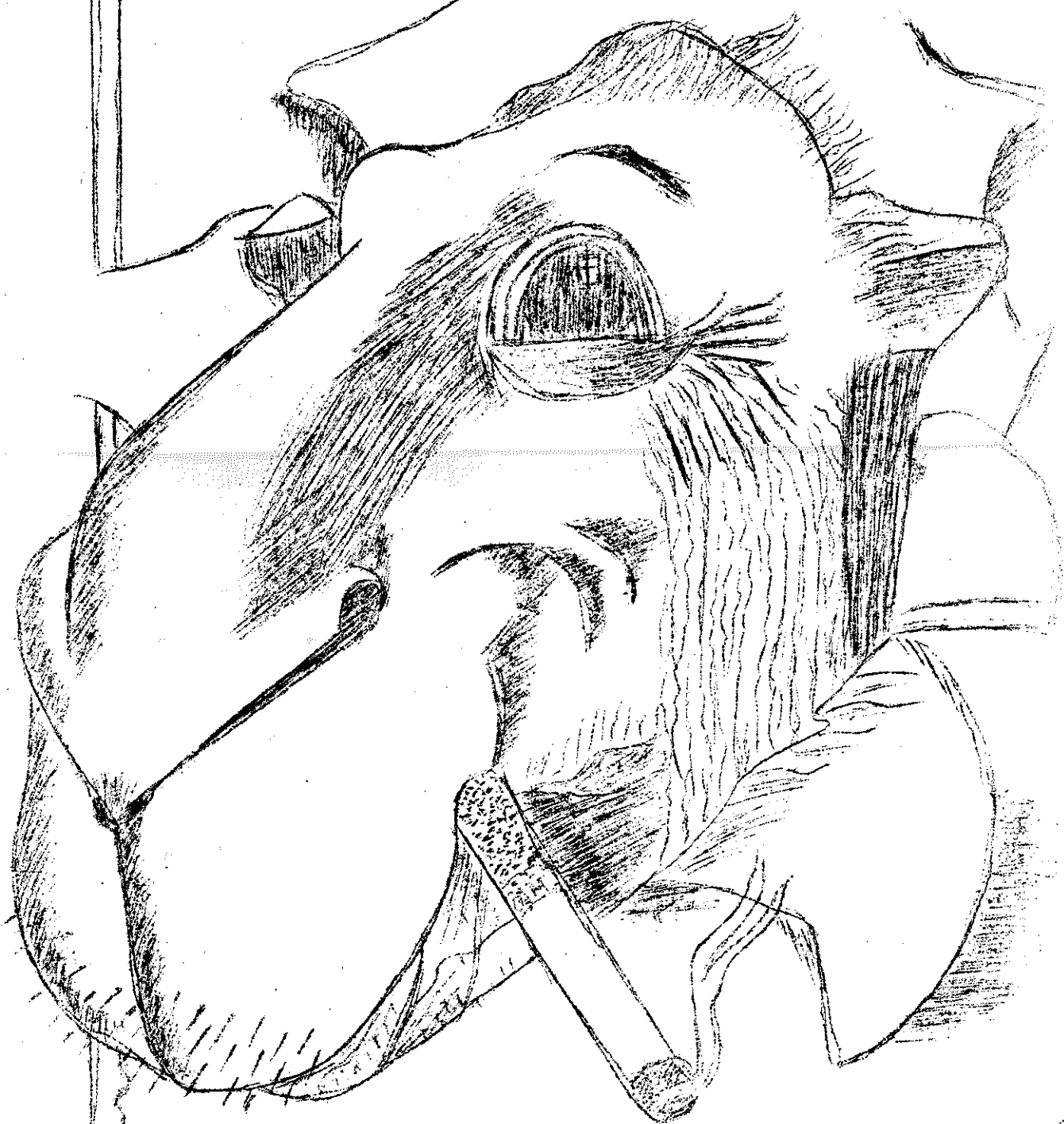


CAMEL

EXPRESS



THE CAMEL EXPRESS

MARCH 1980

PC / NIGER

ZINDER

REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER

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Pretender to the Throne. Clarke Blair
Philosopher - King Mike Naugle
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Hilary Gowen, Merre McGehee,
Steve Reid, Scott Smith,
Sarkin Daji, Jim Delehanty,
Tom Doneker, Clem Hearey,
Nick George

* * * * *

It happened to the Mings, the Tudors and Bokassa. No more Senghai or Holy Roman Empires. The passenger pigeon and the dodo (included for my detractors) are long gone. It was inevitable and you all knew it. In short, this is my swan song / lame duck issue. However, only I will leave -- The Camel Express is currently a stable enterprise and should continue to be one because there's a bright young man ready to take over the whole massive operation. In fact, he's panting over my shoulder right now as I type this. No, actually Clarke (as in Blair) will read this as you do -- I'm shooting for the dramatic effect. I didn't tell him or anyone else involved for fear that I'd be talked out of it -- or was it fear that no one would try? I forget, but no matter.

However, before I leave you all, I intend to write a few self-serving lines. I'm pleased with what this has become, each issue better than the one before. I've never claimed

this to be "journalism", and took the title of "Editor" only from custom. I actually did little editing, but "Compiler/Organizer/Typist-in-Chief" seemed a trifle cumbersome. I'd best stop before I take premature credit for the release of the hostages.

Happily for you, the CE hasn't been a one-man show. The address will stay the same. It strikes me now that perhaps I'm being premature. My mail has already begun to drop off, and with any CE-related correspondence now to be routed to Clarke, I might get depressed. I'll fight it. He's not a bad fellow (even with his fixation on existentialism) and may let me hang around the Press Room; run off a few pages, go for coffee. However, I draw the line at being called "Pop".

This is also my final opportunity to thank Phyllis Dichter for her constant support and assistance. It would have been difficult, if

not impossible, without it, I hope her successor will be as amenable. Yvonne and Mary Lou Cronin also deserve their names in print for their uncomplaining aid in keeping us supplied. So I thank them and I thank you.

Please note that I'm not yet ready to leave the country, so you can still write me personal letters. In fact, now there's no worry of your private thoughts being spread all over the country via "En Broussé, En Ville" -- Nina and Mary Pat, take note.

XXXXX 00000 Earl

*/ */ */ */ */ */ */ */ */ */ */

OVER AND OUT

Below are the last utterances of some of the famous and infamous among us who signed off in style:

(stepping onto the gallows).....
Are you sure it's safe?

- William Palmer
(poisoner, hanged 1856)

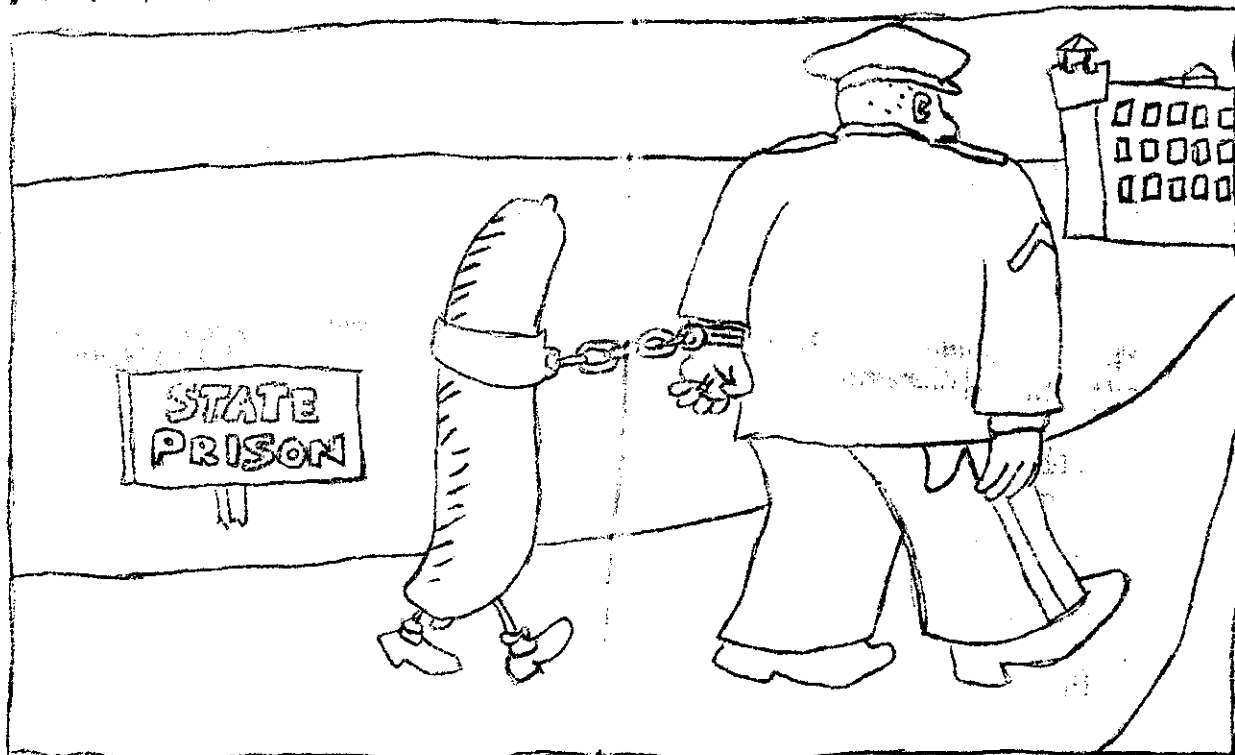
God will pardon me - it is his profession.

- Heinrich Heine

I am dying as I have lived - beyond my means.

- Oscar Wilde

A TERM FOR THE WURST (to Charmie, with love)



- Kliban

BLACKLIST (Games magazine)

Answer each clue with a name, phrase, or familiar expression that contains the word "black".

- 1: disreputable family member _____
- 2: Vegas card game _____
- 3: Side dish in the South _____
- 4: Formal wear _____
- 5: illegal trading _____
- 6: Mount Rushmore range _____
- 7: English pirate _____
- 8: extortionist's crime _____

- 9: exclude from the club _____
- 10: bachelor's roster _____
- 11: "shiner" _____
- 12: "shiner" by profession _____
- 13: earning a profit _____
- 14: spider with a bite _____

WOMEN AS VOLUNTEERS

by Elaine Burgess, PCV/Swaziland
revised and edited by Merre McGehee

Women volunteers have a very different experience from men volunteers in Peace Corps. They face challenges and frustrations from the culture - and from the Peace Corps - that men don't regularly encounter. One of these is that in many countries the ratio of women volunteers is low and placements are remote from other women, which deprives them of easy access to their peers who are having similar experiences. Social interactions are complex for women; one volunteer has this to say:

"When you are meeting someone for the first time, you may detect a long inquisitive stare which may mean, 'Would you like to sleep in my bed?' Unfortunately, American women are taught to look directly into people's eyes when they are talking and this is inevitably misconstrued by males in this country as meaning yes."

Such testimony is an example of the kinds of value systems that evidence themselves in some way or other in nearly every developing country. While it may be expected that a man could leave his family in the U.S. and travel far away to work in another country, it is not understood why a woman would want to do so. Thus many single Peace Corps women are in the position of having to somehow establish from the beginning that they are not in trouble - disgraced prostitutes whose families have thrown them out. While a married woman enters a country with a slightly better image, she may also be expected to be sexually available if U.S. movies have been viewed by her neighbors. Then, too, married volunteers of both sexes are suspect if they have no children.

Many challenges are job related: "It is unnatural for men in this country to find themselves in a classroom being taught by a woman who is their

contemporary. . . . The students must be convinced not only of the woman's knowledge of the subject, but of her ability to control them. The woman teacher, therefore, must be exceptionally clever and strict in the beginning of the school year if she expects to control her students in the end." Men have the problem of control in teaching situations also, but they do not have the added problem of students that have never related to women in any manner other than that of mother, sister, wife or daughter.

And what of the woman volunteer who has always walked off frustrated by walking alone at night, but is prevented from doing so because this behavior is construed as that of a prostitute looking for business?

Women volunteers must learn to accept to make compromises between the social roles they played at home and the totally different social role of women in the host country. A woman must find some middle ground between the two which is not offensive to her hosts and yet does not eradicate or devastate her personal identity and productiveness.

Men, of course, must also change a great many habit patterns and modify their life styles if they are to be productive as volunteers. However, the social role for men is more congruent across cultures since they are generally expected to work and be in charge, to have power, both physical and political, and are usually not thought to be immoral if they conduct their activities in a solitary manner or seek female friendship. The social role to which men have to adapt is not so drastic a departure from their own culture as is the social role which confronts women. Rarely, however, is this difference acknowledged or dealt with productively in training or during volunteer service.

profess something is not necessarily to believe it, and when the so-called modern man gets home, he puts on traditional clothes, and wouldn't think of treating his wife as a friend or equal.

I say there is no separate volunteer role which can be played only by a woman. I can envision certain specific jobs which would best be undertaken by: disseminating information on birth control or nutrition to women, for instance. But the role of that individual is that of a health worker, and that is not a sex-specific designation. I contend that, professionally speaking, we are volunteers who are men or women, rather than men or women who are volunteers. . .

To me, the most frightening part was to find myself falling into the thought patterns of host national men and women. Like a woman of this country, I would doubt my capabilities, expecting a man to arrange things better than I could myself, and automatically acquiescing to another's plans, even if not quite convenient. Like a man of this country, I came to treat other women as sort of good natured half-wives: good cooks, but not to be trusted with "real life." And in between, my Western raised woman's conscience raged at men for treating the women so unjustly, and at the women for accepting it, but more for rejecting my attempts to show them new behavior. They found my clothes, my casual relationship with my husband, my attempts to be friends with the male employees terrifying, while I deeply resented being expected to leave the room every time a man appeared, or leave the conversation to the men present, even if it concerned me. In short, I not only failed to come to know these women as I hoped, but I came to reject them and the subjugation they represented. At present, the only woman I see regularly and could say is a friend rather than an acquaintance is the woman doctor who directs one of the projects. She spent many years in England and speaks better English than most Westerners.

Because I feel guilty, I have talked about my feelings with other Western women. Many have had similar experiences. Those who have fared better speak the local language fluently, have had considerable contact with village women and have lived here for several years. Everyone says the only

communication has been on subjects the women know themselves - marriage, cooking, sewing, having babies - that they are without curiosity about the lives of western women beyond these points. In light of the lives they lead and their social milieu, this lack of experience and curiosity is understandable; but it makes for a very limited relationship, marked by boredom on the western side and a complete lack of understanding on the eastern.

Although some social traditions are based on true differences between men and women, others are based on the unfair subjugation of one of the sexes. Before we can distinguish which is which, we must understand the traditions. Customs, conflict between eastern and western values, and how this conflict might affect the volunteer socially and professionally should be discussed with all volunteers, male and female, before they are dropped into the local society.

- from Pokok Pokok, PC/Malaysia

Good Stuff

K A P A M A

(kah-pah-mah)

A Greek Peasant Dish

- I. Brown (burn) meat (beef or chicken) in pot or pan with: butter, cinnamon, lemon, some pepper.

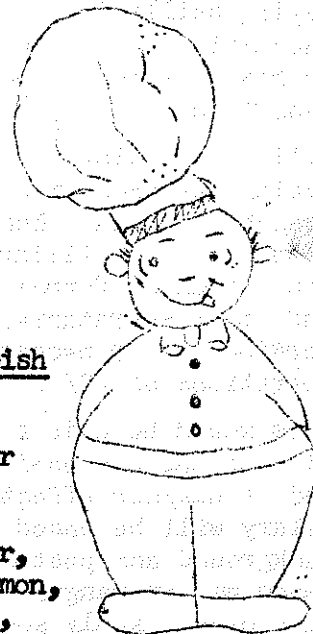
- II. When dark brown, put everything into a larger pot and add a can of tomato paste and enough water to cover the meat. Stir a little and simmer for 1 1/2 hours with a lid on it.

- III. Use meat and sauce on noodles, spaghetti, macaroni or rice.

Note: to sauce you can add green peppers, mushrooms and bay leaves if available and desired.

B O N A P P E T I T !

- Nick (father of Niki) George



no reason why Peace Corps has failed to demonstrate support for women volunteers in the field may be related to the fact while somewhat more than a third of the volunteers are women, only about thirteen percent of overseas staff are women. Worse, fewer than a handful of the Country Director posts are filled by women. In every one of the eight countries that I have worked, women volunteers have complained about the poor quality of communication between themselves and their predominantly male country staff. With rare exceptions, they felt like second class volunteers whose presence and work is not valued.

Women report remarkably similar experiences when they seek staff assistance. A male program director or Country Director listens politely and then replies that he really doesn't know how to help them. Or he may refer them to a host national secretary who is just as much at a loss to comprehend why the woman volunteer is having difficulty or is discouraged. Sometimes the male staff member will suggest that the volunteer talk to the American wife of a staff member. Although wives of staff can be helpful, they are not staff members, they do not participate in Peace Corps decision making, they are not trained in counseling, and since their experience as non-employed wives in the capital city is vastly different from that of working volunteers, they may have little credibility with volunteers.

Can Peace Corps remedy the situation? Can it develop training strategies and support systems that will enhance the overseas experience for women? Can it place sufficient women staff in overseas programming positions to provide needed women's input in planning, programming and decision making?

What is needed is resources, expertise and leadership in promoting the full utilization of women's potential in the Peace Corps, and direct communication with women volunteers in the field until such a time as women are more equitably represented in overseas staff positions; Specific staff members should be charged with acquiring information about women in Peace Corps, working with regions and countries in the development of realistic but innovative programming, developing, refining, and implementing training components to meet women's needs, providing the impetus and guidance for

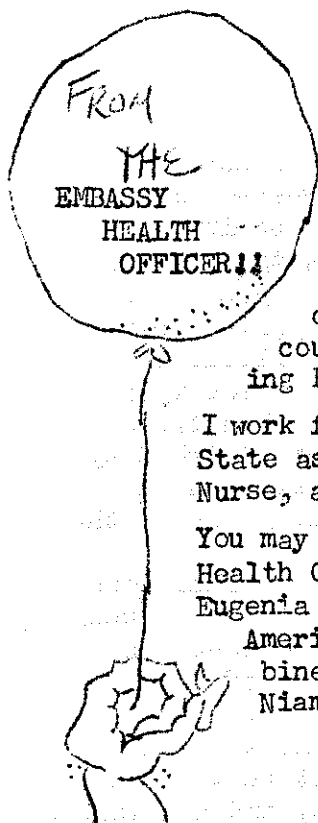
increased support of women overseas, and assisting and advising in the recruitment of women volunteers and staff for overseas posts.

Women volunteers have an advantage over our men counterparts in one respect: we can really get to know the women of this country. Because of the chasm between the sexes in this country, and because women are the oppressed class, there is automatically a warm sisterhood among women of which the newcomer is quickly a part. Although the professional life of a woman volunteer is likely to be spent largely with men, and any conversations on politics or progress are liable to be held only with men, and although you are unlikely to find any ladies to go have a drink with, if you go in for that sort of thing, the women will forgive defections to male companionship for such purposes, and involve you in their lives - lives in which men play only a peripheral role.

There is nothing to be bitter about. Social attitudes take a long time to change - the transformation on this issue is far from complete even in the "developed" countries. Rather than spending her time being angry over hypocrisy in this society, the woman volunteers should settle down to enjoy the society of women, which is so open to her, and pretty much closed to men. It is a very special and delightful experience. . .

Before long, the rumor will get out that you have a lover or two. This is not at all malicious. Rather it is to them the only feasible explanation of your refusals to sleep with them. Most often, they will say that the lover or lovers are the Peace Corps men who come to visit you. Outside the classroom, the woman teacher may detect that "look" or receive love letters from colleagues, students or supervisors.

Usually there are enough men in the village that Western women follow a different rule, to give the woman a fair chance of accomplishing what she came to do. (On the other hand, since the men are uncertain enough as to what those rules are, social situations can be somewhat tense.) Generally, I think the men here who give lip service to women's equality are still not entirely convinced. They espouse the cause because it's a modern idea, hence attractive, like western clothes. But to



Dear Niger PCV's,

Once more with feeling -- I am not the Peace Corps Nurse!

When the Peace Corps doctor is out of the country, I am the Acting PC Medical Officer.

I work for the Department of State as a Foreign Service Nurse, assigned to Niamey.

You may address me as Embassy Health Officer, the nurse of Eugenia E. Wiley, RN, c/o American Embassy (or combined Health Unit), Niamey.

Eugenia E. Wiley

* * * * *

Peace Corps/Central African Republic is looking for a qualified bilingual secretary with excellent typing skills for a full-time job. Successful candidate will be directly responsible to the PCD and her associates.

Duties including but not limited to typing, transcribing from English-French and French-English, keeping of an accurate filing, making of appointments, formal correspondences, and other secretarial duties as determined to be necessary for the operations of PC/CAR by the PCD.

Fees would be paid for transportation of the successful candidate and of his/her effects to Bangui. Salary will be based on educational background and past working experience and on Bangui local compensation plan. Apply soon if interested.

* * * * *

T-Shirt Update:

Letters have been sent to Shirley Bricker and Randy Boyer (the new Niger Country Desk Officer) in the hopes that ink can be sent through the pouch. Even though there was a TREMENDOUS outpouring of mail & suggestions from you all, Cass dismissed them all as immaturish trash and opted instead for a simplified drawing of the CE camel (formerly the Camels' camel). So, until you are told otherwise, plan on it for the summer stage -- bring your own shirts, don't forget.

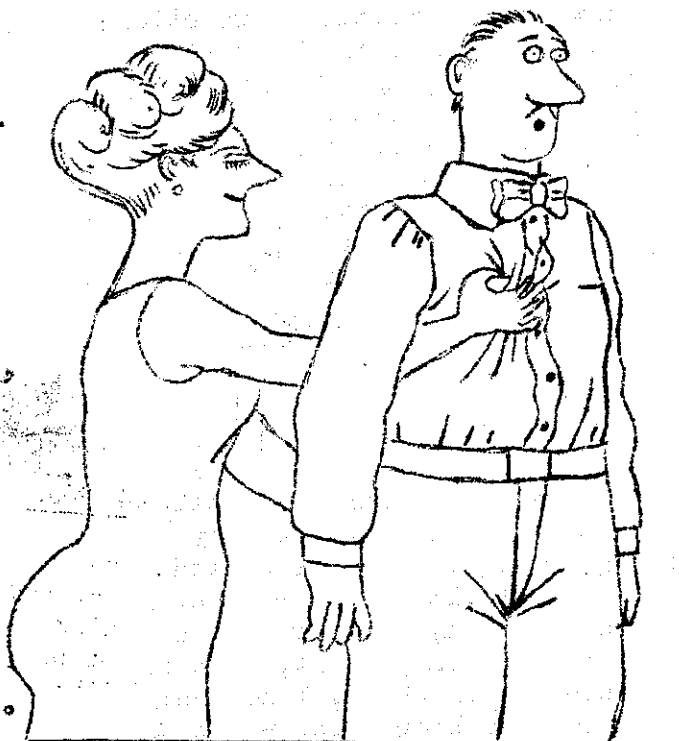
AGADEZ MILITANTS TAKE HOSTAGES --

- Demand Jussaume Extradition -

Agadez, Jan. 17 (Special to the CE by hostage Howard Mayer)

Following Ray Jussaume's inflammatory reference in his otherwise well-written Air Mountain article (CE, 12/79) to the supposedly unlimited hospitality of the Agadez volunteers, and particularly to the so-called "open house" of one Ms. K. Martin, the Agadezian militants, led by fire-breathing Fuzzatollah Frederica Burnett, have taken four visiting Southern Niger PCV's hostage, and are demanding that the deposed TEFL superstar be extradited from his posh exile in Dosso to answer charges of "Gross Presumptuousness" and "Excessive Mouthing Off" before an Agadez Revolutionary Court to be presided over by Grand Wizard S. Wizman.

* * * * *



Copping A Fool

- Kliban

* * * * *

Allen's Distinction -

The lion and the calf shall lie down together, but the calf won't get much sleep.

- Woody Allen

TEFL SUPERSTARS

Awright class, today
we're gonna have
a singing
grammar
point.

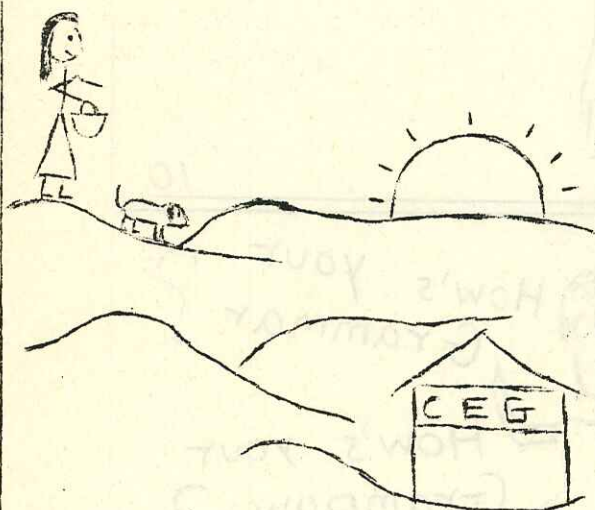


1



Bola WHAT
his friend
at the
bus-stop?

2



3

YOU
F---in'
RUNTS!



4



Good
Morning,
class....

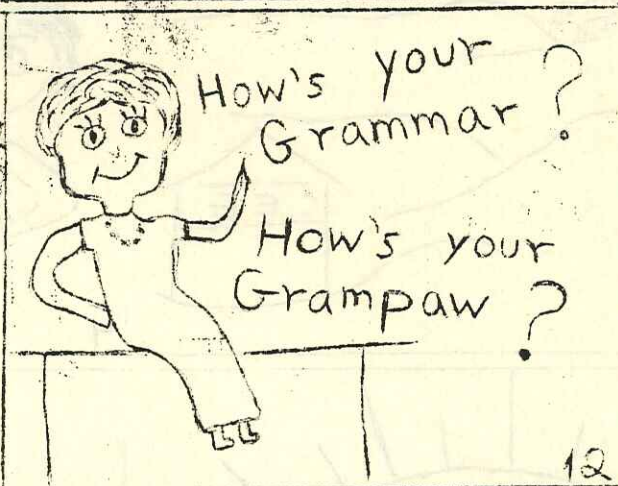
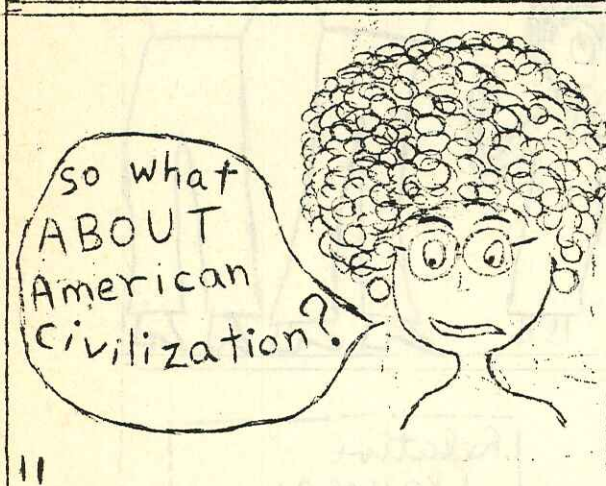
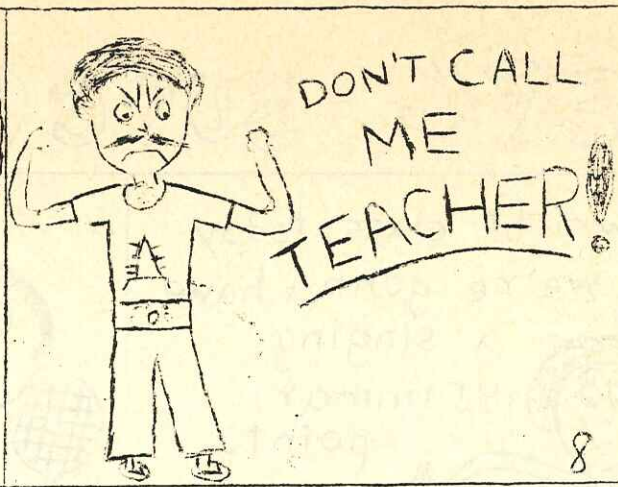
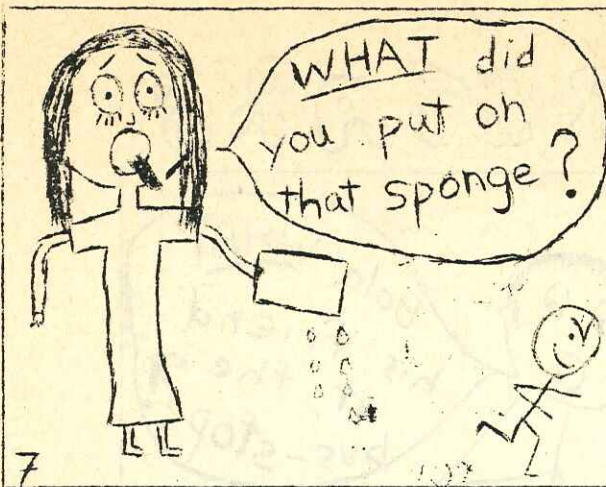
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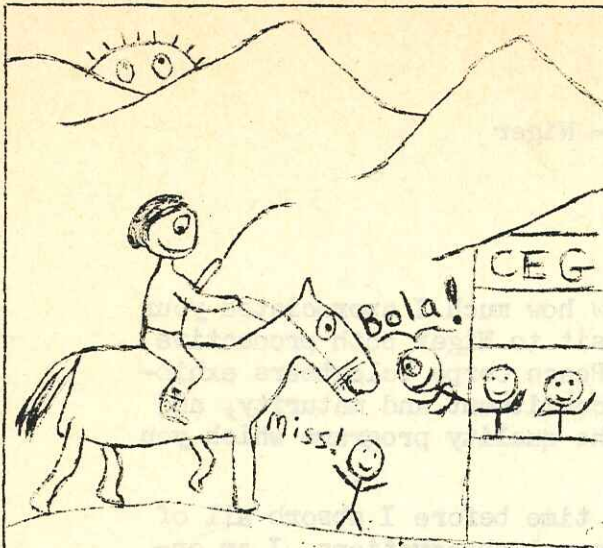


Relative
Clauses

No, I don't
think America
is an
imperialist
country.

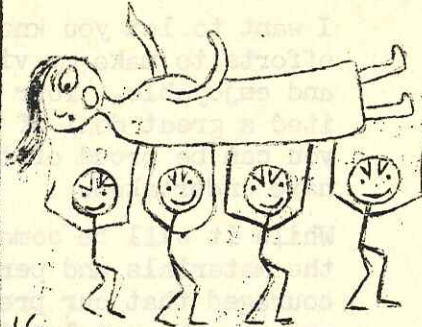
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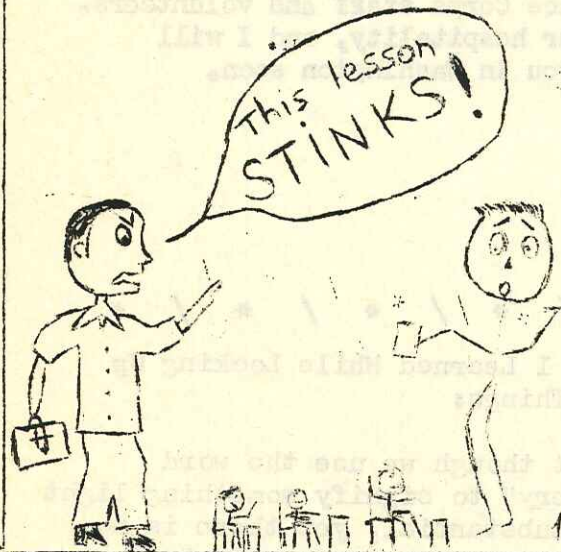


15

Hey, quit that!
y'all put me down
this INSTANT!

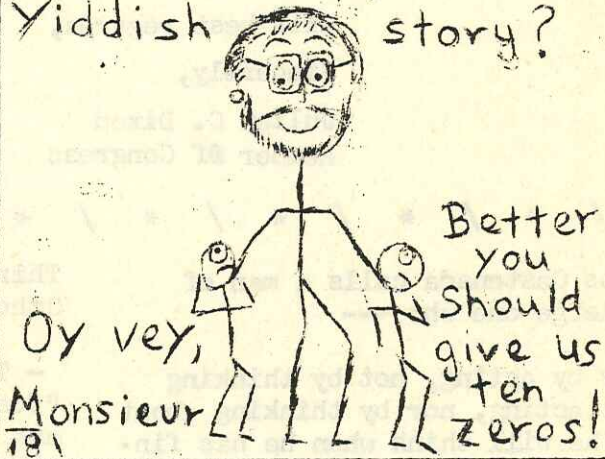


16



17

So? You don't like
your zeros?.. You want
I should tell you a
Yiddish story?



18

- ANSWERS: 1) Mary Beth Tallaferrro; 2) Scott Smith; 3) Nancy Dillon; 4) Jaye Krasnow; 5) Nina Lorch; 6) Earl Bricker; 7) Nancy Olinger; 8) Tom Donaker; 9) Mary Pat Champagne; 10) Mary Jo Cashel; 11) Angela Williams; 12) Charmie Hamilton; 13) Mary Robinson; 14) Pam Skinner; 15) Eileen Peca; 16) Kristie Martin; 17) Joel Mayer; 18) Monty Fusco.
- 16-18 right - You must be Jerry Brown.
12-15 right - You write a lot of in-country people.
9-11 right - Good guessing for a Forester.

Yawale



The compulsion to take ourselves seriously is in inverse proportion to our creative capacity. When the creative flow dries up, all we have left is our importance.

- Eric Hoffer



January 30, 1980

Ms. Phyllis Dichter
Peace Corps Director - Niger
c/o American Embassy
Niamey, Niger

Dear Phyllis,

I want to let you know how much I appreciated your efforts to make my visit to Niger both productive and enjoyable. Your Peace Corps Volunteers exhibited a great deal of commitment and maturity, and you can be proud of the quality programs which you have undertaken.

While it will be some time before I absorb all of the materials and personal observations, I am encouraged that our presence is making a real difference to the people of the Sahel.

Finally, my staff and I greatly enjoyed the evening we spent at your home, and the opportunity to talk informally with both Peace Corps staff and volunteers. Again, thank you for your hospitality, and I will look forward to seeing you in Washington soon.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Julian C. Dixon
Member of Congress

* / * / * / * / * / * / * / * / *

Carlos Castenada calls a man of knowledge one who ---

Lives by acting, not by thinking about acting, nor by thinking about what he will think when he has finished acting . . . He knows that his life will be over altogether too soon; he knows, because he sees, that nothing is more important than anything else. . . Thus a man of knowledge sweats and puffs and if one looks at him he is just like any ordinary man, except that the folly of his life is under control. Nothing being more important than anything else, a man of knowledge chooses any act, and acts it out as if it mattered to him. His controlled folly makes him say that what he does matters and makes him act as if it did, and yet he knows that it doesn't; so when he fulfills his acts he retreats in peace, and whether his acts were good or bad, or worked or didn't, is in no way any part of his concern.

A Separate Reality: Further Conversations with Don Juan

Things I Learned While Looking Up Other Things:

- That though we use the word "feathery" to signify something light and insubstantial, yet there is no stronger substance of equivalent size and weight in nature than a bird's feather.

- That rail transportation in modern Japan accounts for nearly 50 percent of all passenger miles; in the U.S., it is only 1 percent.

- That when a memory is retrieved by electrical stimulation of that part of the brain, the emotion that accompanied it returns at the same time, so that the subject not only recalls the forgotten event but actually relives the same emotional impact it had at that time.

- That Arabic is spoken over a territory that is larger than the area inhabited by the speakers of any other single language.

- Sydney J. Harris -

AND YET MORE NOTES FROM NIAMEY.....

Niamey Notes will be short this month but at least it is. And due to the fuel crisis there'll be no asterisks this time. You'll have to find the jokes yourself!

This has been a busy month for Peace Corps with staff and frigos travelling all around the country. Hopefully whatever it is Santa did not get to you, Peace Corps did. (Except of course what the men of Kao asked for). If you still don't have a frigo or stove, let Emmanuel know.

Peace Corps swore in 11 new volunteers on February 15. So welcome aboard to John of Parc W, Debbie of Tillaéri, Dana, Jay and Roy of Maradi and points beyond, Karen of Diffa, Barbara of Bosso, Linda of Tahoua, Joli of Agadez, Betsy of Téra and Susan of N'Guigmi. We wish you best of luck and though we're sorry you're not brightening up Niamey, we're glad to see you at your posts.

My tournée to Maradi and Tahoua was terrific. I was once again impressed by the great work and dedication of our volunteers. And also by the great meals and good times. A special award goes to the volunteer from the Summer '79 group who was asked by the Fura Lady in the market to translate my Hausa into decent Hausa! Chapeau! For those who want to know, Guidan Rounji makes great pizza. So does Bouza and Tahoua and the spaghetti sauce in Kao was out of sight! (I'm planning a Gourmet's Guide to Niger for the new PCD!) I plan to do one more tournée to Zinder and Diffa in mid-March. I look forward to seeing the rest of you then.

We have a new APCD for Agriculture. John R. Kandel has been named. He served as a PCV from April '71 through July '73 and again from April '74 to September '77 in Upper Volta. He worked first as an agriculturist extension agent in Mali and then organized 4-H Clubs in Upper Volta. His second time around he did two years, May '74 to July '76 in Santa Lucia in the West Indies organizing 4-H Clubs and again in Upper Volta as a PCV from August '76 to October '77. Since Peace Corps, John has worked for Lutheran World Relief, the Department of Agriculture and private industry.

John should be arriving in Niger around April 1st and at that time Elizabeth will turn over the Ag programs to John. Elizabeth will be APCD for Rural Development and will be responsible for the volunteers in Forestry, Fisheries and UNCC. She will also spearhead our efforts in Women in Development. John will be responsible for INRAN, Ag Survey, Pest Control and Range Management. We also hope to be involved in a feeder lot program that John will direct.

So Sannu da Zuwa to John.

The forestry vols returned from the Forestry Conference in Ouagadougou and the news thus far is that the conference was a success. Next on the list of in-service trainings is UNCC. They'll be meeting in Niamey and will have an additional week of language training.

I will be leaving at the end of April. So far no replacement has been named but hopefully one will be before I leave. If not, Mamoudou Issa will be acting Director.

Finally as the sun gets stronger, the days longer and the nights warmer, I wish you all a cool hot season and leave you with this terrific recipe given me by the former (?) CE editor:

Take one banana.

Peel it.

Put it in a plastic bag in the freezer (the banana that is).

Let freeze overnight.

It tastes just like banana ice cream.

Phyllis Sichter

R
Corps de la Paix des Etats-Unis

United States Peace Corps

B.P. 10537
Niamey, Niger

TO: All Niger PCV's
FROM: Phyllis Dichter/Director
SUBJECT: Release of Richard Starr, Columbian PCV, from Captivity

Richard Celeste announced the release of PCV Richard Starr in this telegram:

"I am happy to announce the release of PCV Richard Starr. Almost three years to the day - February 14, 1977 - when he was taken captive by FARC - The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia. The release of Mr. Starr was privately arranged by his mother, Mrs. Charlotte Jensen, of Edmonds, Washington, with the assistance of nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

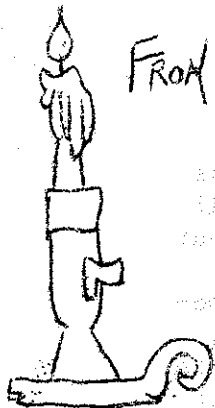
Starr is reportedly in good condition. He is being medevaced to Washington where he will enter the hospital for tests.

Over the past three years, the Peace Corps and State Department have kept in contact with Columbian authorities and the American Embassy in Bogota in seeking the safe release of PCV Starr and have followed closely Mrs. Jensen's efforts to arrange her son's release. However, in keeping with U.S. and Peace Corps policy, there was no government intervention or participation in the privately conducted negotiations. It has not been, nor is it now, Peace Corps policy to concede to terrorists demands. Peace Corps can not confirm or elaborate upon the ransom stories carried in the press, since the mechanisms of Starr's release were undertaken on a completely private basis by Mrs. Jensen and representatives of columnist Jack Anderson.

Mr. Starr was working as a botanist in La Macarena, Columbia, at the time of his abduction when FARC conducted a large scale guerilla attack on the isolated town. He was captured in a general roundup of hostages and was not, repeat not, a target of the FARC.

In joining the Peace Corps, Richard Starr demonstrated his desire to be of service to the people of Columbia. During the three years of his captivity, he exhibited patience, endurance and Hope. These qualities sustained him during his ordeal and reflect the strength of his character.

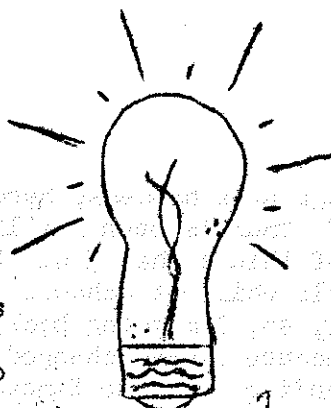
I know you - and PCVs throughout the world - join us in welcoming Richard Starr home."



FROM EN BROUSSE

We're back, this time with letters written expressly for this page. At last, some forward-looking people, someone who realizes our intentions are not to embarrass, but to inspire; not to divulge, but to share. Oh happy day - read on and know that your personal story of life in

(name of your post) could be on these pages, next issue, for only the price of postage. Don't reject us out of hand, keep that open mind we PCV's are so famous for.



FROM EN VILLE

Dear Earl,

Do you recall the workshop which was held in your fair city not 3 weeks ago? Well, dutifully, I attended the various and sundry meetings (which is more than I can say for my peers when it comes to the indispensable topic of V.A.'s) with a particular interest in 3e lesson plans as my class pesters me constantly with questions like, "Miss, about the grammar - where's the point?" Having sat through two hours of intriguing, tho somewhat pedantic, histoires, each beginning, "what I do is..." I was rewarded with a virtual bibliotheque of information, mimeographed and stapled. That printed treasure is now resting uselessly somewhere about the premises - chez toi! If you have a stamp to spare, could you send it on down to Miss Mary? Her adoring 3e's are getting a bit bored with one slot transformation drills and jazz chants (sorry about that Mary Beth). Also, tho I searched and searched, my SalSoul disco Christmas carols tape mysteriously disappeared! Could it be you have taken some perverse liking to this musical misfit and have relegated it to the Earl Bricker collection of tapes which would make Gloria Gaynor drool and Cole Porter turn in his grave?

Electricity has come to Matamaye. Therefore, there is a new form of excitement about the town. Under each and every light in the street, one will note 40 or 50 Matamayans, ranging in age from 4 to 90, hanging out, staring at the light, looking extremely developed - sometimes even progressive. Yes, the Little House on the Prairie days have come to an abrupt halt. Tho I think I shall remain GE-less, a holdout for tradition and a living commentary on the evils of working frigos, my cohort in crime has already indulged. The primrose path - will they ever see the thorns?

Well, it was surely nice chatting with you. Doubtless we shall see you soon. I am a city kid, I admit it. The thought of your custard and gin & tonics at the Hotel Central is enough to make taxi brousse look warm and appealing. Until then - keep the troops in line, the fort under control and the dishes washed.

love, Mary Pat

Dear Earl,

This is the old Sark coming out of retirement to throw a bit of wit or s___y'all's way. As I round third and head for home, it's becoming more and more obvious that although I've accomplished some of the goals which I initially set, I would have to spend the rest of my life here to accomplish others. And then, maybe I'd never achieve them. So one must realize this limitation, continue and move on.

When I came over my eyes were wide open, my expectations were limitless, and having the bare amount of knowledge of these parts, I was a dry sponge looking for water. Well, I only wish I were a bigger one so I could soak up more.

But now as the thoughts of home, mountains, trees, Mom, ham and apple pie infiltrate my mind, I've realized that that place I've affectionately called "home" is as mysterious (or could be) as Niger was when I came.

Things have happened here to me, and I know the same is true back "home." There's been gas line wars, nuclear power struggles and all sorts of things that I hid from while I was supposedly learning about the world while at school.

Well, so, I'm going back, back to a place that I've never been before because I have changed and it has too. As John Stewart sings, "You can't go back to Kansas for that was yesterday." So, I'm heading toward a whole new experience, another challenge. One probably much harder than the one I faced over here, but I know I'll make it, I'll survive because I am here right now.

So, ole buddy, the Sark will go back into retirement again. Just wanted you to know that I'm still around "en brousse", watching and listening and learning.

Sarkin Daji

Dear Earl,

Since there's so much talk of the conveniences of PC life en ville as opposed to en brousse, I feel it's necessary to address this issue from my point of view. Let the readers hear about the pluses of life en brousse.

I think Bouza is an up-and-coming village with lots to offer and potential to boot. For instance, our dispensaire has a more than adequate supply of aspirin and piqures - and the people tell me that the piqures are a cure for ANYTHING! Got a cold, get a piqure - hangnail, piqure. (Can't find that in the good ole U.S.) And the PTT uses the latest equipment available in providing a service geared towards maximum efficiency. For example, a hand calculator for computing those complicated problems such as 4 stamps times 100 francs equals 400 francs. And you can even use it to figure out how change to give back from a 500. Although there's only one telephone in town, it works MORE than half the time. And I can't say enough about those mail-sorters who get my mail to me faithfully (sometimes) twice a week.

With all my spare time I've been able to stimulate myself intellectually (yes, only intellectually, which brings to mind one disadvantage). Those books I've been putting off for years like You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown and Webster's Complete Unabridged are now only a memory. And I'm also learning to write some Arabic. So far I know NIDO and NESCAFE -- next week I'm going to learn Quaker Oats. I can't talk about the advantages of life en brousse without mentioning that extra closeness we are able to have with the people. They're so friendly and like me so much that whenever they come over (often) they always ask me for something (usually CFA) which will remind them of me. And they feel so comfortable with me that they aren't too shy to ask for a loan -- a real crossing of cultural barriers.

Don't get the wrong idea, Earl. This isn't a utopia. I was quite disappointed to find upon arrival that there was no tennis court in town. Immediately, I began the search for funds to correct the situation, only to find that the Help Your Village Fund does not regard a tennis court as a basic human need. What could be more basic than that dream of appearing on Centre Court before thousands of worshipping admirers in the finals at Wimbledon. Come one, Phyllis, YOU should understand.

And the market isn't that great either. I mean... you can't even find alligator shirts. And even worse, babbu Grand Flag! (Does this make me ineligible for the Grand Flag Profile?)

Well, Earl, when you get a chance, bring the fraternity over for a visit. I live next door to the gidan mata - we could stage a panty raid. Sounds tempting, huh? Also, I'm dying to try my new recipe for sauce - with real, fresh tomatoes. Please bring the tomatoes.

Hope to see you soon, Scott

P.S. - I'm in favor of an across the board raise for Niger PCV's - that means en ville and en brousse. After all, it could mean the difference between flying and overland travel for my summer vacation.

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

This is mainly potpourri of general information concerning potential organizations that may cater to the kind of international jobs that you as a PCV may want. As the US economy remains shaky, it may be more tempting for some to score a job in the environment of the developing world. So thanks to a "little help from friends", notably PC/Malaysia's newsletter, Pokok Pokok, listed below are a few organizations that may require skills that a PCV like you may have.

International Organizations and Job Contacts:

ACCION/AITEC, 10-C Mt. Auburn, Cambridge, MA 02172
AESULAPIAN INTERNATIONAL, PO Box 1319, Santa Barbara, CA. 93102
AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, 1201 Conn. Ave, N.W. Washington D.C., 20036
AFRICARE, INC., 1601 Conn. Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009
contact: Ann McDermott
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, 1707 "L" St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20036
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, 48 Wilton Rd., West Port, Conn. 06680
COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF USA, 1828 "L" St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, 1776 "F" St., Washington D.C. 20437
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT, 924 West End Ave., New York, NY 10025
TRANSCENTURY CORPORATION, 1789 Columbia Rd., N.W., Washington D.C. 20009; contact: Ms. Shashi Gupta, Director of Recruitment
TECHNOSERVE, INC., 36 Old Kings Hwy, South Darren, CN 06820
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INTERN PROGRAM, AID, Washington D.C. 20523
contact: Edwin W. Elliott, Office of Personnel and Training
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; contact: Susan Karp
PARTNERSHIP IN PRODUCTIVITY, 2311 18th St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009; contact: Barbara Campbell
PROJECT HOPE, 2233 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20007; contact: Lila Suna
CUNA GLOBAL PROJECTS, 1120 19th St., N.W., Suite 404, Washington D.C. 20036

THE POPULATION COUNCIL, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017; contact: Dr. George Brown, Director, International Programs
CONSORTIUM FOR COMMUNITY SELF HELP, 1200 18th St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036; contact: Maurice Atkin or Aviva Meyer
OIC INTERNATIONAL, 240 West Tulpehocken St., Philadelphia, PA 19144; contact: Debbie Parker
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, Palais de Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland
PACT, INC., 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100, Rome, Italy
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 33 Hill St., London W1A 3AR
ACTION/PC, Office of Programming and Training, Talent Bank, Room M-701, ACTION/PC, Washington D.C. 20525; contact: Joan Ambre
LOUIS BERGER, INTERNATIONAL, 1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036; Ag development, contact: Harold Kurzmam
SECID, Office of Training, 400 Eastowner Drive, Suite 207, Chapel Hill, NC 27514; talent bank for overseas jobs
ONYX CORPORATION, Suite 502, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20014; rural development, contact: Daniel Wright
MASI, 1725 K St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20006; ag development, contact: Ann Bowman

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian organization providing technical assistance in agriculture, cooperative/small business development, health and nutrition, education, engineering and related fields, in Third World countries. Founded in 1953, IVS is a political organization whose multinational corps of volunteers (app. 125) includes technicians, directors and specialists. IVS personnel are currently working in Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Ecuador, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Mauritania, the Sudan and Yemen. Because most IVS positions require previous overseas experience, it is particularly interested in hearing from former PCV's. Write to: Connie Higginbotham, Recruitment Coordinator, International Voluntary Services, Inc., 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036

M A L A R I A

A train is rumbling
In my delirious brain.
Boiling blood is rushing
Through my feverish veins.

The sweat of a thousand fears
A thousand embarrassments
Soak my bed and clothes.
Shivering chills and throbbing aches
Cramp my muscles and bones
Like frostbite from Arctic snows.

And then it stops. The air is still.
I wait, weakened, limp and ill.
I attempt to rest, long for sleep
But find I'm only sleeping
Sleeplessly.

The room is quiet, the shadows serene.
My lamp burns silently and relaxed.
My surroundings and thoughts are
peaceful and pleasant -

Until the next attack.

- John Lemon, Tahoua

N I G H T T H O U G H T S

Night comes.
The day's work is done.
I sit at home,
All alone,
Just myself,
And think
Sometimes it's
Something,
Somewhere,
Someone special.

Now and then it's
Nothing
Nowhere
No one
In particular.

- John Lemon

* * * * *

"Le je ne sais quoi"

Derrière de moi

je me sens une ardeur

que me suit

avec son esprit

Brûlant

En arrière

je regarde

Mais je vois que

le visage de la lune

les ombres de la nuit

les images de nous

Embrassé

parmi les étoiles

La passion

tu m'as donné

Le je ne sais quoi

quand tu me touches

comme ça . . .

- Phyllis Goldstein,
Gaya

* * * * *

I F M A N W E R E G O D

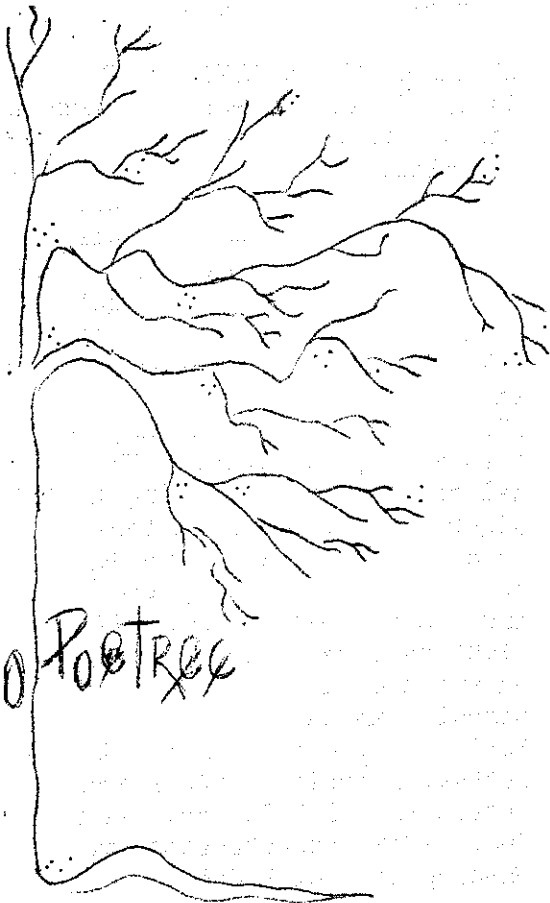
If man were God,
He count the stars
Up in the sky.
Talk to the wind
As it rushes by.

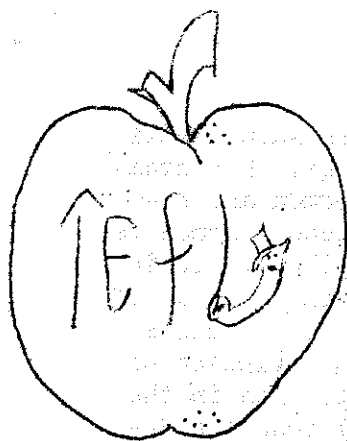
Drink the milk
From the Milky Way,
Travel the Universe
In a day.

Touch the man in the moon
And make him smile,
Teach the thunder
To be meek and mild.

If man were God
He could with a sigh
Kiss the wings of a butterfly,
Tell the truth and never lie,
Believe in himself
And never ask why.

- John Lemon, Tahoua





No, don't turn the page yet. I know, it's another of those useless self-evaluation activities which nobody does, but just try it. C'mon, you never know what you might be missing if you'd just try it.

This one is called Truth and Consequences. What it is intended to do is to help the teacher begin to look at his/her actions in light of their consequences. As a teacher begins to do this, he/she will no longer blame bad lessons on the sun, moon and the stars. The teacher will be able to examine exactly what he/she did which caused certain behavior on the part of the students.

This time the directions are the following: don't finish the sentences, based on past experience. Go into class and try the different teacher behavior, and then see how the students react. If they react favorably, then you continue with that behavior. If they react unfavorably (in your opinion), then discontinue it. In this way the teacher becomes an experimenter and instead of blaming poor lessons on nature or taking it as a personal affront, the teacher will be able to say, "Well, that didn't work. Try something else tomorrow and see how that works."

What do the students do when

1. I walk into class?
2. I say good morning?
3. I ask them to put their notebooks in their desks?
4. I show them a picture?
5. I have them repeat a minimal pair drill?
6. I use a flashcard with a word written on it?
7. I use a flashcard with a stick figure drawn on it?
8. I give a verbal cue?
9. I ask them a yes-no question?
10. I ask them to repeat a sentence?
11. I ask them to ask someone else a question?
12. I ask them a what-where-when content question?
13. I ask them a why inference question?
14. I ask them a question where they have to draw on their own experience to answer?
15. I have them read silently?
16. I have them read aloud, chorally?
17. I have them read aloud, individually?
18. I have them do read and look up?
19. I act out a word in front of the class? (lots of gestures)
20. They role-play a dialogue?
21. They have to memorize a dialogue?
22. They have to memorize a verbal clue accompanied by gestures?
23. They have to memorize a verbal cue accompanied by a picture?
24. They have to copy?
25. I speak French?
26. I ask a student to leave the class?
27. I leave the class?
28. Another teacher enters the class?
29. I ask one student to correct another?
30. I correct a student?
31. I help a student to correct himself?

(thanks again to the
TEFL Editor of the
old Gabon Gab)

* * * * *

GROUP WORK: Writing exercises, debates and working with "Action Posters" are only a few of the possibilities. Students enjoy working in groups, and it gives them an opportunity to perfect the conversational skills which are important to some students especially.

Action Posters: It is possible to find or make large posters which detail groups of figures involved in various, well-defined activities. For example, a "village life" poster may show a scene in which fishermen are returning with their catch in one corner, while in the foreground a woman is arguing with a merchant over the price of his soap, a football game is in progress on the left, and a rowdy group is drinking beer on the right. If your poster contains enough separate activities, you can divide the class into the same number of groups and have each group write a description of the activity assigned to it. Designate one of the weaker students in the group as the "chef". He/she will be responsible for writing down the descriptions that the group as a whole comes up with. The teacher can then circulate from group to group spouting "Speak English!" when appropriate (always) and offering encouragement and assistance. Carry a good French-English dictionary with you. If a student doesn't know a word for something, and no one else in the group or class can supply it, have him or her look it up in the dictionary. At the end of the allotted time period the "chefs" can read the groups' descriptions of their assigned area of the poster. The most important of the new vocabulary words which crop up should be put on the blackboard, and the person who looked it up can then explain its meaning to the rest of the class (in English if possible).

Once the students are good at describing what they see, they are ready to move on to a more sophisticated version of this exercise. Choose a poster with a central theme - hunting or basket weaving, for example. This is a simple poster and the object is to create a story around the activity shown in it. If you encourage wild imaginations, inventiveness, and a sense of the absurd, eight groups could conceivably produce eight remarkably different stories - (Fati is making a "basket-trap" because Ananse has been stealing her corn and she wants to catch that clever spider once and for all...). Again, the most important or meaningful vocabulary words discovered by each group should be shared by all and incorporated into future lessons whenever possible.

Debates: The major ingredient for a successful debate is the choice of an interesting and relevant topic, usually one which lends itself to a great deal of disagreement. Generally, debates should come at the culmination of a set of lessons or a sub-theme. If the class has been studying texts dealing with traditional medicine versus modern medicine, then an enjoyable way to round out the week is to hold a debate on the subject. Half the groups should be arguing "for" the statement put up on the board (for example: People who see doctors when ill are healthier than those who see fetishers.), and half against. As in all types of group work sessions, the teacher should not be content with reading a Newsweek or Jeune Afrique in the back of the class, but should be actively encouraging the students, creating enthusiasm if need be, and noting particularly stirring arguments with effusive compliments when appropriate (always). Once the students become used to the format of the debate, the teacher will find that he or she has to do but a minimal amount of talking in front of the class.

These are only a few suggestions on the types of group work which are possible. Student written dialogues, whether done by them individually or in groups; are also enjoyable, especially if performed for the rest of the class. This is true as well for skits or mime productions (in which one student reads a text written by members of his group while the others act it out silently) and anything else you can come up with. The object to be attained is the full and willing participation by all students in all activities. Don't accept less, and demonstrate by your own excitement and enthusiasm what you want from your students in return. There is little worse than a lame and uninspired group exercise: it is your job to see that interest levels will remain high. With an imaginative mind and a firm control in a seemingly uncontrolled situation, this should not pose you much of a problem.

(taken from L'Anglais Dans le Premier Cycle, Supplementary Edition for the Troisième level, TEFL - PC/Central African Republic)

Here are some poems you can do in 6e and 5e - jazz chants? Make visual aids to illustrate them, or, as an art project, have the students do it.

POTS

Black pots, brown pots, On the veranda near his room,
Made out of clay. Adou sits at a wooden loom,
Big pots, small pots, And weaves with brightly colored thread
Made in a day. cloth of yellow, blue and red.

The WeaverAbu Bukari, the Vendor

Abu Bukari, day by day,
Sits in the shade behind his tray.
Abu Bukari, I know very well,
Has many fine things that he wants to sell.
Abu Bukari, in his white gown,
Is very well-known throughout the town.
Abu Bukari, at close of day,
Puts on his sandals and goes away.

DANCING

I'm happy as a king
When I dance and when I sing.
I move my feet
To the drum's quick beat.
I stamp and sway
As the drummers play,
And I laugh aloud
And join the crowd.
For I'm as happy as a king
When I dance and when I sing.

TAHOUA REPORT: INDRAP TEACHING CONFERENCE

It's been so long since I've written anything except six-point lesson plans and letters to home that I was momentarily at a loss for a salutation other than "Good morning, class," or "Dear Mom," I've just returned from a four-day stay in Tahoua where Scott Smith, Nancy Olinger and I attended an INDRAP sponsored stage for English teachers from the Tahoua department, Agadex and Arlit. Since other TEFLers may be invited to similar conferences in their departments, and since I'm desperately trying to find ways to avoid getting back to work today, I thought I'd submit a brief report for your edification and my amusement.

The conference began on Tuesday, January 22, on an inauspicious note. The stagiaires, already disconsolate about lost classroom time at their respective CEG's, and harried by tortuous taxi brousse rides, assembled at the Tahoua CEG and pessimistically debated whether INDRAP had made provisions for their food and lodging. Any notions of a wildcat strike were squashed upon the arrival of Messieurs Salifou Galadi and Bill Candler from INDRAP. We were assured that not only would transportation costs be paid and a case de passage secured, but that all would receive a generous daily allowance of 6000CFA, the maximum allowed under government regulations. Anyone who has stayed at the Fitzgerald mansion in Tahoua knows that 600 CFA won't even buy you breakfast, but Scott and I were impressed by their sincerity and therefore did not refuse our hand-outs.

The conference unfolded in a smooth and orderly fashion over the next three days. Each day was presided over by one of the three staff members, the aforementioned two and our own Mary Lou Haag. Mr. Candler opened the discussion of the English "Programme" in Niger. He was dismayed that we were not familiar with the INDRAP publications "Anglais Programme, 6e et 5e," and "Anglais Programme, 4e et 3e," which outline the material INDRAP wants emphasized in the CEG. He urged us to review these publications. Since the INDRAP program is more streamlined than the Mills Program, teachers can speed their progress by concentrating on "essential grammar" and de-emphasizing the rest.

Mr. Candler was particularly concerned with unshackling us from our texts and varying our presen-

tation techniques. To this end he showed us BBC films of model teachers in Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Singapore. While we all impressed by the quality of teaching demonstrated, consensus among stagiaires was that, unhappily, the techniques witnessed were not readily adaptable to Niger. Most of the films dealt with small classes of primary school-aged children in countries where English is the official language. Work in science, geography and even home economics was carried over into the English classroom, where the language was put to practical use. In one segment, e.g., girls studied the parts and design of a gas stove, and then used an English grammar structure to describe the purpose of each part in the assembly and use of the stove. Quite rightly, Mr. Candler wanted us to see how using language in a practical non-textbook situation could stimulate student interest and motivation. The stagiaires could not help but object, however, that even using gas stoves, it is a lot easier to "sell" the practicality of English in an English-speaking country than it is in a French-speaking one.

Mr. Candler, who hails from a small island somewhere off the coast of France, showed himself repeatedly to be a master of the euphemism, describing stagiaire model lessons as "very interesting," or "certainly a very gallant attempt." His trenchant wit was heartily appreciated by some and completely missed by most.

For a foreigner, he seems to have mastered the English language reasonably well, although his unnatural native accent makes him bloody difficult to understand at times. No doubt, with continued exposure to Americans, he'll refine his accent and speaking skills, and one day may even be invited to participate in a Peace Corps stage.

The highlight of the second day, and perhaps the entire stage, was a very interesting presentation by a certain Mr. Cheeze, a 5-year veteran from Illéla. During the first day and a half we all profited abundantly from Mr. Cheeze's abundant experience which he was only too willing to share. He was generous to the point of being lavish with his criticism. In his munificence he overlooked no one. On Tuesday he gratuitously commandeered a Nancy Olinger class and tweaked some student ears for her. In group workshops he literally frothed with confident advice, though he insisted

on delegating the honor of presenting the group's work to a "less-experienced" teacher (who had more to profit from his mistakes).

On Thursday, Mr. Cheeze's group had been assigned the task of demonstrating "ways a teacher can vary his rewards." After putting in his two cents worth and assigning the presentation to me, Mr. Cheeze showed little interest in the group's work. All week, however, there had been a growing clamor for Mr. Cheeze to take the podium. When Group I was finally called to report, the stagiaires would have nothing to do with me - they wanted Cheeze.

After frantically conferring with me and Mr. Galadi over the presentation that he'd dismissed as sophomoric minutes earlier, the portly smiling Mr. Cheeze reluctantly took the stage. The stagiaires, many still smarting from Cheeze's earlier criticism, looked on excitedly, sensing that sweet revenge was imminent. They were not disappointed. Mr. Cheeze chose a one-syllable vocabulary word for a pronunciation exercise. We thought the word was either "bed" or "bad," though we later learned it was "bird." In any case, no matter how we repeated the word, Mr. Cheeze rewarded us by saying, "That's right, that's right." After eight or ten repetitions, Mr. Cheeze headed for his seat, but the stagiaires, their palms itching, clamored for more. Mr. Cheeze returned to say that "That's right" was only his preferred method of rewarding students. Obviously warming to the topic of rewards, he expatiated, allowing that using "yes", "OK", and "all right" could be equally effective, and were good ways of varying rewards. After his thorough roasting and basting our "mentor" became a much more conciliatory fellow, and we heard hardly a peep out of him the rest of the time.

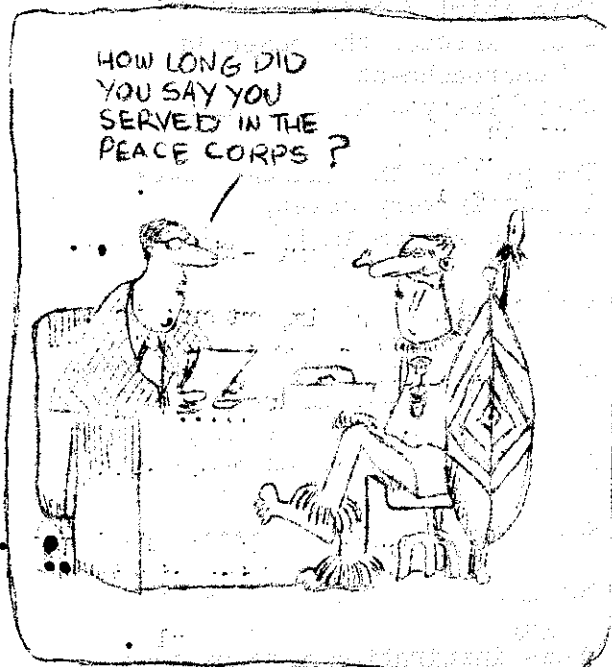
On Friday, Mary Lou Haag did us proud with a talk about "integrated lesson plans" and a textbook perfect model lesson in a 3e class. I refuse to say anything more about it because she got pretty swell-headed about it anyway, and besides, people would say I was just trying to butter her up because she's my conseiller pédagogique.

In all seriousness, I think INDRAP should be commended for organizing stages to improve the quality of English teaching in Niger. Though

I've criticized some aspects of the stage, a workman-like atmosphere prevailed and meetings invariably ran over time because of stagiaire's questions and discussion. I came away from Tahoua more appreciative of the technical training provided us by Peace Corps, and more sympathetic to the problems faced by foreign English teachers who aren't native speakers of English. Their job is much harder than ours.

Voice of Madaous,
signing off. . .

& & & & & & &



the day the dopes came over

by Steve Martin

I was sitting at home, peering through the blinds at my neighbor's wife, minding my own business, when my doorbell rang. "Who's there?" I shouted. "We don't know," came the reply. I immediately knew that the dopes had come over.

I opened the door and invited them in. I was happy to have company even if they were a bunch of dopes.

"Well, what brings you over this way?" I queried.

"Yup."

"Yup."

"Yup."

"Yup," they said.

"Would you like some coffee?"

I asked.

"Gol," said one dope, "how long have we been here?"

"About two minutes."

"Gol, we should have left hours ago!" And they packed up some of my things and lumbered out.

"Goodbye Dopes!" I shouted.

They turned to me and shouted back, "Goodbye, you big idiot!"

Jung on Religion

. . . . As may be seen, I attribute a positive value to all religions. In their symbolism I recognize those figures which I have met with in the dreams and fantasies of my patients. In their moral teachings I see efforts that are the same as or similar to those made by patients, when, guided by their own insight or inspiration, they seek the right way of dealing with the forces of the inner life. Ceremonial, ritual, initiation rites and ascetic practices, in all their forms and variations, interest me profoundly as so many techniques for bringing about a proper relation to these forces. I likewise attribute a positive value to biology, and to the empiricism of natural science in general, in which I see a herculean attempt to understand the human psyche by approaching it from the outer world. I regard the gnostic religions as an equally prodigious undertaking in the opposite direction: as an attempt to draw knowledge of the cosmos from within. In my picture of the world there is a vast outer realm and an equally vast inner realm; between these two stands man, facing now one and now the other, and, according to his mood or disposition, taking the one for absolute truth by denying or sacrificing the other. . .

from "Modern Man in Search of a Soul."

THE GREENING OF THE DESERT:
AS OBSERVED THROUGH SPORTS

Est-ce qu'Ecole Magama ici
I shout in the setting sun,
And from the dusty terrain there comes
"Good morning, muna nan."

J'ai pensé que that's not so bad,
Ils m'ont compris bien,
But when I asked for dix élèves,
There venu that shout again:

"Good morning, teacher, muna nan.
Nous sommes Ecole Magama."
My stomach aches as I say to them,
"Bien sûr, sannu da ranna."

"Now you there, in the grand boubo,
Vous êtes trop grand to be
In an école primaire en ville.
You must be forty-three."

Now this program's for basketball,
J'ai dit in poor français,
And the 17 guys with wire trucks
Will have to drive away.

The même chose for the donkey
Qui a peté in the breeze,
You probably would have made the team
Had you not made me wheeze....

My stomach turns, j'ai mal à la tête,
I think I could have cried,
Jusqu'à amidst the chaos
A little boy I spied.

Now there he was, just standing there,
Peut-être 2 feet tall,
And the tricot he was wearing
Made my presence worth it all.

The tricot was a classic,
An ecological statement it made.
And the pressures stored within me
Immediately did fade.

You've seen the shirts in les
marchés,

Petite, medium and very big,
With Mickey Mouse, Spiderman
And "Hampden Little League."

But this shirt was quite special
In lieu of where we are,
And in light of the advancing
desert,

This boy may be a star.

For those of you in forestry
This shirt I think you'd find
Would arrêter the desert's
encroachment
Just like you have in mind.

The power of the Tuaregs' sword
Is surely very great,
But the wisdom in the tricot's
words
Would cause a dune to shake.

And for those sports-minded among
us
These words are important, too,
For without the trees and flower-
ing plants
Whatever would we do.....

But now back again to the little
guy
Whose inspiration made me feel good.
I'd of bought the shirt right off
his back
But I didn't think I should.

It may have been his only one,
Of this I can't be sure,
But I thought that he should keep it
Since his thoughts, I'm sure,
were pure.

Now I guess you all are wondering
Just what his tricot said.
And you need some inspiration
Before you go to bed.

Just remember when you read it
To keep ecology strong in mind,
And for all PCV's in country,
Inspiration you will find.

It didn't say sports of sorts
Comme, "THE REDS WILL WIN WITH SEAVER!"
It simply said, in day-glo orange,
"Save a tree, eat a beaver" . . .

"Dad"

PC Fellows Program Nominations Now Open

from
DICK CELESTE

This will be the third year of the Fellows program. The first group of Fellows, Dennis Bethea (RPCV/Ethiopia), Leri Ames (RPCV/Niger) and Susan Hancks (RPCV/Liberia) were assigned as Associate Peace Corps Directors in Lesotho, the Gambia and Mauritania, respectively. Elizabeth Ernst (RPCV/Upper Volta) has just left for Niger. In the next few months Rebecca Brooks (RPCV/Morocco), Charles Feinstein (RPCV/Micronesia) and John Earhart (RPCV/Guatemala) will complete their training. Sandra Edwards (RPCV/Philippines), Martha Malcolm (RPCV/Korea), Denise Conley (RPCV/Philippines), and Karen Gaskins (RPCV/Sierra Leone) are well into their training. A new group of Fellows will begin training in January, 1980.

It is time now to nominate candidates for next year's program. The purpose of the Fellows program is to identify outstanding Peace Corps Volunteers and to train them for staff assignments. Candidates must have completed their full term of service, shown potential for staff leadership roles and expressed a desire to serve further in the Peace Corps overseas.

We seek those who will aggressively pursue programming in BHN areas, whose flexibility enables the learning of new patterns of life and management, who can be effective in dealing with all levels of co-workers, who have counseling and management abilities.

I urge you to nominate well qualified candidates. The competition is keen. It is my strong hope and expectation that among those nominated there will be a substantial number of women and minority group candidates.

PROGRAM CONTENT

The program involves approximately 12 months of broad based training in

a thorough orientation and in-depth perspective of the function of various as well as the activities and goals of the Peace Corps. Training is followed by a 30 month assignment as an Associate Peace Corps Director. (Assignment after less than 12 months of training requires the approval of the Fellows Committee.)

Each training program is largely designed by the Fellow, based on his/her appraisal of personal strengths and weaknesses, and is accomplished by a combination of community work, on-the-job training, formal short courses and workshops, participation in training programs and specific project assignments. Some of the crucial on-the-job areas of a Fellow's training may include working in Peace Corps Headquarters as:

- Country Desk Officers
- Placement Officers
- Recruitment Specialists
- Training Officers
- Budget Officers
- Special Services Officers
- Programming Officers
- Sectoral Specialists in Office of Programming and Training

as well as brief assignments in offices such as Evaluation, Development Education and Resource Management.

While the Washington assignments are designed primarily to provide a learning experience for Fellows, the participants also make a solid contribution to the offices to which they are assigned. The training program contributes not only to preparing the Fellow for an initial assignment but is varied enough to provide a foundation for continuing professional growth.

Proposed overseas assignments are expected to be made between the fourth and sixth month of training. The Fellows training plan, then, may be adjusted by the Fellow and his/her region of assignment. An actual assignment will be made when the Fellow completes the

The position of a Peace Corps Fellow is a Foreign Service Reserve position at FR 7 grade level (starting salary of \$16,288 per year.) All regulations and privileges applying to Peace Corps employees apply to Fellows.

NOMINATION

We invite one nomination per one hundred Peace Corps Volunteers in-country by each Peace Corps Director. We also invite nominations from the Peace Corps/Washington Senior Staff. All candidates must have successfully completed their two year Peace Corps Volunteer service on or by September 30, 1980, and have non-competitive eligibility at the start of the Fellowship. The Fellowships for the FY 1981 program will be available after October 1, 1980, the beginning of FY 1981.

This year, in order to accommodate those outstanding volunteers who plan to attend graduate school or continue their volunteer service in VISTA or UNV (United Nations Volunteers program) and would not, therefore, be eligible for nomination to the program, we are inviting each country to recommend one such volunteer to a pool of possible candidates for future years. If, on the completion of graduate work or VISTA or UNV service, the recommended RPCV wished to be considered for that year's Fellows program, he/she must so inform the Fellows Committee, in writing, accompanied by a reference from the graduate school or VISTA or UNV supervisor. Peace Corps/Washington nominating offices may then select from the pool candidates who will compete for the Fellowships in the usual way.

The deadline for nominations and recommendations is March 30, 1980.

To ensure the broadest possible input in a Fellow's nomination, the following guidelines are set forth:

- All Peace Corps Volunteers who complete their two year service on or before Sept. 30, 1980, are to receive a copy of this memo.
- Eligible PCVs and RPCVs overseas at the time of the announcement should express in writing to their Country Directors a desire to be considered for the nomination and the reasons why they feel they are qualified.

In all cases, we suggest that a panel of PCVs and RPCVs and Peace Corps staff

should review all applications and make a recommendation to the Country Director or Office Director. This system of selection for nomination has proved most equitable.

SELECTION

The nomination and 171 forms of candidates are reviewed by the director of the Fellows program and/or staff members. The selection process includes an individual interview with Peace Corps staff members, as well as other exercises designed to reveal the potential of the candidates for overseas staff service. Candidates are informed of the results as soon as possible.

Nominated candidates should plan to spend a day in Washington, D.C. Terminating PCVs who have been nominated by their country director should be routed through Washington on their return to the U.S. for the interviews. We are sorry we cannot provide per diem. We hope the returning PCVs can stay with friends when in Washington; otherwise, we will do what we can to find housing for them with Peace Corps/Washington staff.

FELLOWS COMMITTEE

The Fellows program will be guided by the Fellows Committee with representation from each Peace Corps office and Region in Washington and one member from the Fellows in training. The program will be administered by the office of the Peace Corps Director.

We look forward to receiving your nominations for this exciting program.

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There's been a change in D.C., and our rep there is no longer Bob Taylor. Meet Randy Boyer:

graduated from University of Pacific with a concentration in non-Western studies; during college spent a year in Bangalore, India; joined PC right after college and went to Micronesia as a TEFL teacher and teacher trainer; moved to D.C. to begin a master's program in International Administration & fell into PC administration; has been a Country Desk Officer since 1978 - CDO for Niger, Mali and Upper Volta. If any volunteers have questions or concerns, drop her a

A River Trip in Mali:

Pertinent Information:

Malian visas - available in the Honorary Malian Consulate-near the Grand Marché. 2500 CFA, 2-3 photos. Good for 7 days and then extendable for 7 day intervals upon arrival in Mali. Visas obtainable on the spot.

Money - 1 CFA = 2 Franc Malian. CFA currency is generally acceptable throughout Mali. No conversion charge.

Photography permits - necessary for each region of Mali. Bring extra photos of yourself. Available at the Commissariat.

Getting there - Air Mali to Gao Friday morning; SNIN to Gao from Niamey one day per week; taxi de brousse to Ayarou and then to Gao.

There are 3 river boats that run on the Niger River between Kelakwa (30 k's from Bamako) and Gao. Their season depends on the height of the river. In general they can leave Kelakwa by mid-August, but the river as far as Gao may not be navigable until mid-September. It all depends on the rains. The latest date to leave Gao heading towards Bamako would probably be early-middle January. The three river boats are the Timbuktoo (brand new), the Soumère (fairly old) and the Mali (the oldest - 1951). I travelled on the Mali which has no system of modern navigation, only 3 pilots who have memorized 1700 k's of the Niger.

There are four classes on the river boat. First Class - 3 meals a day, 2 people to a room. Second Class - 3 meals a day, 4 people to a room. Third Class - on the roof. Fourth Class - down with the cargo. I highly recommend that you travel First or Second Class, especially since it is so cheap. For example, Gao - Mopti costs 12.500 CFA Second Class one way, 15.500 First Class. There is little to do on the boat so it is worthwhile having a bed to lay down on. The food is African, need I say more? Unfortunately there is no bar.

The riverboats are not designed for tourists - which is great. The length of the trip is determined by the amount of time spent loading

and unloading cargo, but in general, Gao-Mopti is 4 days, Gao-Bamako, 6-7 days. I strongly recommend that you get on the boat in Gao since it is the point of departure for the return trip to Bamako, and therefore

you are more likely to find accommodation. You should be prepared to spend 2-3 days in Gao waiting for the boat. Their schedules are irregular, but Gao is not a bad place to hang out and there are some friendly PCV's there. If you get off in Mopti it is worthwhile to try to get out to the Dogon country, though rides are difficult. I know of no way to make reservations for the boat ahead of time.

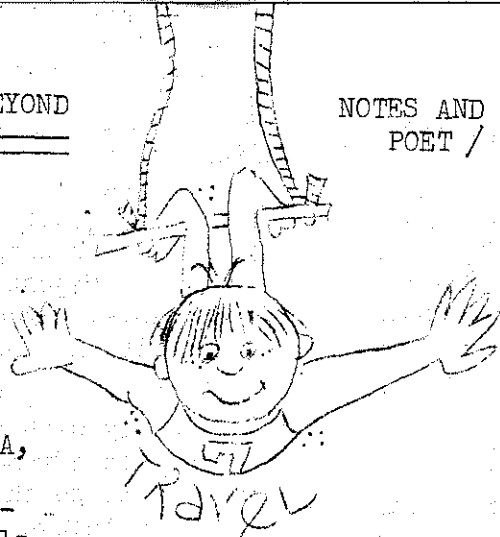
All in all I would say the boat trip was quite interesting. The scenery is very stark, especially up by Timbuktoo, but then we are all used to that in Niger. I did not see as much wildlife as I'd expected - only 5 hippos. I definitely recommend the trip.

* * * & * * *

Climbing Mt. Cameroun:

I shouldn't be writing this because I didn't make it to the top. (Ask Gabe Tucker what the top is like.) My excuse is that I was recovering from a bad case of dysentery. Nonetheless, here is the basic information.

Get to Fouala and then take a taxi de brousse to Buea. Go to the tourist office and arrange for a guide, a requirement, at 3000 CFA a day. Porters are also available, 2000 CFA / day. The general plan is to leave Buea very early the first day and get up to cabin no. 2, sleep the night there, ascend the summit the next morning and return to Buea. Be forewarned that this is no easy climb especially because of the way they built the path - like straight up. Only about 20 0/0 of the people make it to the top. Be sure to take lots of water with you from hut no. 1 and a sleeping bag. Keep in mind that the guides do not really want to go to the top so you basically have to do everything yourself.



When you are in Buea, be certain to check out a fellow named Papa Foncha who runs The Peoples Restaurant. He has known PC since the early 60's and is a fabulous cook and excellent company. Ask him to tell you war stories about when he was fighting with the British army in India and Burma, while you drink a Guinness together.

- Paul Larner,
The Edge of the Desert
Working for Nothing

* * * * & * * * *

Ayarou - Gao by truck, 2000 CFA. In Gao stay at either "Chez Yaiga" or "Chez Toure". "Twist Bar" run by Touareg woman with many pretty daughters. Also a disco in town. Check in with police and obtain a Photo Permit (2 passport photos). During August-January, take the boat to Mopti. Boat stops at Kabara, the port for Tombouctou, for four hours. Cheap good food "Chez Baba Cisse" where you can also stay overnight if you come overland. Cheap Touareg knives and camel skin jewelry boxes. Alternative to boat is by truck from Gao-Mopti, 3500 CFA. Overland via Tombouctou is not practicable during the rainy season although it is probably possible by using pirogues for certain stretches. In Mopti, stay at "Bar Mali", 750-1.000 CFA.

Note - if possible, buy Mopti blankets at the villages the boat stops at before arriving in Mopti. Start bargaining at 4000 MF. They cost twice as much in Mopti.

It is possible to make an interesting side visit to the Dogon country. The government will tell you it is illegal to visit the area on your own (i.e. without taking their guided tour). The cheap way to do it is as follows: First take a baché to Bandiagara. If anyone tries to tell you that you cannot do this, tell them you are visiting the PCV'S there (show your IDs). Cost of taxi, 500 CFA. Spend the night "Chez Mamoudou" which is also the cheapest place to buy beer. From there you can walk to several villages (e.g. Sibi Sibi) or check out the AID people, the Germans or the Missionaries and see if they are visiting the cliff villages. Also, you can take another taxi to Sangha, preferably on market day. There you must take a guide (2000 for Grand Tour) or risk a fine. The cliff villages are fascinating.

Mopti-Bamako by taxi (3000 CFA) or hitch with the numerous tourists. Stay at the Catholic Mission, near the Bar du Mali (try not to stay there). For people feeling rich, the Hotel Majestic, downtown, is reasonable. Excellent market, try and visit the zoo (nice, long walk).

Train to Dakar, travel First Class, preferably with a couchette. Must reserve in advance - try to get someone to do this for you. Swarming with thieves - you should already have a money belt or something. Do not wear a watch with a metal clip-off clasp bracelet (nobody else here knows how to describe it). A plastic bowl will help with eating the food you buy through the window. Dakar - standard Hotels, make sure you visit "Le Bruxelles" ice cream parlor. Buy cheap radios in the market and sell them somewhere else.

To visit Mauritania, land of Sand, Sun and Sand, get a letter from the embassy of your choice saying what a fine upstanding person you are and then find the Mauritanian Embassy. This will give you a taste of what is to come. Dakar-Nouakchott can be done easily in one day. Leave early though. Dakar-Rosso, taxi (2000), at the river take the ferry or a pirogue.

On the Mauritanian side, make sure you declare all your foreign currency on a green form you will get at a little hut near the Police office. This is important. There is no black market for hard currency to speak of. Change 5000 CFA - 1000 UM (uguiya mauritanien). The taxi park is a short walk up the road, but it may be worth taking a horse-drawn charette taxi to Nouakchott (2000). In Nouakchott take a taxi to Peace Corps, or failing that, the Embassy. There are so few visitors that you will inevitably be well-received. Failing all, there are rooms at the Oasis hotel for 3.500 CFA (yes; Mauritania is very expensive).

Although the war has ended, the North of the country is still not open. The East is beautiful but very hard travelling. A possible tour would be Nouakchott-Aleg-Kiffa-Aioun el Atrous then south back to Mali-Nioro du Sahel. If you're heading back to Dakar, try Nouakchott-Aleg-Boghe-Rosso. The great attraction about travelling here is the desert hospitality. You

can go to anyone's house or tent and you will be treated regally. Tea is even more important here, and good.

Check where the PCV's are. They're always pleased to meet people from outside the country.

Things to buy - ebony inlaid silver jewelry (so far in my travels I've seen none to compare, although this can also be bought in Narr Alley in Dakar), decorated leather pillows, trade beads.

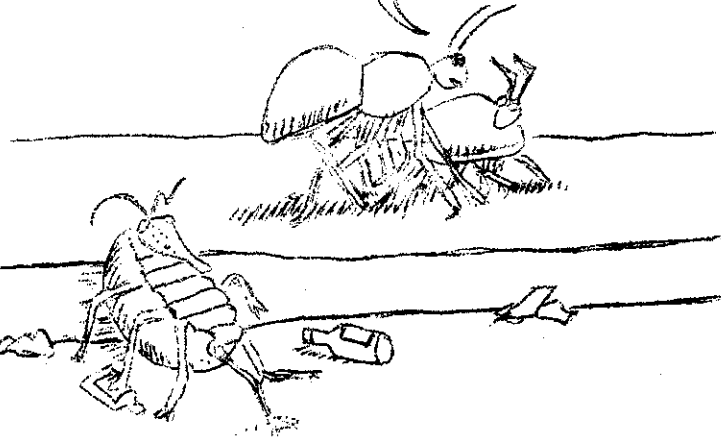
Report to police if you're spending the night. When I left in December there was still a midnight curfew.

Anybody planning a trip up there should drop a line to Peace Corps, s/c Ambassade des Etats Unis, BP 222, Nouakchott, Mauritanie. Tell them Hilary sent you.

- Hilary Gowen,
Honorary PCV,
Mauritania

Bug Wit

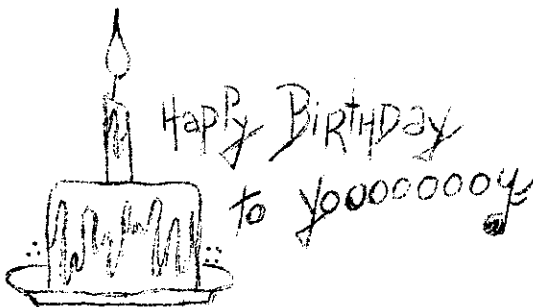
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.....
'CHIGGERS CAN'T BE BOOZERS'



- Kliban

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MARCH: Walter Pickett (1), John Luoma (2), Linda Bonato (3), the Honorable Clarke Blair (3), Steve Reid (5), Mary Kay Fox (5), Glen Groben (7), Margaret Dudney (12), Jaye Krasnow (14), Charmie Hamilton (22), Roy Simpson (24), D. Earl Bricker (don't send anything TOO expensive) (28).

* If ever your name should *
* be here but isn't, don't *
* feel slighted. It's not *
* that we don't like you *
* or don't want people to *
* think of you on your spe- *
* cial day. It's because *
* we basically have only *
* the list of birthdays for *
* those people who have *
* come in an omnibus stage. *
* The smaller groups of *
* health and happiness *

DR. DEMENTO'S TEN WORST SONG TITLES OF ALL TIME

Dr. Demento, a California disc jockey whose show is syndicated to over 600 stations around the world, specializes in tasteless music. Here are his favorite songs, each one worse than the one before.

1. I Scream, You Scream; We All Scream for Ice Cream.
2. They Needed a Songbird in Heaven, SO God Took Caruso Away.
3. Plant a Watermelon On My Grave and Let the Juice Soak Through.
4. If the Man in the Moon Were a Coon.
5. Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go With Friday on Saturday Night?
6. Come After Breakfast, Bring Your Lunch; and Leave Before Suppertime.
7. How Could You Believe Me When I Said I Love When You Know I've Been a Liar All My Life?
8. I've Got Those Wake Up Seven Thirty, Wash Your Ears They're Dirty, Eat Your Eggs and Oatmeal Rush To School Blues.
9. Would You Rather Be a Colonel With an Eagle on Your Shoulder