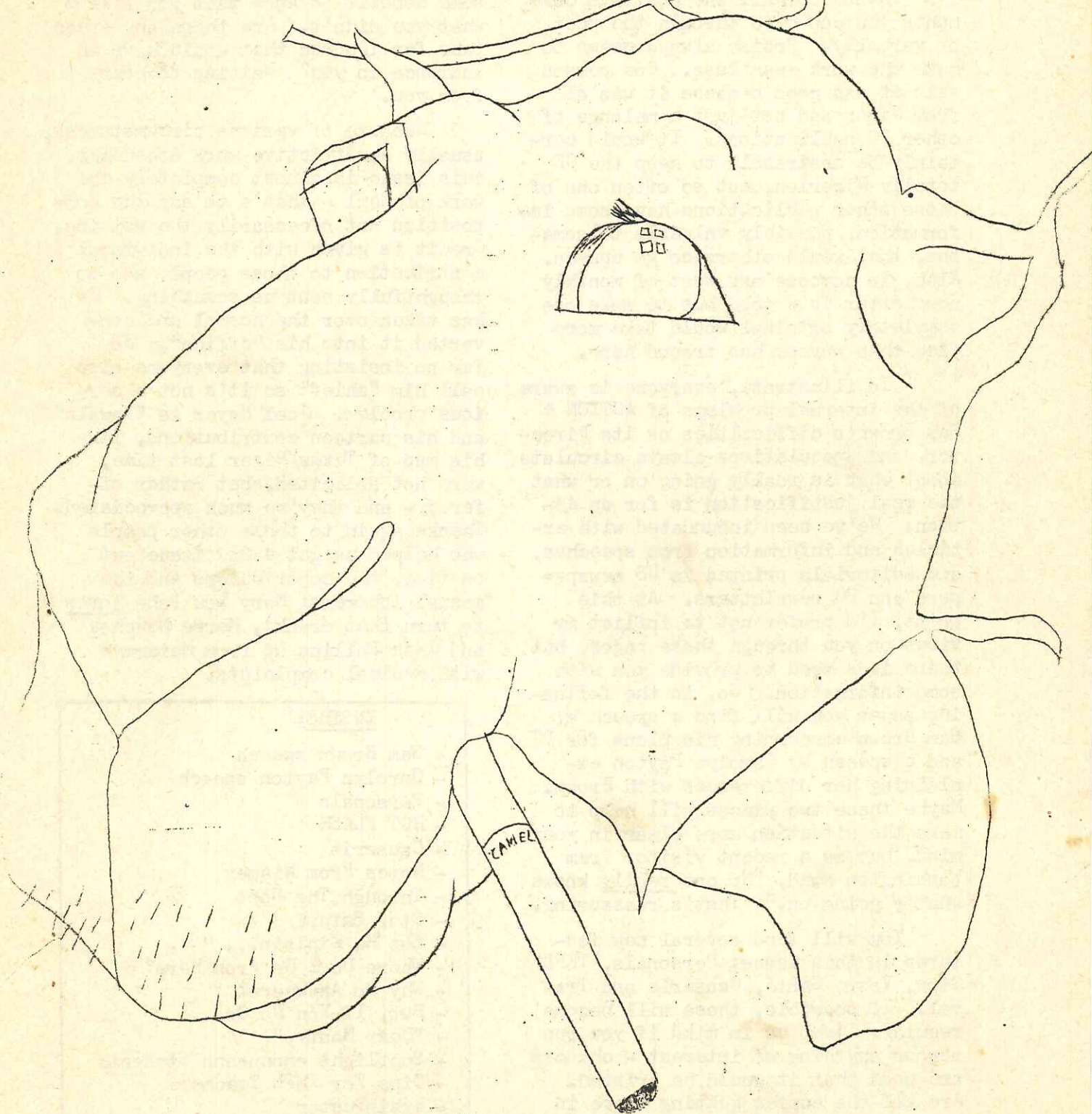


# CAMEL EXPRESS





## THE CAMEL EXPRESS

Issue No. 2

February 1979

Thanks for all the positive comments you conveyed through the post or verbally. Praise always seems to make the work seem less. One person said it was good because it was all from Niger and not just a melange of other PC publications. It would certainly be desirable to keep the CE totally Nigerien, but so often one of those other publications have some information, possibly valuable to someone, that would otherwise go unseen. Also, to compose any sort of monthly newsletter is a job, but to make one completely original would take more time than anyone has around here.

To illustrate, everyone is aware of the internal problems of ACTION & Sam Brown's difficulties as its Director, and speculations always circulate about what is really going on or what the real justification is for an action. We've been inundated with articles and information from speeches, and editorials printed in US newspapers and PC newsletters. At this point, I'd prefer not to inflict my views on you through these pages, but there is a need to provide you with some information. So, in the following pages you will find a speech by Sam Brown concerning his plans for PC and a speech by Carolyn Payton explaining her differences with Brown. Maybe these two pieces will help to make the situation more clear in your mind, but as a recent visitor from Washington said, "No one really knows what's going on." That's reassuring.

You will find several new features in this issue; Personals, TEFL Tips, Votre Santé, Causerie and Travel. If possible, these will become regular. Keep us in mind if you run across anything of interest - chances are good that it would be printed. Are all the copies getting there in good condition? This issue is longer than the first but that's not necessarily going to always be the case. Future lengths will depend on what we have month to month. We're still waiting for a new(er) copy machine but the old one held up under this

strange writing, "Dear Camel Express", address it to Earl. He'll probably even write you back. It would be of some benefit to know what you like & what you didn't. Are there any areas thus far ignored that would have an audience in you? Waiting to hear from you.

Because of various circumstances, usually constrictive work schedules, this issue is almost completely the work of Earl - that's to say the composition not necessarily the writing. Credit is given with the individual contribution to those people who so thoughtfully sent us something. He has taken over the hostel and converted it into his "office". So far no insisting that everyone else call him "chief" so it's not a serious problem. Joel Mayer is "Yawale" and his cartoon contributions, like his map of Texas/Niger last time, were not solicited, but rather offered - and they're much appreciated. Thanks again to those other people who helped us get a 2nd issue out on time, the contributors and the manual laborers: Mary Lou (she loves to turn that crank), Merre McGehee and Jack Rollins up from Matamaye with medical complaints.

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Speech by Sam Brown on Peace Corps / New Directi  
(ACTION Update, December 8, 1978)

I think we've made a lot of progress in Peace Corps in the past year and a half. I've just had a chance to hear from our country directors firsthand about what they've accomplished. It's really impressive. First of all, the directors themselves are an impressive group of people - probably the best we've ever had in Peace Corps - and that counts for a lot in terms of our program potential. Second, they've brought sound management and stability to programs that in a number of cases had been weak and ineffective in the past. I think our host countries, as a result, are taking the Peace Corps more seriously again. Third, the directors have clearly picked up on our basic human needs mandate and are actively, and often with real pride, beginning to implement that policy. We have many new projects now that should have real impact on helping poor communities achieve lasting self-reliance.

At the same time, we still have a long way to go. I think the PC is even more important for the 1980s than it has been to date. You know, the world has changed a lot since 1961; the world has become more interdependent. The Third World has come of age with a strength and confidence that no one would have dared imagine 18 years ago. And the US has been tempered by the years of civil rights, Vietnam and Watergate. It's no longer a world where we can dictate to poor countries or where our paternalism will be tolerated by them. They demand from us a greater attitude of reciprocity and partnership. Sure, they're happy to have our volunteers help with their development programs. But they also want us to more systematically apply what we've learned from them - and every volunteer can attest to how great our learning is - in ways that can influence US foreign policies in more sensitive directions. I think, by the way, that returned PCVs have already had influence here.

There are essentially five areas in which I want to see us move.

First, we need to continue to streng-

then our basic human needs programming, as we've begun to do already. I know it isn't always easy, because past habits and activities may take time to phase over to others. But by next year, we're committed to having 84% of our volunteers in BHN projects and that requires more work.

Second, we need to improve PC training commensurately. By this I mean not only the need to improve volunteer training so that our volunteers are better able to do their particular jobs, but also the need to share our mandate more broadly - to share our nearly 18 years of PC experience with the American people, as well as advocate more effective and sensitive development policies within our own American government.

Third, we need to make the PC more representative of the US population as a whole by substantially increasing minority participation in PC.

Fourth, we need to cooperate increasingly with host country voluntary groups, many of which were initially inspired into being by the PC example. The very existence of PC and ACTION testifies to our belief in voluntary action as an inherently sound means to promote participatory development. We should work alongside other volunteer groups in this endeavor - and, I would hope, invite them to send volunteers to promote development in our country as well.

Fifth, we need to collaborate more with other development agencies, not only to enjoy access to their resources, but also influence in a more humane direction the implementation of foreign assistance generally.

We have a lot to be proud of in PC. PC's reputation both at home and abroad is improving. I don't think we need to substantially increase numbers of either volunteers or countries to make it better. What we do need to do is improve our quality, expand our vision and harness our creativity



REMARKS OF CAROLYN R. PAYTON, EX-DIRECTOR, U.S. PEACE CORPS

(delivered before the Conference of Eastern Association of College Deans at the Capitol Hilton, Washington D.C. on December 7, 1978)

Your invitation to me to join you was offered several months ago when I had the honor of serving as Director of the Peace Corps. As some of you know, I no longer hold that position. I informed your officers of the change in my status, but they nonetheless wished me to be here today. Let me say that I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas with you.

The theme of your conference takes cognizance of factors with which many institutions are concerned. What will the next decade hold in store? How do we work with a generation of young people who have been brought to the brink of adulthood nourished on TV; pacified by uppers, downers and pot; turned off by Vietnam, Watergate and non-responsive elements of our society: family, church, government? This is the challenge you intend to come to grips with.

As Peace Corps Director, I also was forced to look at the next decade - not only in terms of the young people who have traditionally been the major source of PC Volunteers - but also with respect to the needs of the countries which Peace Corps serves. My staff and I grappled, as you are now, with the problem of ensuring that the PC could continue to achieve its mission during the coming years.

My vision of the Peace Corps of the 1980s was that of a vigorous, vibrant and venerable institution, continuing to meet the mandate of the PC Act to promote world peace and friendship. Recognizing that the world of the 1980s is not the world of the 1960s when PC came into being, I realized we would probably have to make some adjustments.

I believed that giving careful attention to such matters as whom we attract to join the PC, how we select from among them, and how we prepare these recruits for service to be fundamental to our efforts to accommodate to global change. The world may have changed a great deal since the 1960s, but I felt that those who wish to be Peace Corps Volunteers still needed to be the best that our society can produce. And when I say "best", I mean not only those who have skills and intellect, but those who have moral courage and the capability to understand and respect other human beings.

I regret that I will no longer be able to participate directly in the shaping of the PC in the years to come, but in no sense do I feel that my year at the PC was in vain or that I have failed you, the American public, the agency or the Volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity today to share with you my views about the PC and the reasons why I resigned publicly instead of quietly folding my tent. Why would a 53-year-old black male psychologist wish to protest a forced resignation? I care deeply about the PC, and my purpose was to call attention to the fact that I believe the PC has strayed away from its mission and is in danger of losing its unique place in America and the world.

As Director of the PC, I could not - because of the peculiar administrative structure under which the PC operates - do anything about this situation. As an ex-Director I am free to sound the alarm. Perhaps in hearing the situation we faced at the PC, you will perceive some similarities between our problems and the situation of your educational institutions after a decade of turmoil and a confusion of purposes. What has gone wrong with the Peace Corps?

I believe the Peace Corps is a simple idea which for the past ten years has become enmeshed in politics. It has gone astray on other people's agendas. It has tried to be too many things and forgotten what it was about. It is now pursuing objectives which have nothing to do with promoting world peace and friendship. I believe that for the PC to endure, those concerned with its survival must reflect on its purposes and assure that all its activities are consistent with that purpose. Losing sight of its purpose, an organization conceived as apolitical and humanitarian is beginning to try to meddle in the affairs of foreign governments; an organization which prided itself on cultural sensitivity is beginning to...



sovereign nations what their needs are and what is good for them; an organization whose mission is world peace is becoming more concerned with quantifiable development, with projects and material things than with human development.

I say that it is wrong for the Peace Corps to tell other countries what to do. It is wrong for the PC to tell a government in the Third World that its efforts to teach its citizens a world language - be it English or French is an "elitist idea", and that the PC will no longer provide French or English teachers.

I say that it is arrogant and neo-colonialist for the American Peace Corps to say to a nation, "We will no longer teach your children mathematics and science" so that some of the secrets of western technology will become accessible to them, but that we will "teach your peasants numeracy and literacy". As a Third World sociologist put it: "You want to teach the peasants how to count so they can count their cows? I can tell you that they already know very well how many are in their herd. And you wish to teach them to write so they can print their names on a wall?" He thought we were not only arrogant but foolish.

I believe it is wrong for the Peace Corps to arbitrarily and unilaterally decide where PC Volunteers will work. As long as there is poverty, disease and misery in the world, I see no reason why the PC should say that one country is more deserving of volunteers than another which requests Volunteer assistance. There are pockets of poverty in all countries, and it gives me great pause to think that omniscient people in Washington can decide which country is more deserving of an effort aimed at peace. With whom should we allow peaceful encounters to occur? To whom do we proffer an olive branch?

I believe it is wrong to make PCVs into short-term development experts who will whiz in and out of developing countries, doing their thing. I have never doubted the strength of the PC as an agency of development, nor that visible, measurable changes do not take place as a result of the presence of PCVs. But I have always tended to stress the Peace Corps' role in the development of people rather than the development of projects.

I believe that the human residue of the interaction between PCVs and the peoples of other countries to be far more lasting and of far greater significance than the grain storage bins they built or the wells they dug. What brings about peace and friendship is the acceptance of each other as human beings with dignity and worth and the development of an environment of mutual respect and trust. These qualities are not built overnight, even between people of common heritage and background. Needless to say, they cannot be quickly achieved between people of different cultures.

It is true that short-term Volunteers can build grain storage bins and short-term experts can build farm-to-market roads. But if the consequence of such efforts is in fact to create an even greater sense of dependency on experts and a question of one's own ability to manage one's own life and environment, what really has been accomplished? This is a very personal matter with me. As a black youngster growing up in a southern town, I too often felt that white people regarded me as being incapable of managing my life, as inherently inferior. They did not believe I was a person of worth who had the capacity to make decisions. I learned that all of the food stamps, welfare checks and subsidized housing could not begin to fill the void of not having a sense of self.

PCVs at their best can and do communicate to others a sense of their own worth and dignity. But this comes about over time, and the two-year tour of a PCV is about the minimum length of time needed for a sharing and trusting relationship to develop. That is why I am opposed to short-term experts who further dependency and export welfarism.

I also believe it is wrong to undermine the basic concept of the Peace Corps as a partnership among equals. This is what happens when American PCVs presume to tell the peoples of other countries what to do. A major attraction of the PC which made it acceptable to host countries



old clothes and used toys to homeless children.

Talk to a returned Volunteer and inevitably you will hear that Volunteers say that he or she received more from the PC experience than they were able to give. This dynamic changes when we decide that we will not respond to the needs of host countries, but instead will tell these countries which types of assistance we will design to provide them. We are then imposing our own values on others. We are saying that one of us knows best, that we are not equal as human beings, each with our own values.

Finally, I believe it is wrong to use the Peace Corps as a means of delivering a message to particular constituencies in the U.S., or to export a particular political ideology. Those now responsible for the PC seem to wish the organization to be engaged in a kind of political activism and advocacy. They would be pleased to have PCVs demonstrate overseas against corporations which engage in practices with which they disagree or who market products that they see as harmful. Or they would see the Peace Corps as a vehicle to allow unemployed black ghetto youth as short-term Volunteers learn about life in a black socialist country.

I do not see any of these activities I have listed as appropriate to the mission of the PC. I think that if they are pursued, the PC will cease to exist. Because I wish the PC to continue, I resisted these efforts while in office. I am no longer part of the PC because I regard these ideas as anathema to the PC.

I assume that I was invited to participate in this conference because you believed I might have something to share with you in higher education, relative to young people attracted to PC. I have used the bulk of my time discussing why an old person departed from the PC/ The two themes may not be so unrelated as they appear.

I have spent most of the past 30 years in the college setting working with college youth. I have been lured away twice, both times to become actively engaged in the PC! In the 1960s, the enthusiasm, selflessness and commitment of the young people volunteering was such that I knew I had to join forces with them. The second and most recent exit from academia was again based on my assessment of the worth of this experiment in building peace, and on my belief in the significance of an individual's involvement in such activity. I knew the PC was ailing, and I wanted to help restore it, to help institutionalize it so that it could always be an option both for young people and for others.

I noted in a recent study on the effects of college that during the period 1970-1977 there was a 13% decrease in the number of college students who consider altruistic behavior to be important. Only three percent in 1977 felt that participating in an organization like the PC is of value, as opposed to sixteen percent in 1970. In taking on the job of PC Director, my hope was to reverse this trend. And despite the problems which I have enumerated today, I believe that there are enough Americans concerned about the PC - including the 80,000 returned Volunteers - to assure that the problems will be corrected and the mission of the PC will continue.

I know that there are some 5000 young people serving today in the PC, and that they are responding to the demands made upon them just as resiliently as did the other young people of the 1960s. I know that there are many other young people who in spite of changing lifestyles and a changing society will have the capacity and desire to work for the good of others, who can see value and achieve satisfaction from giving of themselves to enrich the lives of others in our interdependent world.

I would like to remind you that among the long-haired, jean-clad, pot-smoking members of your students body, there are many who are waiting to be intellectually fired and humanly inspired. We cannot let them go to waste! It is my hope and belief that both the colleges and the Peace Corps will be there to meet their challenge.

In every part of the world the good desire of men for peace and decency is undermined by the dynamite of jingoism.  
-Robert Sherwood, "Idiot's Delight"



PERSONALS \* \* \* PERSONALS \* \* \* PERSONALS \* \* \* PERSONALS \* \* \* PERSONALS

To PH in Gaya: Keep those babies comin'.

To Pam in Diffa: Does Dave need another "medical kit" yet?

To Jerry in Agadez: For me, life will be "quiet" in the US of A. Can you believe it?

To Val and Alice in Zinder: Sorry to have missed you - was SNTN that bad?

To Kathy II in Dosso: "The little one stopped to shut the gate!"

To Bill Canry: How's tricks?

To Dana in Niamey: Sorry love, no more dinners. You're on your own. You'll just have to visit 440 Elmwood Drive for the next one, that's all.

To Mustapha: Banana bread's recipe with Ruth.

To Glenn in Bouza: I promise an already blessed Swiss Army knife to be sent soon!

To Mamadou: I'll certainly miss you the most, Papa.

To Phyllis directrice: It's been real, quoi...

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HOT FLASHES DEPT.

Phyllis just completed a tournée of the Eastern regions and was quite happy with her experiences - with maybe one exception. While in N'Guigmi someone (it must have been Geoff - yes, that's who it was) suggested having breakfast in the desert about 15 kms. from town. They went to see the sunrise and had a lovely meal in the rolling sands. As it grew light and came time to leave, it was discovered that the LandCruiser was parked on top of a dune because someone (it must have been Sandy MacKenzie - yeah, sure, that's who it was) had earlier said, "Go on, Garba, you can go farther than this." After a few hours of basic human dig-

To Niki in Gotheye: I see a JT in the future.

To Debbie in Tahoua: I'll be watching for the flag.

To Helen in Tèra: How's Botswana?

To Kathy I in Maradi: "Where oh where has my little house gone?"

To Ruth in Niamey: Keep "shakin' your boodie", honey!

To A & B in BN'K: Say my hellos to everyone. Good luck to both twosomes. Keep the robbers out. Go sit at my spot on the bridge.

To Mary Lou in Zinder: Can't think of anything worthy of you.

To Jerry Brown: "Bien Dormi?"

To Steve and Debbie: Thanks again for the house. I loved it!

To Shannon in MD: We'll have to get together for another Boston Cream Pie on the run. WRITE!

TO ALL: GOOD-BYE, SAI WATA RANA  
I'll miss you.  
Cilla Randall  
440 Elmwood Drive  
Windsor Locks, CT. 06096

#####

ging, Geoff and Garba loped off to get some help. Phyllis and Sandy, meanwhile, used their free time to really talk, something they'd had no time for previously. The cavalry came to the rescue at 2:30 (whew!) and dug and towed. Two good things came of this - the commandant of the gendarmes bought them all a beer and Phyllis now is of the opinion that all vehicles should be equipped with shovels, just for those early morning escapades. Thanks to the person who related this story and who had nothing to do with what happened.

\* \* \* CAUSERIE \* \* \* CAUSERIE \* \* \* CAUSERIE \* \* \* CAUSERIE \* \* \*

A lot of tournées in the last month: Phyllis and Jerry were out simultaneously, PD to the East and beyond and Jerry took Jerry Burns up to Agadez before coming back to do some more TEFL observations in the Zinder area and on his way home to Niamey. Sid Bliss and Doug Hartwick escaped the Embassy and visited us to and from a trip to N'Guigmi. Amadou will barely get a rest (Phyllis overworked Garba in N'Guigmi and he deserves a petite vacances) before Mamoudou Issa departs to visit his health vols at the end of the month.....Mamoudou was honored at a party on Feb. 3 chez Phyllis in recognition of his recent promotion to Assistant Country Director.....Lots of leavings, some COS, others not - Shaka Zulu Assegaï and Jeff Towner had some problems and left Niger early; Kris Carlson, Eric Mallen, and Jake Greene all finished their assignments and left for different destinations: Kris to Indiana & Florida, Eric's off to Europe, and Jake?.....Delores Healey and Charlie Wisecarver can't decide whether to get married or just live together. Delores did pass on some advice - know exactly what you want to do before you return home or you'll be lost.....Anyone who would like to receive Kool Aid in return for Niger news is welcome to solicit the bribe from Jim and Sue Caron: C-20-X College View, College Station, Texas 77840. Sue has a job with the finance office at Texas A & M, and Jim is enrolled in the Ag Economics Department with an assistantship.....It was a pleasure to meet a Washington visitor, Sandy MacKenzie, who traveled with Phyllis to Diffa and beyond (all the way into the desert, I hear tell). Sandy works in the Office of Volunteer Placement (yes, it's her fault) and enjoyed her travels here. It was good to hear some ACTION gossip from someone who's in the know.....STRIKE CENTRAL: Strike City in the Eastern part of the country. The Ecole Normale in Zinder was out for a month; Magaria, Mirriah and Mainé-Sorco all closed down for a day or two for various reasons; violence in Dargoro as the students were particularly miffed and broke into the Director's house to wreak a little havoc.....Cynthia Evans scared her friends in Zinder by having a mobylette accident. She was fine after a night in the hospital - she was more nervous about that than anything else.....Floss those teeth. Jan Turner and Kem Duchesneau have each had aggravating experiences recently in having dental problems resolved (Kem, he's gone now and can't ask you any more stupid questions).....FLASH - there's a copy of the January Playboy (25th Anniversary Edition!) in Zinder. It did cost 1120 CFA (!), but an initial thought of charging for perusal was discarded in the interest of friendship, but IT DOES NOT LEAVE THE CITY LIMITS.....Now that Steve Edelman has left us for the good life in Dakar, we're without a doctor, but not for long. Jim Sonnenman, a former Niger PCV and presently PC Doc in Sierra Leone, will be here in about two months. In the interim, tell Mom not to worry because there is a capable and friendly nurse in Niamey right now.....Bob Jackson has received a promotion to become an Area Director (of what? what area?).....Since we seem to be on the subject of former Niger PCVs, one from several years ago has been selected to be a PC Fellow. Meri Ames will be trained to become a PC Country Director through various job experiences. Phyllis mentioned that she might be here next summer to help with the stage.....Has the dentist returned to Galmi yet?.....Rane Winslow, c/o Peace Corps, Box 707, Monrovia, Liberia.....Terry Spoering's ad in the last issue was a little late, but she's considering another trip in May or June to Lomé. Price for a roundtrip ticket with the group discount (4 or more people) is 27,250 CFA.....More addresses: Donna Tesi, BP 2098, Libreville, Gabon - Ruth Hirsch, 47 Arnold Road, Pelham, Mass. 01002.....A softball tournament was scheduled for Feb. 17th in Niamey and teams from the Ouagadougou and Abidjan Embassies were supposedly sending teams.....Tom Knight just returned from a vacation in the states.....WISDOM FROM THE SAGE OF THE EAST: "Her panties and my soul. A little bit of shit on each." - is it just me or does anyone else detect an influence of Leonard Cohen?.....Art Bettge has no job and no leads for one, but he does have a brand new car! Just sitting around eating and listening to his stereo. If



## NOTES FROM NIAMEY

I can't believe I missed a CE, and what a CE, too. It's probably just as well as most people might have thought I was writing a political satire if the article had talked about the conferences I recently attended.

Most of you have received articles or read the piece in Newsweek that described the crises in PC/Washington. I unfortunately cannot provide any enlightenment as most of what I knew is coming from the same sources. We now have no PC Director and no Africa regional Director (Bill Gaymon, who most of you met last year, had been the Regional Director. He was asked to resign just after Carolyn.). Mary Leyland is Acting PC Director and the former Deputy Regional Director, Bill Tatge, seems to be Acting Regional Director. It's business as usual on most issues we deal with PC but of course we're anxious to see who gets named to these posts and what their policies are. If I hear anything, I'll let you know. Likewise, if you hear anything, will you let me know?

Eleven new vols were sworn in on Saturday, January 27:

Alice Bonner & Valerie Nelson  
(BP 228, Zinder)

Gerald Burns  
(BP 41, Agadez)

Niki George  
(s/c Dispensaire de Gotheye)

Phyllis Goldstein  
(s/c Dispensaire de Gaya)

Ruth Harris  
(BP 10537, Niamey).

Katherine Kolbeck  
(s/c Hopital de Maradi)

Helen Sittner  
(s/c Dispensaire de Tera)

Kathleen Tilton  
(s/c Hopital de Dosso)

Debra Weber  
(s/c Hopital de Tahoua)

Pamela Winters  
(s/c Hopital de Diffa)

Gilla, worn out from this group's super energy, returns to the US via Paris by mid-February. She did a great job and we'll miss her, particularly her latest "histoire".

Seven new trainees (4 Ag surveyors and 3 Ag Research Extensionists) are due in Feb. 17. Their training director, Steve Evett, has already arrived. Steve was a surveyor volunteer in Upper Volta and worked in training and programming PCVs there as well.

Sheila North returned Jan. 29 and was accompanied by her Mom and Dad. Though she now walks by herself, she doesn't have too much to say about her trip to the states. Steve and Debbie, on the other hand, had much to say. We're glad they're back and look out for the "pink Toyotas".

Plans begin for summer training. Right now we are planning for 76 trainees, Niger's biggest summer omnibus training. If you want to share your thoughts on how to improve training, we'd be very grateful.

I'm just back from Maradi, Dakoro, Mayahi, Madarounfa and Guidan Roumji. It was a beautiful tournee. Thanks to the vols there for making me feel so good and so proud of your work! Feb. 5 I'm off to the Diffa Dept. Someone has to find out if Geoffrey Bergen is still alive! In addition, Jerry is tourneeing to Agadez, Zinder and Maradi Depts. Steve is going to Maradi and Agadez. Finally, Mamoudou will be visiting all the Health vols beginning the end of Feb. So there's much movement up-country and quiet pervades the office. Sigh! \*

As I'll have seen or will see most of you during this month I don't really feel I need to write this, but in case I forget - Have a Happy Groundhog's Day and a Merry Susan B. Anthony Birthday & of course a full-of-love Valentine's Day.

In next month's article, rather than asterisk the jokes, we will run a "Can You Find the Jokes?" contest.

\* JOKE (for those who don't understand when I'm joking)



THROUGH THE POST - - - - - THROUGH THE POST - - - - - THROUGH THE POST - - - - -

### On Baldness (in Niger)

Because of the onset of the Hot Season, it was quite rationally decided, and thereafter witnessed by Geoff Bergen, that we, David and Paul, would attempt the discomfort of the heat by completely removing the hair from our skulls. We did it and would like to share the experience in this short exposé:

The idea came to us one hot evening (Saturday) with the assistance of 1 liter of 'Vat 69' and the inspiring music of L. Cohen and L. Beethoven. A rational discussion revealed the following advantages: 1) increased sexual potency and attractiveness; 2) cost/benefit analysis revealed significant savings in shampoo and combs, about 150-200 CFA per month; 3) better rapport with host nationals; 4) better rapport with Allah (host religion); 5) certain oneness with nature and Telly Savalas; 6) an indispensable tool in case of emergency, i.e., properly shined, the dome can be used to fry eggs, boil water and send SOS signals, and 7) of course, infinitely more practical in the Hot Season.

With this reasoning as our guide, we went to the market the next afternoon - again inspired by 1 liter of 'Vat 69' and the music of L. Cohen & L. Beethoven - and had our heads shaven by the local marché barbers. They did an excellent job - we were as smooth as a baby's bottom and not a drop of blood was shed (nor a tear the following A.M.). Also, we provided two tremendous benefits to the community - Saturday afternoon entertainment (indeed it was!) and enough hair for at least 500 gris-gris (anasara - hair gris-gris are priceless!)

The whole fiascoic scene was recorded on camera(s) by Mr. Bergen (OEG N'Guigni) from hair to no hair (and sea to shining sea) so that the folks 'back home' might be as entertained as the nationals (host country). There were some additional advantages revealed after the act: 1) this is a GREAT manner to learn patience, humility and self-control; 2) you can see what you look like bald and that

case) your cranium is; and 4) it's a good sanity check (we're both registering 10's).

In conclusion, we're not at all sorry we did it and are even considering keeping this way for the Hot Season's duration. For any non-believers in our list of advantages, try it. If nothing else it builds character and a brand new head of hair. And for those of you that try it out and don't like it - we accept full responsibility.

David and Paul

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### "NIGER, WHERE'S THAT"

(sung to tune of "Sunrise, Sunset")

CHORUS: Niger, where's that  
Niger, where's that  
Quickly catch the runs  
One stagiaire following  
another  
Laden with heat stroke and  
sore bums

Where is the sanity I came with  
Where is the English I once spoke  
I've seen the Maternité and Hospital  
It's no joke!

CHORUS (see above)

When did I start to learn to bargain  
When did I stop shaking au Marché  
I don't remember open sewers  
In the U - S - A

CHORUS (see above)

Put all your cameras in a locked box  
Stay up all night guarding your door  
I'm gonna get me a Fulani  
Or Tuareg with rock and sword!

CHORUS (see above)

PHYLLIS GOLDSTEIN

- Gaya

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

If all else fails, immortality  
can be achieved by spectacular  
error. - John Kenneth Galbraith

The only way to get rid of a  
temptation is to yield to it.

- Oscar Wilde



by J. Lemon

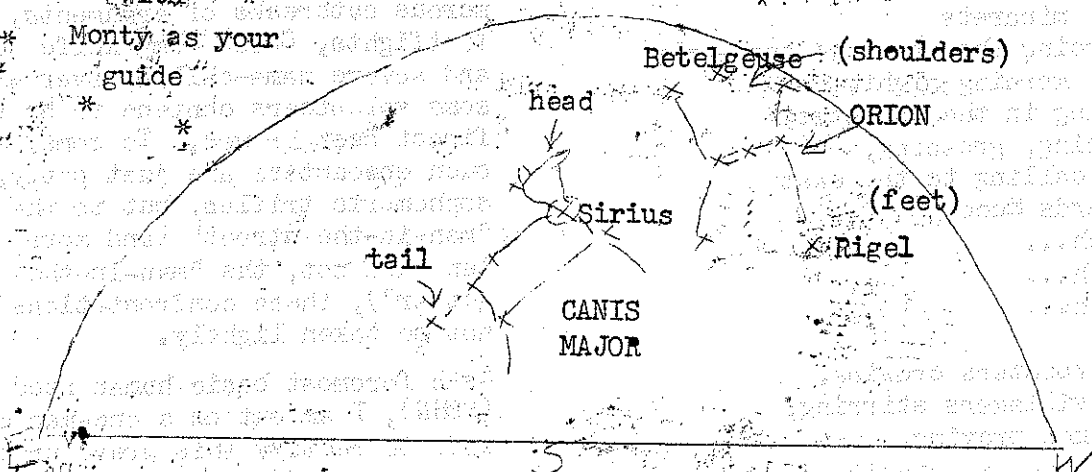
They keep on comin' back - Jamie Thomson was a volunteer here in 68-66 working in alphabetisation with Chaibou Allassane, and he helped to start a Hausa newspaper in Zinder. After finishing his service here, he returned to school in the states. He came back a second time in 70-72 for 18 months on a Ford Research Fellowship working in the village of Drum, south of Zinder. Now he has a Rockefeller Fellowship and a sabbatical leave from the political science department of Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. His wife, Ellen, accompanied the second time, and is here once more but will this time live in Zinder with their two young sons, Josh and Jack. They will not be here quite so long this trip, only until

took the time to write a description of his purpose here; "a comparative study of local level participation in, and/or organization of, renewable natural resource management projects. Concerned particularly with village woodlots, windbreaks, bottom land development and proper maintenance of pasture lands. Sounds like solid BHNs. Perhaps Jamie will share some of his



## STAR SAFARI

with  
Monty as your  
guide



All right you displaced Trekkies, your lesson plans are done and now it's time to find out what all those mysterious bits of light in the sky are about.

To start, at about 9:00 go outside. OK, now face southwest and look almost straight up. You'll see three stars fairly close together and in a straight line. They in turn will appear to be enclosed in a rectangle. According to some stoned-out ancient Greek shepherd, this is Orion, the hunter, with the three stars being his belt. Hanging below his belt are a group of stars that make up his sword. The middle "star" in this group is actually a massive cloud of primordial interstellar dust (a fact some volunteers find hard to believe).

The belt stars point to the very bright Sirius (AKA the Dog Star) in the constellation Canis Major (Big Dog). Sirius is seen just before sunrise in August and the ancient Egyptians blamed the combined effects of it and the sun for the extreme heat of that month. Thus the expression "dog days".

## LET ME EXPLAIN....

"The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him." That, says the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., is among a list of explanations the company has received for automobile accidents.

Others include:

"The other car collided with mine without warning me of its intention."

"As I reached an intersection, a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision."

"I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"The telephone pole was approaching fast. I attempted to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end."

"The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

"The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth."

"I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had the accident."



## WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

Those people contemplating a return to graduate school after leaving Niger might be interested in an article formerly printed in the Liberian PCV newsletter. That piece dealt with schools that have expressed an interest in RPCVs by announcing their programs in Interaction and Hotline. The original was quite long and has been condensed to include only the name of the college and the type of program. If anyone should want an address, write and it will be sent with any additional information available.

U. of Hawaii (English as a 2nd lang.)  
 Ohio U. (Int. Affairs & PC scholarship)  
 John Hopkins (Int. Relations)  
 Princeton (Pub. Affairs; Urban Plan.;  
 Int. Affairs; Economics & Pub. Pol.;  
 Modernization & Econ. Development)  
 U. of Wisconsin (Dev. Econ. & Adm.)  
 Roosevelt U. (Counseling; Pub. Adm.;  
 Soc. & Anthro.; Urban Studies)  
 Brown U. (master's in teaching; Eng. &  
 Soc. Studies)  
 Columbia (Int. Educational Dev.)  
 Antioch College (Early Childhood/Elem.  
 Educ.; Environmental Science)  
 Antioch School of Law  
 Antioch / New England (Adm.; Counsel-  
 ing; Dance Therapy)  
 U. of Kentucky (Foreign Ag Dev.; Econ.  
 or World Food Policy; Domestic Area  
 Rural Dev.; Nat. Resource & Environ-  
 mental Econ.; Ag. Production Econ.;  
 Marketing of Farm Commodities; Farm  
 Finance; Pub. Ag Policy; Rural Soc.)  
 U. of Florida (Food & Resource Econ.)  
 U. of Southern California (Health)  
 U. of Maryland (Voc. Rehabilitation;  
 Counseling)  
 U. of Denver (Int. Politics; Law and  
 Organization; Foreign Pol. Studies;  
 Diplomatic History; Int. Econ.; Re-  
 search and Teaching; Comparative,  
 Functional & Area Problems)  
 Northern Illinois (Bus. Adm.; Int. Bus.)  
 Ohio State (Vo-Tech Educ.; Career Educ.)  
 U. of Colorado (Management of Volunteer  
 Problems)  
 U. of Pennsylvania (Pub. Adm.)  
 McGill U. (Architecture)  
 State U. of New York (Urban & Policy  
 Sciences)  
 U. of California (Policy Analysis)  
 The New School for Social Research  
 (Suburban Affairs & Policy Analysis)

U. of Missouri (Regional & Comm.  
 Affairs)  
 U. of Texas (Bicultural/Bilingual  
 Studies; Public Service)  
 Fairfield U. (Communication)  
 Spalding College (Counseling  
 Psychology)  
 California State Polytechnic U.  
 (Int. Agriculture)  
 Boston College (Peripatology)  
 New York U. (Science Education)  
 U. of Illinois (Comp. Education)  
 Southern Illinois (Eng. as a  
 Foreign Language)  
 Georgetown U. (Int. Studies)  
 Fairleigh Dickinson U. (master's  
 in teaching; Bilingual/Bicul-  
 tural Education)  
 The Devereaux Foundation (Mental  
 Health)  
 U. of Minnesota (Soc. Development)  
 U. of North Carolina (Pub. Health)  
 U. of Washington (Cross-Cultural  
 Nursing)

## WHY GO ANYWHERE?

ICA will be seeking a new direc-  
 tor for the English Teaching Pro-  
 gram beginning January 1980. Don  
 Burleigh does not plan to renew  
 his contract. If interested, sub-  
 mit to Rosemary Crockett a copy of  
 your curriculaum vita and a one-  
 page essay on the contributions  
 you would expect to be able to  
 make to the program and your plans  
 for 1980-1982. Do this soon as  
 interviews begin in March. Any  
 terminating PCVs are encouraged to  
 apply, but they must have experi-  
 ence in teaching English as a for-  
 eign language. Below are the re-  
 sponsibilities of the job.

1. schedule classes and determine  
the yearly calendar
2. recruit teachers
3. organize and administer pre-  
and in-service training
4. provide regular feedback on  
teacher performance
5. design curricula for courses,  
including objectives and ma-  
terials and methods for achiev-  
ing those methods
6. provide and maintain resources  
in theories, methods, techniques,  
and materials for language in-  
struction



- % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % % %

They came from all over the US to attend a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Convention and Third World Conference co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

Greg Flakus, one of the organizers of the Omaha conference, said that the idea came to him in 1975 when he returned from PG/Philippines. "I found that when I ran into other former volunteers, no matter what country we had served in, we basically shared the same experience. In March, 1977, a group of RFOVs in Omaha started making contact with other groups around the country and these groups expressed interest in the idea."

grass roots organizations and propose a charter for an independent national organization.

Persons wishing to contact  
Flakus may write him at  
PO Box 11411, Omaha, Neb.  
68112

+

Dear Monty,

K. Waldheim  
NY, USA

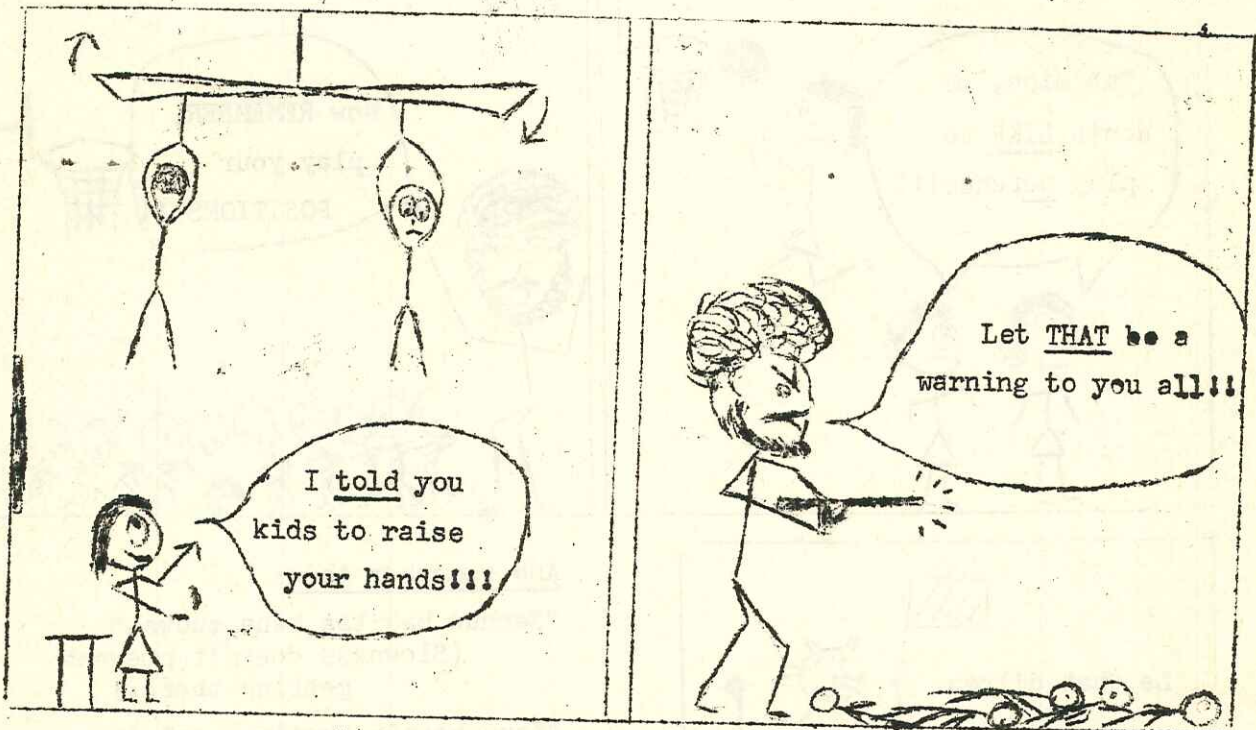
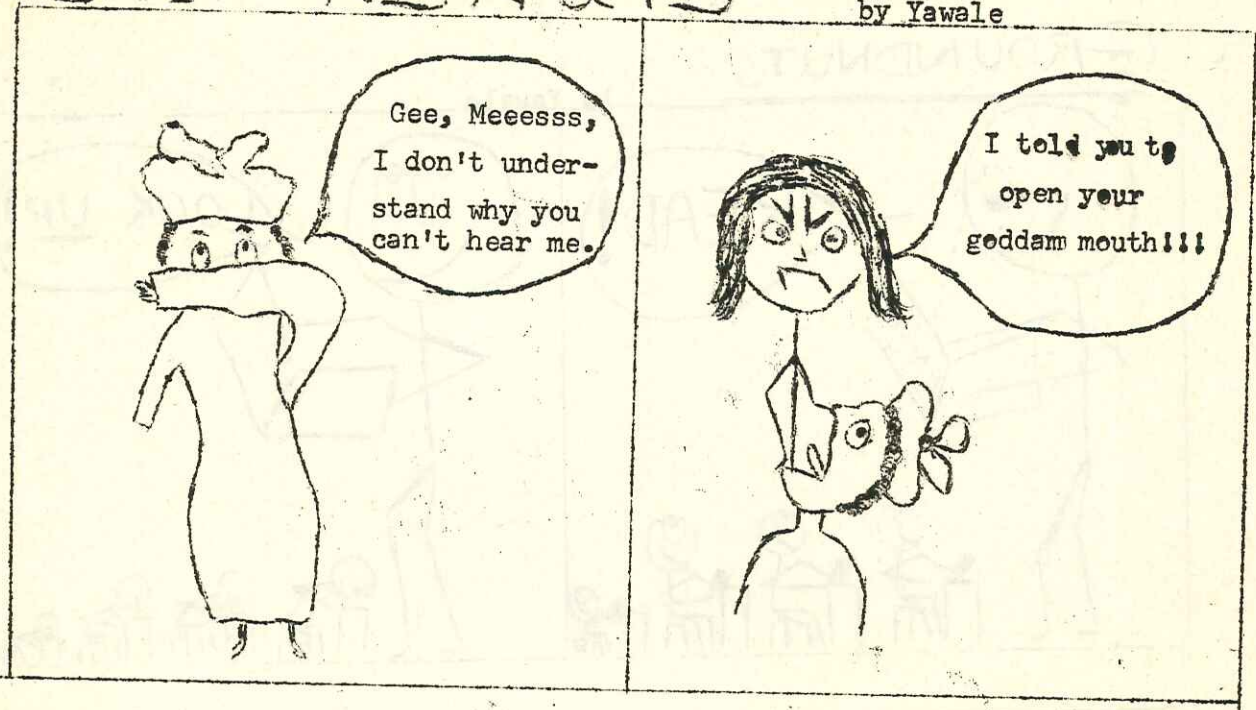
Who cares? All I know is you've got a great thing going. Since everybody enjoys fighting there so much, you could turn the place into the Madison Square Garden of international conflict. Anytime 2 groups want to duke it out, all they have to do is book the joint in advance and go to it. It would save the rest of the globe a lot of wear and tear. Furthermore, it would give people like Palestinians, Dasques, etc. a chance to fight a REAL war instead of running around with bombs all the time. The World Bank could handle publicity and promotions while the International Court of Justice could decide the results. To rebuild the place between bouts, give every Cambodian a percentage of the gross. Give it a try and let me know what happens.

If you haven't been to Naimy for a while, be warned that the taxis have raised their fares.



# GROUNDNUTS

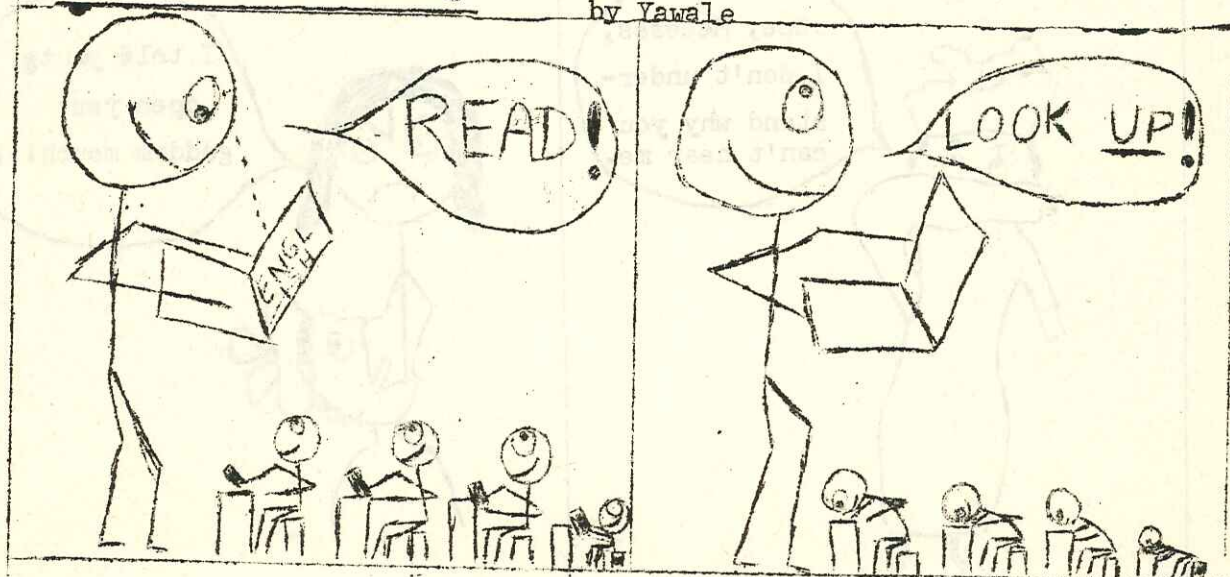
by Yawale





# GROUNDNUTS

by Yawale



TEFL POINTER: for teaching the preposition "between" -

Q: Where is Timbuktu?

A: It's between Timbukone and Timbukthree.

And remember this:

"Sannuu baa taa hana zuuwa."  
(Slowness doesn't prevent getting there.)

"Karambaanin akwiiya, gai da kuuraa."  
(It's meddlesomeness of the goat to greet the hyena.)

"Ruuwaa baa yaa tsaamii banzaa."  
(Water doesn't smell bad for no reason.)

"Inda hayaakii, akwoy wutaa."  
(Where there's smoke, there's fire.)

# SPOTLIGHT ONNNNNNNNN STUDENTS!

This month brings us some letters from some younger students, and as might be imagined, the subject matter is much tamer. These came from a home class of CEG II, Niamey, and Sharon Martin is the instructor.

My dear friend,

My name is \_\_\_\_, I am in class of 4e. In English that is equivalent to 8th and 9th grades. I am sixteen old. I will be very happy to receive your ideas. I can speak English but not very well. My family and me, we live in a banco house. A banco house and a cement house are not the same because there is a big difference between them. The cement house is more beautiful than a banco house which is less resistant to water. A banco house is made of sand, water, and twigs. Can you tell me your problems that you meet in your studies? Please. We, our problems in our studies are that we are not good in English. Do you describe me your country and tell me how you live with your dear girl or boy-friend because I think that things are not the same in my country. Here in my country it is cold and in the morning, the pupils don't want to wake up and go to school, but with all this cold they go to school. Now it is what season in your country? Please. I stop hear and wish you that the new year 1979 brings to you happiness, success, and prosperity. I want that we exchange between our post cards and a lot of things.

Good-Bye, I kiss you very strong,  
Your Dear, \_\_\_\_

Dear friend,

My name is \_\_\_\_, I am in the class of 4e. I am sixteen years. I wish you and your family a good year. I will be very happy to have a response from you. I will pass BEPC next year. I live in a big town, every Saturday night, I go to Cinema, parlours, night club. I like music, literature, and every Saturday, I go to American cultural center. I am not a racist. I want to see your photo. I went to Zoo, and I saw the animals. The America and India films interesse me very well. I like peace and love. I've just finished to read my English book. In my country, the people speak various dialects (zerma, Habussa, Peul...) and the minority speak French. I taught English 3 years ago; but I speak French very well. Are you agree to send me your photo. Shortly, when I receive your letter, I am going to send you my photo, presents. Please. I am tired.

My dear friend,

I am in the class of 4e. In English that is equivalent to 8th & 9th grade. I am sixteen years old. Now I am going to tell you my schooldays. In my school they are many distractions. My school is championship of Niger. I like music. I have a brand new moto-cross. Every Saturday I went night club. I dislike a girl who don't studied. If you are lazy girl or boy don't write me answer.

My dear friend,

My name is \_\_\_\_. I am the class of 4e. In English that is equivalent to the 8th and 9th grade. I am seventeen years old. This latter in order to you let to know my name and my address. I like to mean to you. My English teacher is Miss Martin. Anyway I love you and love your address. Please give me your address. Your name and who live you. Me I live in Niamey. I don't speak English very well because I teach English they are three years ago.

\$

DEAR MONTY,

We are megalomaniac dictators from tropical countries who recently had to leave our jobs. Our supervisory duties included making people work in intolerable heat, ensuring they ate nothing but rice, in general, controlling every aspect of their daily existence. Can you help us find work?

Cordially, J. Jones & Pol Pot

Dear Meers. Jones and Pot,

Well, your qualifications and ex



## TIPS FOR TEFL TEACHERS:

You may not supply a BHN but you're here at present, so you may as well continue doing as good a job as possible. Hopefully, this can become a regular part of the CE, and, hopefully, the bulk of future material for it will come from you in your willingness to share ideas, experiments, etc., which you have used in the classroom. A problem which exists in teaching everywhere is the isolation which the individual teacher faces in regard to innovations in the classroom, hints, and practical advice. Don't be shy and don't think that dialogue you wrote last week which went over real well isn't worthy of your colleagues' inspection. Many thanks to the writers of The Gabon Gab (Nov. 1978) for the following article, a great beginning!

SLURRING

An important aspect of spoken language is "slurring" between words. Too often students will speak in an abrupt, stilted fashion with distinct beginnings and endings to each word rather than phrases. This occurs because, in asking a student to repeat a phrase, such as "How are you?", the teacher will have the students repeat each word and then fail to go back to the phrase as a whole. This is not to say that we should be teaching such distinctly American slurs as "Whatcha doin?".

Slurring most frequently occurs with words that begin with vowels and words that end in vowels. What usually happens is that a consonant is added in the spoken language between the two words.

For example, He isn't going to eat. /y/ yes  
He/y/isn't going to/w/eat. /w/ we

## A. RULES FOR SLURRING

1. Final consonant and initial vowel are pronounced together as if the final consonant were at the beginning of the next word.
2. A final "t" becomes a "d" before vowels in American English, except when the "t" is preceded by another consonant.

It cost a dollar.                    sounds like /t/  
I caught a fish.                    sounds like /d/

3. Final vowels:

- a. rounded vowels are followed by an added "w"

Blue is a color. I know it.  
How are you?

- b. flat vowels are followed by an added "y"

I see a boy.                      I play in the yard.  
My aunt is sick.                  The boy is over there.

- c. other vowels either do not usually end a word, or as in the case of /a/, are not followed by an added consonant.

I saw a boy.

## B. WHEN TO TEACH

1. Slurring can be stressed whenever teaching a phrase such as "How are you?". In other words, with the teacher always slurring, instead of halting between each word, students will imitate the teacher and thus also slur. After all, if the students can imitate the teacher's halting language, they can also imitate the teacher's slurring.

a. begin with a lesson on "a" and "an"      a neal      -      an eel

b. move to a lesson with other consonants before words that begin with vowels

the big eel

the small eel

c. Finally on to lessons with the first group of vowels and then with the second group of vowels

2. The use of slurring should be stressed in the memorization of any dialogue.

3. In working with sense groups in Read and Look Up, the teacher can stress slurring by having students first repeat after the teacher and then the students on their own.

A final word about slurring...it is not the same thing as merely speaking fast in class. You are probably saying that you could never do it in class because the students wouldn't understand what you're saying. If, however, you start off speaking at normal speed, your students will gradually catch up with you and become accustomed to that speed. If you still think it's necessary to slow down, it's possible to pause between sense groups rather than between words. And if it's necessary to break up a sense group into individual words, be sure to go back to the whole sense group at normal speed.

% # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % # % #

BrainBuster: Get out a pencil with a good eraser. You can look at these in 2 ways, 1) they're good practice for the GRE Exam, or 2) they're a pain in the ass and I can't do them and I don't know why he prints them anyway.

Who Owns the Zebra?

1. There are five houses, each of a different color and inhabited by men of different nationalities, with different pets, drinks, & cigarette.
2. The Englishman lives in the red house.
3. The Spaniard owns the dog.
4. Coffee is drunk in the green house.
5. The Ukrainian drinks tea.
6. The green house is immediately to the right (YOUR right) of the ivory house.
7. The Old Gold smoker owns snails.
8. Kools are smoked in the yellow house.

9. Milk is drunk in the middle house.
10. The Norwegian lives in the first house on the left.
11. The man who smokes Chesterfields lives in the house next to the man with the fox.
12. Kools are smoked in the house next to the house where the horse is kept.
13. The Lucky Strike smoker drinks orange juice.
14. The Japanese smokes Parliaments.
15. The Norwegian lives next door to the blue house.

NOW - who drinks water & who owns the zebra?

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS:

HITLER	170362
GOERING	9862749
HTTLLHHH	10033111

Tom - Surveyor - Gaya  
Dick - Sugar Cane - Tahoua  
Harry - Forester - Niamey  
Irving - TEFL - Bilma

ARABIAN NIGHT CREAM is an ointment preparation which combines natural hormones with vegetable components. Physical debility, emotional maladjustment, defective hormonal secretion and psychical disturbances are the major factors which easily impair sexual potency. In ARABIAN NIGHT CREAM, frigidity, neurasthenic impotency, premature ejaculation





(Niger PCVs have been known to travel a little. The following article will hopefully bring more telling about a vacation in a personal way)

### CAN YOU SAFARI ON A PEACE CORPS BUDGET? by Bill Miles, Magaria

I have been asked tellement of times to recount my summer trip to East Africa that I am taking the liberté of publishing once and for tous, the proverbial goods. I also disclaim any responsibilities, legal or otherwise, for anyone so rash as to follow in mes pas. So...

Yes, there is a cheap way to fly to Nairobi, especially if you have no qualms about utilizing current discrepancies in currency exchanges. The rub is that you must go to Lagos, that cauchemar of cauchemars. Pan-Am runs a Lagos - Nairobi excursion fare for a little under 300 Naira. That's about \$300 on the marché noir (you can figure it out in CFA). More respectably, that's roughly \$500 according to the official rate. This is all round trip, mind you. For a nominal thirty more Naira, you are entitled to various stops, according to mileage regulations. I personally was allowed to go Lagos - Nairobi - Kigali (Ruanda) - Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) - Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) - Lagos. If you do decide on the extra hops, make sure the Pan Am ticket writers know what they're doing. My return trip was written "Dar - Nairobi - Lagos" although there haven't been any Kenya-Tanzania flights (or diplomatic relations) for a couple of years. I fortunately was allowed to re-route things via Addis Ababa.

You can get a Kenya visa in Lagos but it wouldn't matter much anyway - Kenya's #1 industry is tourism and, as an American, you are welcomed. As for shots, just keeping up with PG/Niger requirements is enough. Cholera is what they look for.

Alors - you're in Nairobi. What do you do now? While preparing your safari, the best place to stay is the YMCA (sorry, girls). For about \$7.00 you get semi-private rooms, clean sheets and three FULL meals a day. There is a PG Community Center in the

free, too. You go to the Thorn Tree at the New Stanley Hotel to meet people to go safarling with (same as "skiing", n'est-ce pas?). The best and cheapest way to see the Reserves is to rent a car with three or four other people, and go! Driving is on the left side of the road, but that's nothing after cross-cultural.

You camp in the Game Parks for a few dollars a night. You bring & cook most of your own food (a small gas burner is handy). The major investment you'll need to make, if your safari buddies haven't got one, is a tent - we went to set up camp at one site and had to chase out elephants.

Your excursion ticket is good for **four** weeks. Assume you safari for three weeks - that's more than enough. I found \$200 a week was a comfortable figure to work with: Including car, camping and park fees, eating, souvenirs. So - plane fare, plus the three weeks' safarling and add a hundred bucks for getting thru Nigeria, well, I'll help - that's about 200,000 CFA. C'est possible, ko?

Now for the avertissement: Lagos is a bitch. I flew in from Lomé and was refused entry at Customs for not having an on-going ticket. Don't forget - you're only allowed to bring 50 Naira into the country, and you declare all currency. Be discreet. The agent then demanded \$50, but as a good PCV, j'ai marchandé him down to 5000 CFA. Then I was almost arrested by an off-duty Lagos cop, "on suspicion", I guess. Lagos is dirty, expensive and brimming with the sebourge of Bola's grandfather - unscrupulous taxi drivers. They cheat you. The police cheat you. Everyone cheats you. I began distrusting myself. But, if you do it, stay cool, and a well-placed bribe never hurts. In fact, it's indispensable. And then, Le Kenya est presque le paradis meme.

#####

I pity the man who can travel from Dan to Beersheba and cry, "Tis all barren!"

- Sterne



## VOTRE SANTE

Thanks to PG/Senegal via the Gabon Gab

Healing without Medicines : Healing with Water

(excerpt from: "Where There Is No Doctor" by David Warner)

Most of us could live without medicines. But no one can live without water. In fact, over half (57%) of the human body is water. If everyone living in farms and villages made the best use of water, the amount of sickness and death - especially of children - could probably be cut in half.

For example, correct use of water is basic both in the prevention and treatment of diarrhea. In many areas diarrhea is the most common cause of sickness and death in small children. CONTAMINATED (unclean) water is often part of the cause.

An important part of the prevention of diarrhea is to boil water used for drinking or for preparing food. This is especially important for babies. Washing one's hands with soap and water after a bowel movement and before eating or handling foods is just as important. The common cause of death in children with diarrhea is severe dehydration. By giving a child with diarrhea plenty of water (best with sugar or honey or salt), dehydration can often be prevented or corrected.

### TIMES WHEN THE RIGHT USE OF WATER MAY DO MORE GOOD THAN MEDICINES

#### To prevent:

1. diarrhea, worms, gut infections
2. skin infections
3. infected wounds, tetanus

#### To treat:

1. diarrhea, dehydration
2. illnesses with high fever
3. high fever
4. minor urinary infections
5. cough, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, whooping cough
6. sores, impetigo, ringworm of skin or scalp, cradle cap, pimples
7. infected wounds, abscesses, boils
8. stiff, sore muscles and joints
9. itching, burning or weeping irritations of the skin
10. minor burns
11. sore throat or tonsillitis
12. acid, lye, dirt or irritating substance in eye
13. stuffed-up nose
14. constipation, hard stools

#### Use water:

boil drinking water, wash hands  
bathe often  
wash wounds well with soap & water

#### Use water:

drink plenty of fluids  
drink plenty of fluids  
soak body with cold water  
drink plenty of water  
drink plenty of water and breathe  
hot water vapors (to loosen mucus)  
scrub with soap and water

hot soaks or compresses

hot compresses

cold compresses

hold in cold water

gargle with hot salt water

flood eye with cold water at once

sniff salt water

drink lots of water (also enemas are  
safer than laxatives, but do not  
overuse)

In each of the above cases, except pneumonia, when water is used correctly medicines are not needed. REMEMBER: USE MEDICINES ONLY WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

The preservation of health is a duty. Few seem conscious that there is such a thing as physical morality. - Herbert Spencer  
"Education"

Health is not a condition of matter, but of Mind; nor can the material senses bear reliable testimony on the subject of health. Mary Baker Eddy