

El Proyecto MEDP PASA es un convenio entre el AID y el Cuerpo de Paz, a nivel de Washington. Cuerpo de Paz Ecuador, a través del Programa de Pequeños Negocios ha participado en este Proyecto desde hace cuatro años atrás, generalmente la forma operativa es presentar un plan anual del país, el mismo es corregido y aprobado por Washington, en dicho plan es posible incluir valores de actividades que pueden ser financiadas por MEDP.

Como un ejemplo de ello puedo indicar que MEDP nos financió la realización de una Feria Artesanal de Integración Colónbó Ecuatoriana, que se realizó en el sector del Valle del Chota, año 1993. Para el Fiscal Year 1994, nos apoyaron en la ejecución de un proyecto de formación empresarial, mediante el cual logramos capacitar a pequeños empresarios en temas gerenciales, mediante metodologías no tradicionales, como consecuencia de ello se identificó mediante un seguimiento, que el 90% de los microempresarios tuvieron mejoramientos significativos luego de los seis meses posteriores al proyecto.

En los años 1995 y 1996, hemos desarrollado dos Programas, el uno de capacitación empresarial y de proyectos de inversión, con la Federación Nacional de Cámaras de la Pequeña Empresa y el otro de Desarrollo del Producto para los mercados externos, con varias ONGs del país.

Como un elemento de logro en estos programas, hemos elaborado 10 documentos, entre manuales,

libros y videos. Estos han servido para efectos de capacitación y para seguimiento de los Programas por parte de aproximadamente 20 ONGs. Además estos materiales, hemos enviado a cuatro oficinas del Cuerpo de Paz en el exterior. El último enfoque de MEDP consiste en hacer proyectos productivos de tipo integral, es decir entre Programas.

(Editors' Note: The following is only part of the MEDP PASA UPDATE, December-Q1 FY '96. Nelson selected for submission specific sections of the report along with the above summary. To view the report in its entirety, please see Nelson.)

OTAPS Activity Requests for MEDP PASA—All MEDP PASA requests should be included in each country's annual IPBS using the OTAPS Activity Request form within that document. If nothing about activity changes, you don't need to do anything further. If the purpose, projected date or budget needed for a particular request changes significantly, this new information should be sent to OTAPS 90 days before the activity will take place. Similarly, if a country wants to conduct a new activity that wasn't included in the IPBS, the APCD can send in an OTAPS Activity Request Form 90 days before the event is to take place. Please be sure and indicate on any such interim request whether the activity is a new one or is simply re-engineered.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The following excerpts were taken from a handout in the PST Modules.

Businesses Characteristics and Assistance Strategies—Peace Corps' traditional role centers on the delivery of training and technical assistance or consulting to improve internal business operations. However, a closer look at the characteristics of businesses as described below leads one to question whether indiscriminate delivery of the traditional assistance is effective in all cases.

Income Generating Projects—Generally speaking, the largest

number of economic activities in developing economies could be described as income generating projects. Lack of resources to start a more durable enterprise or the absence of wage employment force people to eke out a living with the barest of means. The goal is to generate enough income for physical survival rather than business growth or stability. Activities are also likely to be seasonal and/or part time. Identification of consistent markets, sources for raw materials and quality control tend to be the most common problems. Since the prime motivation is to generate cash, the entrepreneur will be most interested in assistance which has a direct effect on increases in sales or reduced costs in production. Improvements in access to consistent markets or to less costly sources for raw materials will be much more valuable than training or technical assistance to improve internal business operations. Moreover, lack of literacy skills make training in business management or book-keeping methods problematic at best.

Microenterprises—Businesses in this strata tend to be on-going and increasingly stable. More owners view the business as their primary livelihood and prefer it to wage employment. Employees are generally limited to the owner and a few family members. The business is primarily a self-employment strategy for the owner. Value-added and specialization opportunities should be explored within the context of linkages in the market. In this way, horizontally linked niches in saturated markets can be uncovered. Business skills training becomes more relevant as long as it pertains directly to an immediate problem in the business. For example, instead of trying to market ready-made clothes, a tailor could fill a niche by cutting patterns, selling cloth or by providing buttons, zippers, etc. to other tailors. Training could then be offered in costing and pricing or inventory control.

Small Enterprises—Businesses in this category are characterized as stable, on-going concerns focused on

growth, profitability and job creation. Owners have chosen to be "in business" over wage employment. Anywhere from one to 15 employees are common, although this varies among countries. This type of business is a likely candidate for purchasing from microbusinesses or income-generating projects because its demands for quantity and quality are not likely to overwhelm the capacity of the smaller firm. This level of business is more likely to benefit from training and technical assistance related to improving internal business operations.

Large/Medium Enterprises—This level represents the smallest concentration of businesses in developing countries. Businesses are generally more formal, complex and sophisticated. They are more likely to be involved in domestic and international export. Large companies should be approached to determine if they have a list of needed items whose production could be subcontracted out to smaller firms. Medium sized firms should be contacted by smaller businesses for direct sales or for wholesale of less expensive inputs.

Business Linkages
Several people have asked us to demonstrate what is meant by facilitating business linkages. To that end, we have collected several examples described below.

In Ghana, a SBD PCV assisted basket weavers by linking up their association to the *BODY SHOP* in the US. The basket weavers now have a six-month contract to supply the *BODY SHOP* with baskets. Another PCV in Ghana is assisting a local tourist association develop products (baked goods, boxed lunches) and services (guided tours, a beach camp, beach festivals) so the community can tap into the tourist market. In Kenya, *Bata* shoes sought to replace expensive imports of a steel shank for its shoes. It contacted smaller businesses and detailed what they needed. *Bata* now orders thousands of these shanks from small local manufacturers in Kenya.

On a more grand scale, an association of business development organizations in Botswana decided to sponsor a country-wide, week-long focus on small businesses. Since association members had all participated in a Peace Corps hosted subsector analysis workshop, they developed a seminar called *Business Linkages*. At this seminar, big businesses were invited to participate in a panel discussion and present subcontracting opportunities that smaller businesses could take advantage of. The comment from many small business owners was that they had no idea this sort of relationship was possible. Now that they knew, they could identify some areas in which they'd need help.

If you have any examples of similar linkages, please send them in to share with other SBD projects. We will be featuring other linkages which were highlighted in regional PSR reviews in the next *MEDP PASA Update*.

INTER AMERICA REGION

Regional Workshop—A workshop will be conducted in FY '96 Q2 for business APCDs and guest HCNs. The topic will be on using Subsector Analysis as a Programming Tool. Specific information will be forthcoming directly to posts as plans for the workshop move forward.

Ecotourism Conference—A conference on the promotion of ecotourism was held in Belize from October 16-20. Selected countries from the IA region were invited. APCDs from both business and environment sectors and host country national partners attended.

You can get copies of the Ecotourism Conference report by contacting Jill Donahue in the OTAPS/Business Development sector or John Shores in the OTAPS/ENV sector. •



NEWS FROM SAN LUIS

Greetings from Tumbaco.

The Training Center is busy preparing for the arrival of the new group, *Omnibus 75*, which will arrive on March 6th.

A notice for the PCVs who took part in the *Close Of Service* conference for *Omnibus 71*. The address list and the copies of employment materials you requested are ready and will be given to Irene to mail out to you on Monday, February 5th. Again, thank you for your cooperation and participation during the conference.

Upcoming Training Activities:

March 6th: *Omnibus 75* arrives. The technical programs are Animal Production (19 PCTs), Natural Resources (14 PCTs), and Agriculture (18 PCTs). The group will be staying at *Hosteria Brandenburg* until they move in with their Host Families on March 9th.

RPCVs Tom Larson, Morgan Doran and Eugene Martin will be three of the technical trainers, along with Tomás Guerrero.

The PCT visit to Volunteers' sites will take place March 24-26. If anyone is interested in hosting a trainee and you have not contacted the Training Center, please do so as soon as possible.

Some other notes regarding the group: There are 51 PCTs scheduled to arrive, including five married couples; the youngest PCT is 21 and the most experienced is 66.

The group will receive their sites on April 8th, and they will travel to their sites for a week beginning on April 15th.

As PTO Paul Davis describes in his FIT article, the Training Center is working very hard at looking at all aspects of training to create independent and self-reliant training that will help PCVs be effective problem-solvers in their communities. One idea we are looking at is to include the PCTs in working with us to design some of their own training, based on each person's site, needs and experience.

We will, for example, separate the Animal Production group after their site visit for technical training. The PCTs who will work in the Sierra will train in the Sierra, possibly in Cayambe, while the PCTs in that group assigned to the coast will train in the coast. Since the technical trainer cannot be in two places at the same time, the PCTs will, with the APCDs and the Training Center staff, help design some of their activities and be responsible for insuring that they complete the activities they need to prepare themselves for the work at their sites.

There are some logistic details to be worked out, but I have received a lot of offers from current PCVs in the field to help, and I will be looking forward to working with you, as well as researching these activities and continually searching for ways to meet the trainees' needs.

Many thanks to the PCVs who have written to me with your thoughts and comments.

As always, if the Training Center can provide you with any assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

That's all for now. Stay Well.

Tim Callaghan
Training Director

Programa de Salud

por Miguel Artola, APCD

Luego de realizar evaluación del trabajo de programa de salud en base de los informes mensuales que entregan los Voluntarios, o a través de las visitas realizadas a los sitios de trabajo, y/o la información verbal de los Voluntarios, como de las comunidades y contrapartes concluimos que el programa de salud dentro de sus metas de reducir la morbi-mortalidad infantil las ha cumplido.

Las ha cumplido en función de diversas actividades como: con el control y monitoreo de crecimiento; con campañas de vacunación; con ferias de salud; con capacitación en talleres formales y no formales a auxiliares, promotores de salud, a madres de familia y a profesores y finalmente trabajando con los estudiantes primarios y secundarios, todo ello a hecho que en función de trabajo de Voluntarios sea satisfactorio.

Los datos estadísticos y actividades específicas realizadas en 1.995, si tiene interés en conocerlas en detalle, están recopiladas en informe anual de actividades del programa de salud 1.995, están a su disposición, favor solicitarlos en la oficina.

En base de las actividades, como de las experiencias pasadas cabe informarles que hemos tenido algunas preocupaciones en cuanto se refieren al entrenamiento, compromiso de Voluntarios, rol del Voluntario y actividades que podría realizar un Voluntario de salud, por lo que hemos estado analizando y recibiendo sugerencias y comentarios de Voluntarios para realizar modificaciones e implementar nuevas actividades en el año 96.

Es así que iniciaremos revisando la información que se envía a la oficina de Reclutamiento, para que se pueda entregar una información exactísima a los aspirantes y que de acuerdo a ello, lleguen al país con compromisos, pensando mas en función de sus responsabilidades que de su moti-

vaciones personales o individuales.

Realizaremos cambios drásticos en el entrenamiento, donde se permitirá al Entrenando tomar mas responsabilidad en su propio entrenamiento.

Disminuiremos el número de Enfermeras que trabajaran en el Ecuador, con la posibilidad de eliminar los pedidos en el futuro.

En el próximo Omnibus tendremos Nutricionistas y Extensionistas en su mayoría.

Se considerará nuevas alternativas para los hablantes y los que demuestren tener conocimientos técnicos, puedan tener tiempo para organizar sus horas técnicas con aspectos técnicos que son de interés personal.

Los sitios de trabajo deberán ser visitados por los Voluntarios Coordinadores de las provincias para recibir su opinión de los mismos.

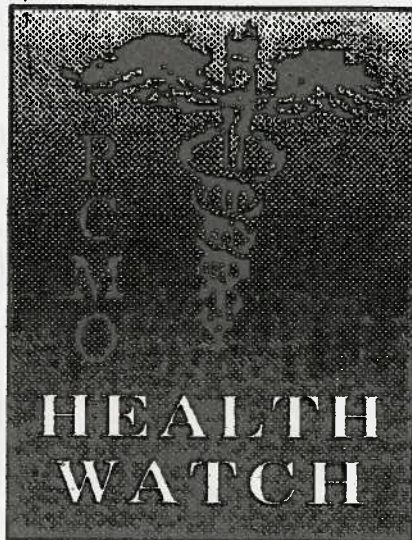
El trabajo de los Voluntarios en los sitios se definirá en función de trabajo con Micronutrientes y con la prevención del SIDA.

Las actividades secundarias a realizarse en cada sitio deberán ser claramente definidas, con sus contrapartes durante las visitas a los sitios y en la conferencia de contrapartes, aclarándose que de no asistir un Contraparte a dicha conferencia no recibirá un Voluntario/a.

Habrà de compartirse el entrenamiento y los temas a tratarse entre el Entrenador técnico, los Entrenandos y los Voluntarios que están en el País.

Nuestros deseos al darles a conocer de estos cambios es que queremos mantenerlos informados de lo que ocurre en el programa y si tiene sugerencias favor hacerlas llegar a Miguel Artola.

Buena suerte con su trabajo.



Too many vitamins?

FYI. RDA (Recommended Dietary Allowance) was originally formulated to prevent dietary deficiencies, but modern manufacturers many times overdo the dosages. Many Americans, in order to prevent cancer, preserve vision, improve verility, increase energy and dodge Father Time, pop vitamins and minerals indiscriminately. *The Harvard Health Letter* of Jan. '96 states that, "Americans spend more than 3 billion dollars yearly on nutritional supplements. There's nothing wrong with taking a multivitamin supplement every day, but its important to remember that more doesn't necessarily mean better . . . and it can even mean worse." Some people get pretty bad side effects linked to excess vitamin-mineral intake. The best rule is: Everything in Moderation.



An illustration: Watch out--too much Vit. C, more than two gms. daily on a regular basis, may cause diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramps and headache. Also-mega doses can cause dependency and sudden withdrawal, a rebound deficiency of bleeding gums, lingering wounds and/or skin problems. For more details about Vit. A, Selenium, B6, Iron, and Calcium, etc. you can read about it in the medical office. For most healthy adults, "eating a balanced diet and reducing saturated fats may well be better than anything in a bottle."

Eleven lines of defense against kidney stones

This is a synthesis of an article in *The Dr's Book of Home Remedies*, given to us by PCV Jeff Rathlef. The pain of passing a stone is the worst pain you can imagine--probably the closest a man comes to feeling child birth! On analysis, the stones may have different contents, so a physician can orient the patient after the first bout, in order to avoid having another incident.

General prevention rules:

1. Drink lots of fluids . . . so that you avoid dehydration, at least two quarts daily--that means 3-6 times a day. This of course depends on your activities . . . you may have to drink up to two gallons per day.
2. Keep a cap on your calcium. 92% of stones are made of calcium or its products. Read your RDA of calcium that is contained in your Vit./Mineral tabs, and limit carefully the milk, cheese, butter and other dairy foods you eat on a daily basis.
3. Check your anti-acid tabs. Many have calcium.
4. Cut down on oxalate foods--if the stone was made of this: chocolate, tea, beets, celery, green peppers, spinach, strawberries, grapes, blueberries and summer squash.
5. To curtail kidney stone recurrence, try a daily Magnesium and B6 supplement.
6. Get RDA 5000 IUs of Vit. A (to keep the bladder lining in shape)--1/2 cup of carrots or broccoli, daily.
7. Stay active-walk, ride a bike, exercise, etc.
8. Watch protein intake. Limit it to 6 oz. of protein rich food: meat, cheese, poultry or fish, daily.
9. Lay off salt. Limit to 2-3 gms/day. Watch out for pickled foods, luncheon meats, chips and processed cheese.
10. If you've had calcium oxalate stones, restrict Vit. C consumption to 2 gms. daily.

Someone may ask, What about cranberry juice to make your urine acidic and avoid kidney ailments? Dr. Fugelso says, "Plain water is just as good a source of fluids with less calories."

Cholera

Cholera cases have been reported in the Otavalo area. You all know the main ways to prevent any contamination--wash hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom and before fixing your foods or eating. Of course, you need to keep boiling your liquids and eat almost everything cooked and safely prepared. If you do get diarrhea--rice water type--and vomiting, please hydrate with safe fluids--Gatorade or the formula for rehydration (to one liter of water, add 8 teaspoons of sugar, 1 tsp. of salt and a pinch of bicarbonate of soda.) Even a quicker way--squirt lemon juice into some mineral water and suck on a couple of hard candies. And drink and drink and drink. Rehydration is THE first treatment for cholera. If dehydration is not under control, an antibiotic would have to be ordered and IV fluids necessary.

Note: No PCV to date has gotten cholera . . . so keep preventing.

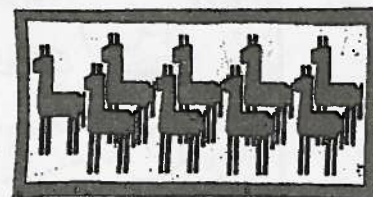
New Medical Office Hours

Please make note of the following changes in the hours of the Medical Office. PCMOs will attend Volunteers with the following schedule, effective immediately:

AM 08:30-12:30

PM (except Wednesday) 13:00-16:00

We will close the office for lunch from 12:30 to 1 p.m, and will close to complete our administrative responsibilities from 4-5 p.m. Also remember that many Wednesday afternoons are reserved for meetings, training center activities, MD visits, etc. and we are often not in the office.*



EQUALAND?
SHIT - I
LOVE
IT!

EQUALAND

DUDES! THE
HOLIDAYS WERE
WAY COOL. SAW
THE FOLKS BACK
IN SANTA CRUZ,
DID SOME SURFING
(IF IT SWELLS - RIDE IT!)
AND HUNG OUT IN THE
HAIGHT - ANYBODY WANT
SOME INCENSE?

KARL
EQUALAND!
FRICKIN'
FRAME
IT!

BILL
EQUALAND!
PROCESS
IT!

NEWT
EQUALAND?
CUT IT!

BOB
EQUALAND?
CENSOR IT!

HUMBOLDT
STATE

OUR HERO ZENO TAKES OFF
FOR COCA TO ATTEND HIS
SUPERCONFERENCE
TAKING NEW FRIEND ALKI
WITH HIM...

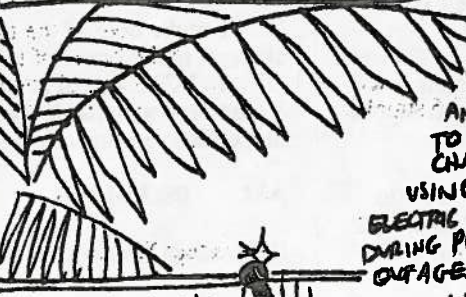
PIETE
COCA -
THE MILD EAST OF
ECUADOR
WHERE OIL IS KING!



BAR
HEY - YOUR NAME
ZENO? PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEER? YOU
GOT A NOTE SOMEONE
LEFT FOR YOU AT
THE HOTEL, MAN.

WE HAD BETTER
BE OUT OF HERE
BERGIE SUNDOWN
ZENO...

WENDY
EQUALAND?
SPELL
CHECK
IT!



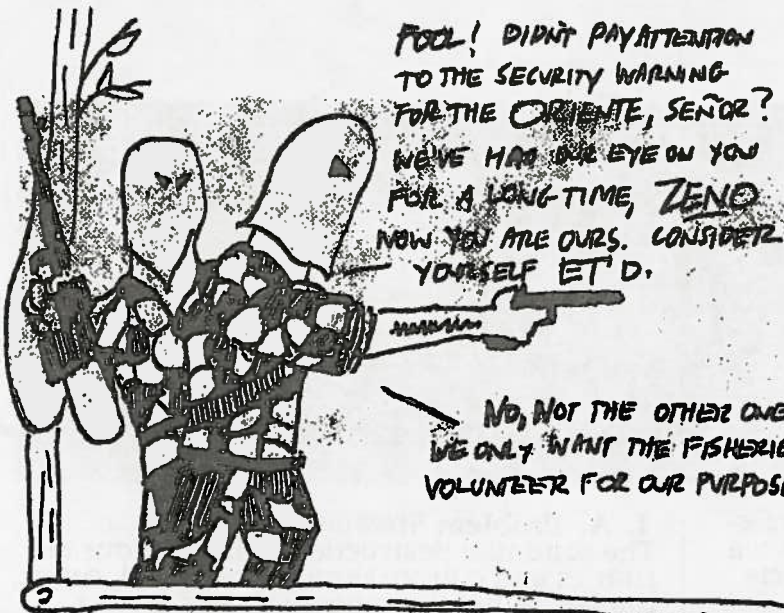
OHAY-LIKE
THANKS. I
WONDER WHERE
ALL THE QUITO
PEOPLE ARE.
AND I'VE GOT
TO GIVE A
CHARLA ON
USING
ELECTRIC EELS
DURING POWER
OUTAGES.



CHUTA MAN!
NOTICE
TO ALL
FISHERIES
PLUS
SUPERCONFERENCE
CANCELLED
DUE TO
BUDGET CRISIS 😊
HUMBOLDT
STATE

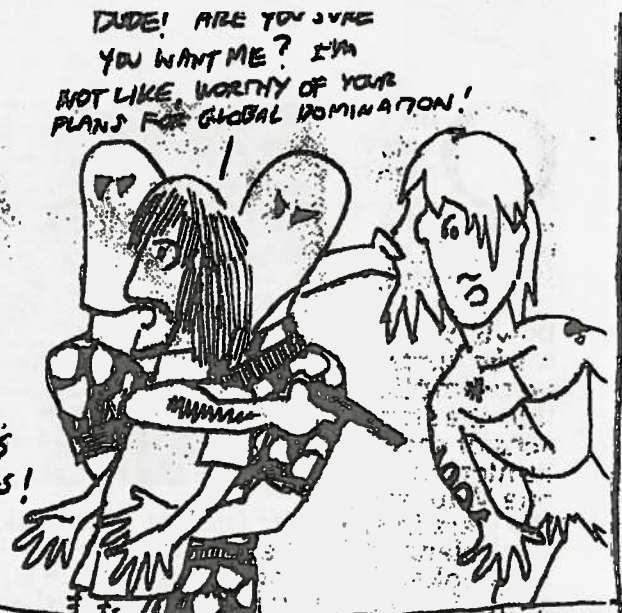
NO SUPERCONFERENCE?
AND I WAS SUPPOSED TO
GIVE MY BIG CHARLA!
LAME, DUDE!
NOW I GOT TO
GO BACK TO
PENSA MIENTO.
A TRANCEE IS
SUPPOSED TO, LIKE,
VISIT ME.
AS IF.
HUMBOLDT
STATE





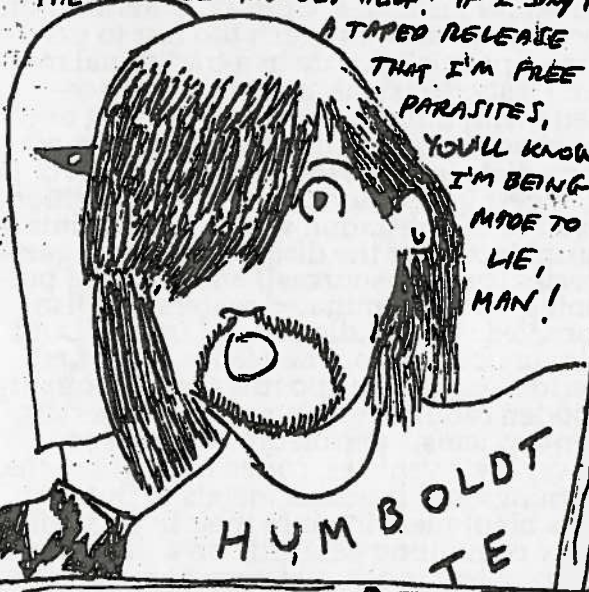
FOOL! DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE SECURITY WARNING FOR THE ORIENTE, SEÑOR? WE'VE HAD OUR EYE ON YOU FOR A LONG TIME, ZENO NOW YOU ARE OURS. CONSIDER YOURSELF LET'D.

NO, NOT THE OTHER ONE. WE ONLY WANT THE FISHERIES VOLUNTEER FOR OUR PURPOSES!



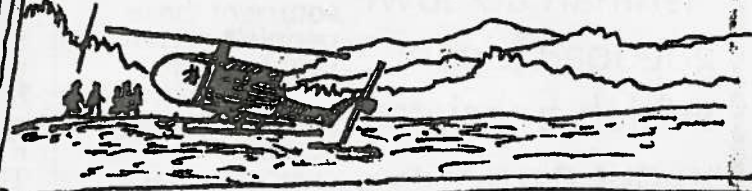
DUDE! ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME? I'M NOT LIKE WORTHY OF YOUR PLANS FOR GLOBAL DOMINATION!

ALKI - DUDE! GO BACK TO MY SITE TO WARN THE TRAINEE AND GET HELP! IF I SAY IN A TAPED RELEASE THAT I'M FREE OF PARASITES, YOU'LL KNOW I'M BEING MADE TO LIE, MAN!



HUMBOLDT

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SOZORANGA BARRACUDA PROJECT, ZENO? WE THINK YOU KNOW PLENTY MY LITTLE FISH PCV. YOU WILL HELP US TO OVERTHROW THE IMPERIALIST SCUM OF THE WORLD, TRYING TO TELL US WHAT WE CAN AND CAN'T DO IN OUR JUNGLE! HA! HA! HA! AND YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS IN QUITO WILL BE NONE THE WISER - IF YOU JUST DISAPPEAR OFF THE FACE OF THE MAP!



MEANWHILE, BACK IN PENSAMBA A NOT-SO-NAÏVE SUPER-TRAINEE ARRIVES AT ZENO'S PAD...



¡HOLA! ZENO? IT'S ME - SUNNY. ZENO? I HOPE YOU'RE TAKING VACATION DAYS FOR THIS FLAGRANT ABSENCE!



ZENO! NO-WAIT - ALKI! NICE TO MEET YOU. WHAT? TERRORISTS? NO ME DIGAS! LET'S GO!



ZENO IS CHOPPERED AWAY TO A SECRET FISH HATCHERY DEEP IN THE AMAZON...



... & WE BE RESCUED IN TIME TO CATCH THE NEXT EPISODES OF "FRIENDS" AND "SEINFELD" ON CABLE?

NEXT ISSUE: ZENO'S FATE AND A VISIT FROM BILL

One noisy night last week on the banks of the Río Tiputini, multiple bowls of *chicha fuerte* were emptied into the stomachs of seven hunters and one Volunteer.

We were in search of *javelina* for a snake festival planned for the next full moon. As we ate smoked *bagre* and reveled in the effects of the fermented *manioc*, I translated an infomercial by the World Wildlife Federation in the June 26th edition of *Newsweek*. The piece spoke about the extinction of Amazonian tribes resulting from external pressures such as timber, mining, introduced illnesses, petroleum, and missionary groups. The WWF was asking for donations to help these people manage their resources. The key word was external—*Cohouri* for the Waorani, *Auca* for the Canelos Quichua, and *Apachi* for the Shuar, Shiviari, and Achuar. All negative terms used for persons from outside their lands. We discussed this, always spiraling back to the word "external," outsiders,

"Ishman atzauwi
gogopa tzapani."
Which translates
in our own vernacular as: "That
shit don't jive..."

That night we decided to write up an SPA grant to solve their problem, the *Cohouri*, the outsider. The hunters concluded that a small grant could effectively eliminate their strife and actually improve their health. The tactics would be the same as they were twenty years ago, just modernized. Trade in their *chonta* spears and *curare*-soaked darts for plastic and digital detonators (although with the current budget crisis we would be content with TNT). With the *quantas* foraging in the shadows, *dantas* flatuating in their sleep and howler monkeys stirring in the early dawn a rough proposal was written ...

MODEST A PROPOSAL

by John Hays, San Jorge Pastaza

I. A. Problem Statement

The continual destruction of indigenous territories and culture through cattle, oil, coffee, lumber, mineral, evangelistic and tourist endeavors. The ramifications of these invasions extend beyond the obvious depletion of natural resources. Cultural deterioration is speeded up at rates much too fast to determine a people's future in a traditional manner. Hasty decisions are commonplace—made with little or no understanding of what the possible end results may be. But more immediate is the systematic extinction of the youngest generation through malnutrition (a result of deforestation which is the primary causal factor for the disappearance of game species [protein sources]) and outright poisoning via contaminated waters and fish from toxic wastes discharged from oil and mining operations. The reality is the first world's insatiable appetite for high quality wooden cabinets to house their "entertainment systems," petroleum products to power their vehicles, coffee to brighten their mornings and precious metals to put that extra bit of meaning into their lives, is effectively committing genocide on a daily basis. The problem is old, a history of more than 500 years. Here in the Ecuadorian Amazon direct external pressures have been present for the past 150 years.

B. Solution, Specific Goals

Our proposal is the destruction of all outside access to indigenous territories, which would eliminate the intrusion of the various industries which are jeopardizing traditional ways of life of current residents. The easiest method would be the demolition of selected bridges. If this does not stymie the influx, more advanced methods may be taken such as the mining of navigable rivers, armed patrols along territorial boundaries, obstruction of airstrips and possible training and use of SAM's (surface-to-air missiles)—most effective against missionaries, tourists, seismic teams, and mining companies (all projects that tend to begin with small aircraft). The work plan will span a period of nine



weeks. The first eight shall be divided into the training in the use of demolitions and the gathering of information concerning routes travelled and the strategic points where the maximum amount of damage with a minimum number of casualties can be caused. The final week will be the zero hour, the plan being a simultaneous annihilation of the selected targets bright and early on a Sunday morning. It is crucial that all targets are detonated at the same moment so as to cut off all entrances into native homelands, thus debilitating any reprisal and allowing time for the perpetrators to retreat back into the heart of the forest.

II. PLANNED RESULTS

A. Effects of the Project on Women

Women will benefit from the project as the risk of marginalization will be minimized. The danger of being forced to work in the numerous brothels which customarily populate the gold and oilfields will no longer present itself as a threat. The presence of the conflicting value system of *Latino* culture will be at a minimum, a system which at times does little to empower women and certainly clashes with the traditional egalitarian society that once thrived in the Amazon. Nutritional levels will remain stable; women and children are the first to feel the effects of a dwindling diet.

B. Effects of the Project on the Environment

The cultures and ecosystems will be able to continue at a natural pace, uninhibited by the ephemeral wants of the first world; desires that are extractive, consumptive and tend to think little of where their resources are coming from and what will be the end result.

C. Long Range Goals

The long range goal is to realistically give the participants an ample amount of time to decide which path they choose to take. These decision processes are lengthy if enacted in the traditional form. They must also be performed without intermediaries who claim to be environmentalists yet are attempting to find a common ground between forest dwellers and multi-national corporations: a new and improved life form without any one leader, geared towards progress, committed to remove man as much as possible from his own natural environment, thriving on unadulterated consumption and relying upon excessive wastefulness.

When asked about a symbiotic relationship

between the oil industry and the Tageri of the river Cononaco, with the benevolent assistance of the WWF, Kantu (hunter gatherer) responded, "Ishman atzauwi gogopa tza-pani." Which translates in our own vernacular as: "That shit don't jive..."

III. MATERIALS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In the spirit of grass roots development, the majority of our materials will be local: 5m *Chonta* palm poles for shattering helicopter blades when landing in unauthorized areas. Bamboo tubes for mining rivers and forest paths. Bamboo thorns will serve as a sustainable and bio-degradable replacement for nails, tacks and glass when arming anti-personnel deterrents; vines and tree bark will serve as a replacement for duck tape. Approximately 60 lbs. of TNT per bridge will be required for the initial stage of the project. There are 32 crossings which should be blown out of commission. Therefore, we are asking for: 2,200 lbs. of TNT, 15 lbs. of detonating puddy, 200 ft. of electrical wire, 37 alarm clocks, 37 9-volt batteries and 30 small gauge springs. Total cost: \$9,997. This material will allow for five trial explosions which will be implemented during the eight-week training program. Technical assistance will be provided by Dave Foreman who has had similar experience in the southwestern region of the United States.

The half moon shined bright above the cecropinas as we entered the clearing, the oil road reflected the stars as the freshly-sprayed crude seeped into the parched surface. Kantu told me a story about a meeting he had with a local crew boss, complaining about the company's policy of spraying low quality petroleum on the roads for dust control. "It's good for you indians, if you eat it it'll kill the worms in your stomachs," drawled the Texan in *gringo* Spanish. Kantu politely answered, "You eat some first and tell me if it kills your worms. Then I'll eat some." We laughed but we were hungry. A seismic team had cut through the area we were hunting. After detonating their charges the game had scattered. For the first time the hunters came home empty handed. Kantu decided to go work for the company since they had to have meat for the snake festival, even if it was just going to be chicken. "That's alright," he whispered. Towards the forest he spoke again, "Just hold on, your ground will shake only once more and then it will be over..."

Editor's note: We here at El Clima would like to express our support and sympathy for the people and ecosystems who suffer in the name of capitalism, in this country and worldwide. The Administration would like to insure that this article is not taken at face value, as we all know that the US Government does not support such subversive and violent activities; certainly not through the "Peace" Corps.





Morning breaks and due to foreign noises like chirping, buzzing and someone starting a coffee fire; the absence of familiar sounds like dump trucks gunning it on the last block before the stop sign, child laborers yelling with great fervor, "Deeee - RRRRR - EE - ooooo" (Diario), or *pescado* vendors whistling like canaries on speed and chanting, "Picuda! Buen Picuda! Camarones!;" plus without the like-clockwork-4:30-sick-rooster call or the neighbor lady beating the heat by starting her laundry at 5:00, the wee hours of the night for me are fitful and disturbed.

I get up early with my love and two of my best pals as to *aprovechar* the gorgeous day on the mountain 400m above Vilcabamba-Loja, on the private reserve of Joy Horton and Curtis Hoffmann, counterparts of Brian Bunge, a forestry Volunteer. I have become quite familiar with the mountain while working with the above people and the local *buena gente* on a forestry conservation and protection project as an official PC secondary undertaking (for me). This is my first time here solely for R&R purposes, but of course I can't resist a little look-see at my designs *hechos* in real life.

We had come here originally numbering seven for a little holiday expedition to the lake some 1100m above the cabin which we were enjoying. Two of us never even tried the assault as the thought of a six-hour hike, very over-packed and already tired from the previous day's three-hour hike up to the cabin, did not appeal to the ladies who went down as

we began to go further up. I had been very excited to make it to see the lake at 3200m in pristine *paramo* (unlike my last experience above the treeline and Quito where my biggest fears were getting stepped on by cows in the night and stepping on fresh cowpaddies in the morning) since hearing so much about it from the locals.

We all feel
very small



By Karl Banks

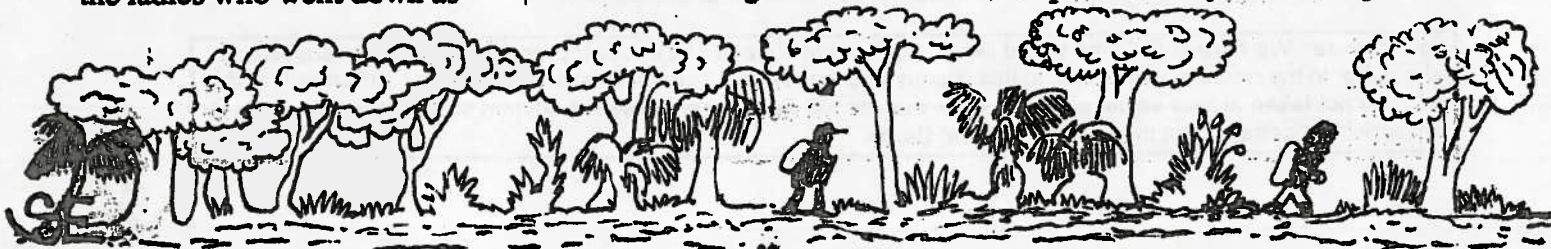
We tried and made a furious attempt in perhaps one of the worst times of the year, but to no avail, as equipment shortcomings and cold rain all night made us re-evaluate our precarious position at the mercy of nature and beat a fast retreat (hey! going down with a 40-pound pack is easier than going up!) to a more forgiving altitude and made a hot fire, lots of herbal tea and soaked our barking dogs, telling each other of our individual self-motivated hell hike. We lost another participant then as he had a hot date in the *Oriente*.

So today, our wounds well-licked and socks dried, we will explore in and around the middle-altitude virgin rain forest

and enjoy what is already a great day. The *maestra* for the project and local resident stops by on his way to head off a wayward cow. The conversation I will not repeat now as my Spanish sucked *por la hora* and lack of coffee in my blood. Victor says to me that basically we were complete idiots for even trying to get up to the lakes during this time of year. I think to myself that there are some places in this world which only sometimes yield their approaches to humankind. It is sort of a good thing. Then the conquistador in me thinks about how I could have made it against the odds anyway. I think to myself as we four prepare our food and packs for a consolation-prize hike.

We start out in bright sun alternating with dark gray clouds and the turbulent standing-cloud system wildly adjusts to the recent input of heat energy from the sun rising over the Orient. My friends divert me from my set path to explore a high pasture above the adobe home I was admittedly not familiar with yet. There we behold a fantastic, unobscured view of the quilt-like "Beautiful Valley," now in full luminosity. Due west and four degrees north is the mountain upon which Celica holds the commanding high ground above the Southern border. The mountain is clear and beautiful 60 miles (as the vulture flies) from my vertigo-inducing perch, where I ponder my former fogged-in, frontier, first site.

The clouds are forming out of the trees moving up without the transition line from water vapor to ice crystal moving



perceptibly, though a misinterpretation of visual data from the eyes yields a motion illusion of tierra firma. My pal, under a piece of plastic; stares blankly at the mountains as I babble on and on about just how big they really are. Just when I thought I'd lost him, he speaks, marvelling at how the colors seemed to dim, shift and brighten as the light played among the clouds. The pure number of distinct greens was spectacular; from the bright day-glo green of freshly growing grass to the deep richness of mature corn. The patchwork also contains several death-colored squares pocked with bright gray splashes of ash. I begin to think about the purpose of our project.

Below my feet, the mountain is sliced by a soon-to-be invisible trench containing a 63mm diameter plastic pipe through which flow five liters per second. Upon completion, this water will irrigate up to 30 hectares of native species fruit trees meant to stop the practice of careless burning (the fruit trees need to be protected), provide more income per land area (one head of cattle needs about one hectare for one year—the same area can sustain 100 avocado trees), as well as providing potable drinking water (you can drink right from the river up above in the unspoiled forest) for the residents and water for the remaining cattle. As the fruit crops mature and need less irrigation, the drip irrigation systems are designed to be mobile and higher profits should encourage the conversion of more land back to forested, albeit, cultivated land. The bigger picture goal will also begin to be fulfilled as these slopes lead up to a wonderfully unique and beautiful ecosystem called Podocarpus National Park and a forested,

low erosion buffer zone will provide better protection for the species there including the speckled bear and Romerillo or Podocarpus, a relative of the California Redwood which is the namesake of the park. The project is a pilot project for duplication all along the cordillera adjacent to the park.



I look down at my friends' gawking faces and then down at the soapbox I was standing on and decide not to put them through any more of my tirade. I say that the sight of burned land and high erosion potential depressed me and I implore them to follow me on my original hike, around the ridge for the opposite view up the mountain and into the undisturbed forest. Turning the bend the view makes your knees a bit weak and as luck would have it, it appears to be warm and inviting up at the lake whose presence is betrayed by the waterfall which drains the lake and forms the headwaters of the river.

I think silently to myself, "the mountains are so huge . . . I'm so small . . . I wish I was moun-

tain-size." Her arm around my waist, Diana thinks, "what an incredible diversity—no, infinity—of life do I see before my eyes, and inside the scene, what is not revealed at this distance!" Lounging back on the hill, one of the Marks thinks, "Why do Pizza Hut commercials viewed around dinnertime work so well at making me hungry for their product?" And the other Mark wonders, "Who owns this and can I get my hands on some property like this?" The natural quiet is stunning.

But we are still hanging out in re-growth area, with primary tree species at the 25-foot level, last burned by the neighbor's careless fire 12 years ago (if my memory is correct). I want to show them the really cool natural forest, like Granddad, the old giant Podocarpus with a two-meter diameter and the hike along the river going by some 40 meters drop over three water falls. I tell them how important it is that they see all that stuff, plus show off my captation tank. They follow and we see some of all that, at least the killer view from a place called *Vistoso*, discovered by the project manager Curtis and I while laying out the pipeline, when Mark shows me his watch. 6 P.M.!! No way. Shit, we've got to get back to the cabin before dark. The four of us scramble back, retracing our footsteps in the deepening murk of dusk and reach the cabin just as the trail is getting tricky to discern. The day is over, but another night of rest and relaxation and recreation is at hand and we have to get a fire going.

Kari Banks, Portoviejo



One thing I always enjoyed back in the states was watching movies on my VCR. In fact, besides *Star Trek* and *Ren and Stimpy* reruns, it was the only reason I even owned a TV. It was one of those bits of life, along with mushu veggies and *Wicked Pete's* beer, that I sadly left behind when I boarded that plane back in Miami. Well, no, the items remained in the states, but not my desire

ME

for them. After countless frustrating nights at the so-called *chifas*, hoping that just this once they'd actually make something resembling even slightly real Chinese food and after untold times staring at my warming *Pilsener*, focusing all my energy, willing it to become no longer anything fancy like a *Sierra Nevada* or an *Anchor Steam*, but something even half-way decent like perhaps a *Henry Wetthards*, you can imagine my joy to find that you could actually watch videos at the video store.

I first discovered this while on a trip with my foundation to Saraguro. While everyone else got into their little groups to drink or gab, I cruised the main drag, a strip of about 10 feet in front of the video store where Saraguro seemed to be hanging out playing Nintendos and sipping warm sodas. After having my fill of Mario bopping helpless, grinning turtles on the back, I decided to give my mind a workout scanning the video titles, when lo and behold, I spied a room in the back with a VCR/TV set-up in front of a couple chairs. Cautiously, holding back my enthusiasm lest I be sent crashing down, I asked if I could watch a movie in the back. "Claro," the 10-year-old behind the counter responded. "Que le doy?"

I honestly forget what movie I saw, but simply

to relax on a boring evening in front of a movie was heaven. The decor wasn't quite like home and I don't ever remember the bathroom smelling quite so strongly of urine, but no matter, I was contented.

The VCR movie option was one I tucked into my arsenal of things to do when nothing else sounded good. Well, that night did arrive one day, so, hopping on my bike, I headed out to check on the nearest video store.

"No tenemos VH," greeted me. Oh, alright, let's see about the

MYSELF

next one. "No hay VH." I got again. Now I was starting to panic as I raced to the next video store. Bust again. Five stores, not a single VH. Dejectedly, I made my way back home where I drank myself into a stupor to dull the pain.

So as not to constantly pick the scab off that wound, I placed it out of my mind and threw myself into my work. Well, for once, that approach paid off, when, like a man rescued from an island he's been trapped on since childhood having his first taste of Gelato, like a paraplegic one day busting out in Michael Jackson struts, it dawned on me like stepping in front of a late *Ejecutivo* bus that that thing in the office I glanced at almost once a day for the past six months was a thing called a VCR on which one could watch movies—the world opened back up to me again.

I suppressed the urge to laugh out maniacally, and trepidly, cautiously, almost like an afterthought lest by focusing on it the machine would simply poof into non-existence, I formed a plan to return, yes, that very night with a movie to watch.

My excitement was barely con-

tainable as I left home that evening, bound for the nearest video store. Once inside I smugly took in the landscape of bootleg video covers, inhaling deeply the musty smell of a thousand dusty cassettes. A barely concealed upturn of lips grew into a smile then into a full fledged bared-teeth grin. My eyes widened with the possibilities—so many choices! My leg began twitching convulsively, my neck muscles began to ache. Alright, "is this one here?" I asked, pointing to one picture. "No." Oh, alright, "how 'bout this one?" "No."

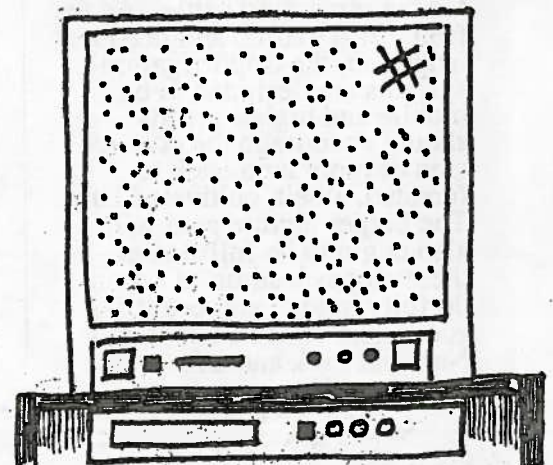
Hmmm, this was gonna be harder than I thought. My chest deflated a few millimeters. "This one?" "No." "This?" "No." "That?!" "No."

I took a deep breath and studied her closely. I turned back around again, going over the

and MY VCR

choices I had left, and there in the corner hung one I'd go for. Since it was out of her sight, I called off the number 2425 as "twenty-four twenty-five." "25?" she asked unenthusiastically as she began rummaging through her desk. "No, 24-25." "24?" "No no no, two-thousand four-hundred twenty five." "25?"

OOOohhh! It was one of those

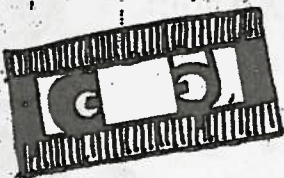


moments where, if this were some dumb "Airplane"-type movie, I'd turn my head and face the camera with an unbelieving, exasperated look. I AM NOT MAKING THIS UP! It's too dumb! Was she just doing this to spice up an otherwise, no doubt, incredibly dull evening? Why was she doing this to me? "24-25," I tried again. "25?"

OOOOhhh! Hadn't I seen something like this on Bugs Bunny? Was I living out that simpleminded Elmer Fudd, being confounded in ways too devious for his little mind to ponder by that Wascally Wabbit? Did everyone else get the joke here? Was I simply out of my league? Should I stop fighting and just go with "25"?

But no, a sudden hidden surge of prideful desperation surfaced from where it had been quickly going under. In a last attempt, I said "Esa acal" pointing to it, making her get out of her chair to see. "Oh, no está." OOOOhhh!

Well, I still was not one to give up. Yes, I know there were other video stores, but it was now a personal thing. I would triumph, if it meant watching Hulk Hogan all-star matches. In the end I did find something I had a mild interest in, something about planes and parachutes or some such. Don't ask me the details of the plot, those didn't concern me. I got back to my office, popped in the tape, sat back and let my mind slowly dribble out my ears. I might have to live without Chinese food and decent beer, but at least I wouldn't be deprived of this.



by Andrés Amador, Guenaca

Thoughts from Guayaquil

I am tired of sailing my little boat close inside the harbour bar. I want to go out where the big ships float, out in the deep where the great ones are.

And should my frail craft prove too slight for winds that sweep the billows, I'd rather go down in the stirring fight than drown to death by the shattered shores.

anonymous author

The rich man is not the one who has the most, it is the one who needs the least - Confucius

Once when I was a kid, someone told me I would know an authentic self.

A dear friend told me that I am more authentic since having had the experience of life in another culture. I believe that each day I am authenticating myself and I have yet to see what is to come.

Submitted by George Walker, Guayaquil

Female Flower



Flowers in the fountain
Six pairs of native dancers
Smiling faces turning
My heart is slowly breaking.

Blue sky and blue feelings.
Surrounded by my brothers
Your back to me is very like
A cloud blocking the sun.

My wish is to be much closer.
To hear a yes or a no,
is very much like
thinking about my next breath.

Anonymous

"Today's plain Janes have opportunities their spinster aunts never did—trips to Europe, a Peace Corps assignment . . . interesting jobs . . . where they have a chance to attract a man. . . [But] many of them end up living lives of quiet desperation, punctuated by pathetic sorties to dating clubs or organized dances or singles weekends."—*Time*, 1967.



Forrest and his Dad

November 26, 1995

Dear Peace Corps Volunteers:

This is Forrest Lamm. I wrote you all a letter this past July asking for a penny and stamps from your country. My Dad was a Volunteer in Honduras in 1964. It was his idea to write Volunteers. Boy, were we surprised with what we got. As of today we have received 117 letters from 48 different countries. Some of you sent more than a penny or some stamps. I want to thank you all very much for making this my most successful summer project ever. Here are some of the things that I received:

- Fifteen letters from the country of Malawi and nine from Sri Lanka.
- A letter, penny and postcard from a 10-year-old girl in Cape Verde Islands and a collection of stamps from a 12-year-old boy in Sri Lanka who wants to be my pen pal.
- A beautiful stamp and postcard collection from a Peace Corps Director in Poland.
- A complete set of coins from Jamaica and a big road map.
- Old and new paper money from Russia and Ukraine.
- Hundreds of beautiful stamps from Micronesia (thanks Brian).
- The most different stamps in all the world from Fiji. Some were in the shape of bananas one inch long.
- A hand-delivered letter from a Volunteer from Ecuador [Thanks (Kristi(ne Cochrane))].
- The best collection of butterfly stamps from Swaziland.
- The funniest looking square paper money from Kyrgyzstan.
- Complete sets of coins from Uruguay (old coins, 1989 coins and 1994 new coins).
- The most beautiful, hand-made paper letters from Madagascar.
- A letter from a Volunteer that lives only one street away from where I live in Portland. Small world, huh?

I can't thank all of you personally so I will send this letter to your country and hope that they get my message to you. I am sending you a picture of me and my notebook that I created from my collection. The man in the picture is my Dad. Each time I got a letter from a new country I would go

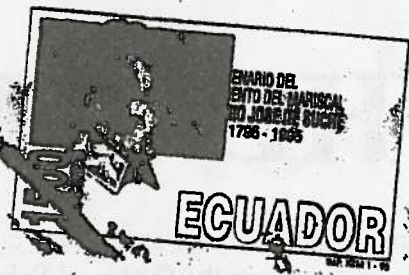
to my computer encyclopedia and print a fact sheet, a map and the flag of the country. It took me two notebooks to include all the stuff you sent me. The book is open to the country of Malawi because they sent me the most letters. I hope that some day you will visit Portland and stop by to see me. I would love to show you the whole book.

Good luck on your projects,

Forrest Lamm
1308 NE 157
Portland, OR 97230

R
E
S
P
O
N
D





November 26, 1995

Dear Peace Corps Volunteers (esp. Jenna Morreau, Mark Blaha, and María Eugenia de Cobo):

My son has written you his letter and I would like to take this opportunity to write my own. I cannot find the words to express my gratitude for all you have done. For each of you it may have seemed little more than a letter to a curious child. For us, as we returned from the letter box each day, there was the profound joy of discovery. When your seemingly small contribution was combined with all the other seemingly small contributions, it added up to an enormous response for which neither of us were prepared. I had anticipated a dozen or so responses; just enough to keep Forrest busy and distracted from the ever-present video games. At the peak of responses, we were receiving five to six letters daily. We had to cannibalize a second photo album just to contain all of the treasures.

I know that there will be some whose names do not appear on our letters to you all. Having "been there", I know that all of the letters did not get through. There was some evidence of this as demonstrated by those letters that had been "liberated" of their coins. To all of you who remain nameless, we both thank you heartily for trying.

For those letters that did get through, I was overwhelmed by the sensitivity and warmth expressed by so many of you. It has been almost 30 years since I ended my tour (August 5, 1966) in Honduras. As you can well imagine, much has transpired. However, there has remained in my life a constant, the pride that wells inside of me whenever I reflect on my service or hear the Peace Corps mentioned. To say that my experience 30 years ago was a defining event of my life would be a gross understatement. It was the most difficult joy that I have ever experienced. I would not trade those two years for any other four that I have since enjoyed. I would do it again a thousand times fold. After Forrest gets to college, I will probably do it again. Rewarding or fulfilling do not adequately describe the benefits that I garnered from my little adventure so long ago. For those of you who are in the early throws of "slogging through", do not loose heart, I promise you this: When it's over, you will leave with a humbled appreciation for having received far more than you were able to give. This experience will not only make your day, it will probably redefine your priorities and remake your life, to the world's benefit I might add.

For those of you who are about to complete your service, prepare yourself for the shock of return. It will appear that the world once so familiar has undergone a metamorphosis. It wasn't the world that changed while you were away; it was you. Things once important now pale. Old concepts, ideas, and perceptions have been erased and replaced with a newer, fresher vision. My only advice to you is, don't loose touch with the friends you have made; they will only become more important to you as the years pass. The friendships I formed during my experience are now my most cherished possessions. I can't wait for the next opportunity to share time and space together.

Should you be so fortunate to find yourself in the Pacific Northwest, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would love to serve you a home-cooked meal and listen to your adventures.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Lester Lamm
RPCV Honduras, 1964-66.



ECUADOR s/400

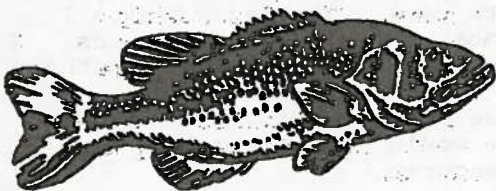


HEADLINES

The following are actual headlines from around the country passed on by someone at VOA, down through the e-mail path to Jim from the Office of Brian Padden and now to us, Peace Corps Ecuador Volunteers by Country Director, Jean Seigle.

"Makes you downright proud to be in any form of journalism!! . . . P.S. Underscores an old rule burned into me in the early days: 'Read it OUT LOUD after you write it. . . ' Cheers, Jim."

POLICE BEGIN CAMPAIGN TO RUN DOWN JAYWALKERS
SAFETY EXPERTS SAY SCHOOL BUS PASSENGERS SHOULD BE BELTED
DRUNK GETS NINE MONTHS IN VIOLIN CASE
SURVIVOR OF SIAMESE TWINS JOINS PARENTS
FARMER BILL DIES IN HOUSE
IRAQI HEAD SEEKS ARMS
STUD TIRES OUT
PROSTITUTES APPEAL TO POPE
PANDA MATING FAILS; VETERINARIAN TAKES OVER
SOVIET VIRGIN LANDS SHORT OF GOAL AGAIN
BRITISH LEFT WAFFLES ON FALKLAND ISLANDS
LUNG CANCER IN WOMEN MUSHROOMS
EYE DROPS OFF SHELF
TEACHER STRIKES IDLE KIDS
REAGAN WINS ON BUDGET, BUT MORE LIES AHEAD
SQUAD HELPS DOG BITE VICTIM
SHOT OFF WOMAN'S LEG HELPS NICKLAUS TO 66
ENRAGED COW INJURES FARMER WITH AX
PLANE TOO CLOSE TO GROUND, CRASH PROBE TOLD
MINERS REFUSE TO WORK AFTER DEATH
JUVENILE COURT TO TRY SHOOTING DEFENDANT
STOLEN PAINTING FOUND BY TREE
TWO SOVIET SHIPS COLLIDE, ONE DIES
TWO SISTERS REUNITED AFTER 18 YEARS IN CHECKOUT COUNTER
KILLER SENTENCED TO DIE FOR SECOND TIME IN 10 YEARS
NEVER WITHHOLD HERPES INFECTION FROM LOVED ONE
DRUNKEN DRIVERS PAID \$1000 IN '84
WAR DIMS HOPE FOR PEACE
IF STRIKE ISN'T SETTLED QUICKLY, IT MAY LAST A WHILE
COLD WAVE LINKED TO TEMPERATURES
MAN IS FATALLY SLAIN
ENFIELD COUPLE SLAIN; POLICE SUSPECT HOMICIDE.



Another calendar year has passed us by. Yahoo for those of us still counting and for the rest who have since their arrival to Ecuador thrown away their watches and calendars. This is a simple reminder that denial doesn't do it—you're still inching closer towards the final CHAO and Ecuador is not forever. And for those of you who don't even read the Climate—wake up and crawl out from under your rock once and a while.

Every time we enter a new year, we can't help but take a moment to look back and reflect on the closing year. As part of this ritual, I'm taking the time to look back on some of the passing trends of 1995 and look forward to what 1996 has to offer.

I tip my glass to...

THE INs AND OUTs OF 1995

IN	OUT
cutbacks	the water program
Superconferences	Job conferences
<i>Amor en Tiempos de Guerra</i>	<i>Dos Mujeres Un Camino</i>
Paul Davis	Barry Bem
furlough-ing	balancing the budget
Pierce Brosnan	Erik Estrada
Maná	Bróncos
omnibus 74	omnibus 70
Miami freedom	Ambato incarceration
Esmeraldas province	Imbabura province
Dr. Esteban McLaughlin	Rock-n-Roll Doctor
candles	lightbulbs
<i>encebollado</i>	<i>cuy</i>
Ecualand	The Cónch
"Que triste"	"Chévere"
comraderie	mud-slinging
the "other" Maple	the "original" Maple
Hotel California	Hotel California

NOTE: *IN* isn't necessarily better!!!

by not Kitty, just Kelly Rahn, Daule.



VAC Notes

As requested by VAC, here is a short thing on what we did in the last VAC all-country meeting held in Quito on January 24.

Jana Adams and Vicki Mann are working on a World-Wide Peace Corps 25th Anniversary t-shirt. Cost will be about 16 or 17 mil and everybody liked the design.

Because people have been overloading the washer, VAC has had to spend over \$500,000 in repairs since November. We have about \$13,000 left in the savings account so if the washer or dryer breaks again, it will not be repaired in the immediate future (due to lack of funds).

The new price for a wash is \$1,000 and for a dry, also \$1,000, plus \$2,000 for a load. This is the first price change in at least three years.

We need as many of the Living Allowance Surveys back as possible. The fewer we get, the less likely it is a raise.

The next monthly trip to Guayaquil will be cancelled after their February visit. Sorry.

We warned with space heaters. They use up a lot of juice. Some Volunteers have recently paid electric bills in excess of \$200,000 per month because of this.

The next WLD meeting is February 6. The next VAC meeting is on April 9.

The next training group is (hopefully) coming in on March 6.

The Super Job Conference for White, Special EA, Housing, Youth Development and Health Volunteers is very tentatively scheduled for April 15-20.

On February 11, the Bo Haudt Band is putting on a Special Olympics fundraiser at the Ambassador's. Peace Corps Volunteers receive a special price of 10 mil. Ask Irene for the tickets.

The reason we are not paid in a US Dollar equivalent is because Washington says so (see EC Manual, Sect. 045221.4).

If you're going to Brazil, better make sure you have had your yellow fever shot or you won't be let in. Well, that's just about it. See ya around!

Rich Olson, VAC Secretary-Treasurer

ADMINISTRATIVE



CORNER

1. OFFICIAL MATTERS:

The ADMIN OFFICE hopes you had a wonderful holiday and extends Best Wishes to all of you for a wonderful New Year and that your dreams to come true in 1996!

In spite of the U.S. Government Shutdown, !!!We Are Still Here!!! to support you and to fulfill your needs.

A. CHANGES IN ADMIN OFFICE:

Because of the recent budget problems we had to make some rearrangements in our ADMIN OFFICE:

1. BODEGA (STORAGE ROOM):

Arturo's position is not going to be filled. Therefore, his tasks have been given to Miguel Castro, the warehouse manager. The bodega now has the following schedule for checking out materials and/or equipment: Monday thru Friday from 10:30-12:30 and 15:00-17:00. We ask all PCVs to patiently stick to this schedule. If Miguel is not available please contact Xavier or Irene.

2. STAFF LOCATORS AND SCHEDULE:

When you visit the Quito Office and need assistance but are not sure who to ask, please refer to the staff locators behind Irene's desk. In the same spot you can see everyone's work hours and Annual Leave Schedule. This should help you to find the person you need.

3. PAPERWORK AND FORMS:

If you need the following forms: per diem, contact form, living allowance survey, lease, safety report, etc. please see the red folder close to Irene's desk.

B. METROPOLITAN TOURING

We warmly welcome Sofia Ramirez who is the new Metropolitan Travel Agent replacing Monica Campaña. Due to her recent maternity status, Sofia's working schedule is as follows: Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

C. LIVING ALLOWANCE SURVEY:

This is a reminder to all of you who haven't submitted the living allowances survey yet. Please note that the deadline is FEBRUARY 29.

D. INEFAN (INSTITUTO ECUATORIANO FORESTAL Y AREAS NATURALES) Y VIDA SILVESTRE



INEFAN has announced that starting from January 1, 1996, discounts for PCVs to get into National Parks will not be available anymore. On the other hand, TAME will still give a 15% discount on airfare to the Galápagos.

E. QUITO BUS TERMINAL

Due to the new transportation system "TROLE BUS" we are recommending to take the following route from Peace Corps Office:

1. Take cream/red stripe bus (*Union Popular Guajala*) from Ave. Colón and 6 de Diciembre (*Hospital Boca Oriza*, going up towards Ave. 12 de Octubre).
2. Ask the driver to let you off in the Terminal Entrance.

Irene has a map if you need it.

II. PERSONAL MATTERS:

I always take my time to read the *El Clima* articles. I enjoy most of them. I would like to send the following message to Eric Cosgrove:

I read your article, "Welcome to the Jungle," published in the November-December edition of *El Clima*.

First of all, congratulations on your wonderfully written, entertaining, educational features about the Ecuadorian Jungle.

I personally enjoyed reading about your wild experience with Boaco. Reading your article, I felt as if I were part of the excursion. You described your adventures so vividly that I too felt exhausted by the end of the article.

I appreciated the way you explored the English language. This gave me the opportunity to expand my English vocabulary, while being thoroughly entertained. My education did not stop there. I had the opportunity (as many of your readers, I assume) to be informed about the dramatic deforestation of the Ecuadorian Jungle.

Finally, I would like to commend you on your efforts to dedicate yourself to your work. I am sure that Ecuador and its people will benefit from your service as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Muchos Saludos.
En Paz, Ana María

por Mireya Yépez, biblioteca

Bienvenidos a ésta columna del Centro de Recursos con la cual ustedes podrán estar informados permanentemente acerca de nuevas publicaciones e información que llega a la biblioteca, así como sobre noticias de *World Wise Schools*, *World Map* y demás temas relacionados con el funcionamiento del Centro.

ICE (Peace Corps' Information Collection & Exchange) nos envía permanentemente la actualización de su Catálogo, en la cual consta la bibliografía sobre los libros que ya no distribuyen y los libros nuevos que se pueden solicitar, cuya copia se puede obtener en biblioteca para consulta. Esta actualización forma parte de una publicación electrónica que ICE envía a todos los países en el marco del trabajo en Red de todos los Centros de Recursos del mundo; en igual forma se puede obtener una impresión de los principales artículos que pueden ser de tu interés y que los puedes consultar en el R.C. A continuación se listan aquellas publicaciones que han ingresado desde la última edición de *El Clima*, y que se pueden consultar en biblioteca:

Magazines:

- *Appropriate Technology*. Vol. 22/No. 2/Sept. 1995/Quarterly.
- *Grassroots Development. Journal of the Inter-American Foundation*. Vol. 19/No. 2/1995. (Focus: Resource mobilization).
- *FORUM. English Teaching Forum: a journal for teacher of english outside the United States*. Vol. 33/No. 4/Oct. 1995.
- *ILEIA Newsletter for low external input and sustainable agriculture*. Vol. 11/No. 3/Oct. 1995, and Vol. 11/No. 4/Dec. 1995.
- *Echo Development Notes*. No. 50/Oct. 1995.
- *Child Health Dialogue. (Incorporating ARI News and Dialogue on Diarrhea)*. Issue 1/4th quarter 1995.
- *IRC Network News. Electronic newsletter for IRC Managers*. Vol. 2/No. 3/1995.
- *UNASYLVA. An international journal of forestry and forest industries*. Vol. 46/No. 183/1995/4th.
- *DEEP. A periodic review of FAO and NGO programmes and publications in agricultural and rural development*. Oct. 1995.
- *Population Reports. Injections and implants*. Series K/No. 5/Ago. 1995.
- *Peace Corps WID Report*.

World Wise Schools:

Para aquellos voluntarios que todavía no tienen su *World Wise Schools Handbook for Volunteers and Teachers*, por favor retirarlo del Centro de Recursos

El Centro ha adquirido nuevos libros sobre el Ecuador, entre ellos unos videos en inglés, siendo fundamentalmente material de referencia sobre el país, que puede ayudarles en su comunicación con las escuelas y puede ser consultado por quienes estén o no en el Programa durante las horas en las que me encuentro laborando, esto es de lunes a jueves de 8:00 a 12:00. Ustedes pueden solicitar una copia de su bibliografía con un resumen de contenido.

World Map:

Ha llegado un nuevo *Manual del Proyecto de World Map*, basado en el manual anterior que muchos de ustedes tienen. Si necesitan les puedo proporcionar fotocopias.

Agradecería mucho recibir sugerencias relacionadas con esta columna, por favor enviármelas al Centro de Recursos.

Hasta la próxima!

More

Anyone who has been through Riobamba knows I like to bake anything and everything. Some people have asked for my recipes so here are a few of my favorites.

NEVER-FAIL BANANA BREAD

- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. butter (Dorinda)
- 3 mashed bananas
- 2 well-beaten eggs
- 1 1/4 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda

Cream sugar and butter. Add bananas and eggs. Sift and add dry ingredients. Pour into a loaf pan. Bake at 350° for one hour.

BEST RUM CAKE EVER



- 1 or 2 qt. rum
- 1 c. butter
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 c. dried fruit
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1/2 pt. (E.N.; pint?) lemon juice
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. nuts

Before you start, sample the rum for quality. Good, isn't it? Now, go ahead. Select a large mixing bowl, measuring cup, etc. Check the rum again. It must be just right. To be sure the rum is of the highest quality, pour one level cup of rum into a glass and drink it as fast as you can. Repeat.

Beat the butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of thugar and beat again. Meanwhile, make sure that the rum is of the highest quality. Try another cup. Open second quart if necessary. Add two arge leggs, two cups fried fruit, and beat. Sample the rum again, checking for tonscisticity.

Next sift three cups of pepper or salt (it really doesn't matter). Sample the rum again. Sift 1/2 pint of lemon juice. Fold in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add one Bablespoon of brown thugar, or whatever color you can find. Wix mell. Grease oven and turn cake pan to 350°. Now pour the whole mess into the coven and ake. Check the rum again and go to bed.

CRAZY CHOCOLATE CAKE

- 1 1/2 c. flour
- 1 c. sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cocoa
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 1 Tbsp. vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1 Tbsp. milk
- 1 c. water

Sift dry ingredients and place in graduated large round cake pan. Make four depressions in flour mixture. Into one put oil, into one put vinegar, and into the other put vanilla. Pour the water over all the mix with fork. Do not beat. Bake at 350° until done.

RECIPES

1 3/4 c. flour
 1 c. sugar
 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/2 c. brown sugar
 1/2 c. milk
 1/2 c. oil
 1/2 c. nuts
 1/2 c. dried fruit
 1/2 c. lemon juice
 1/2 c. butter
 1/2 c. thugar
 1/2 c. pepper or salt
 1/2 c. water
 1/2 c. vanilla
 1/2 c. milk

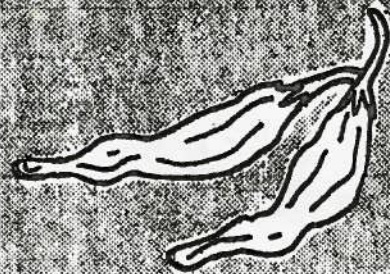
Mix dry ingredients and rum. Add milk, soda and butter. Mix until well combined. Add brown sugar, oil, nuts, dried fruit, and vanilla. Pour into a greased cake pan. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Recipes

submitted by Tracy McCracken, Riobamba (Chimborazo)

Chili con Carne

- 1 large onion sliced
- 1 green pepper chopped
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 lb. tomatoes (2 cups) cut in quarters
- 1-250 cc carton of *Tomate Frito* (Maggi brand)
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt (add more later to taste)
- 1 or 2 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 can kidney beans with juice OR 1 cup dry red beans that have been soaked overnight.



Brown onion, green pepper and meat in small amount of oil. Add tomatoes, sauce, etc. Cover and simmer 1 1/2 hours.

PIZZA EMPANADA

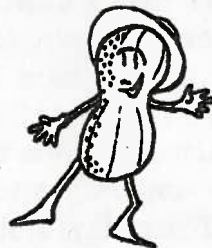
Same recipe as "*empanada de queso*" recipe in *Buen Provecho*, just add:

pasta de tomate--1 Tbsp. per *empanada*
Chopped green pepper--to taste
chopped onion--to taste
sliced tomato--to taste
grated carrot--to taste

This can be baked for 30 minutes each side in a *campo* oven (yum) or fried (yuck!). *Campo* cheese works well--no need for mozzarella.

PEANUT BUTTER

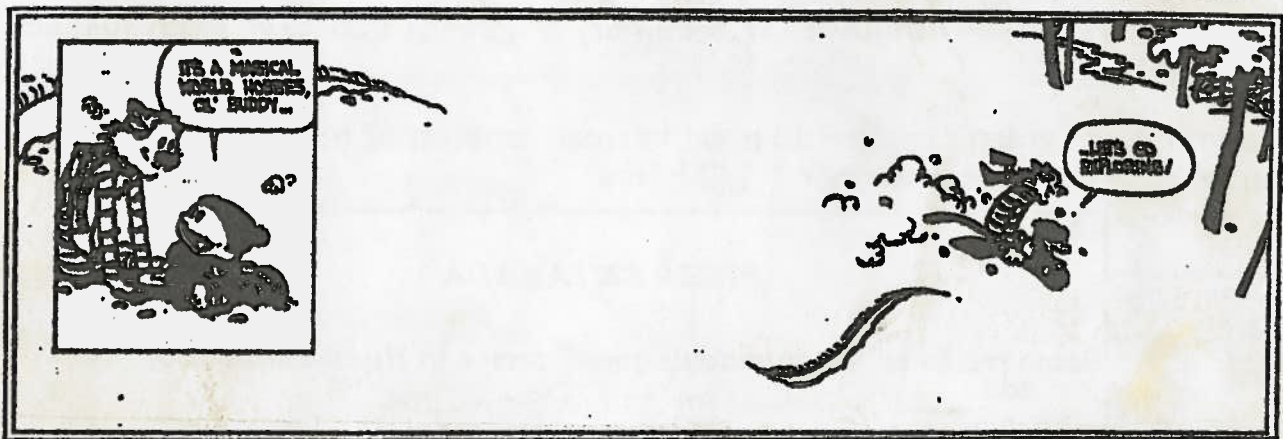
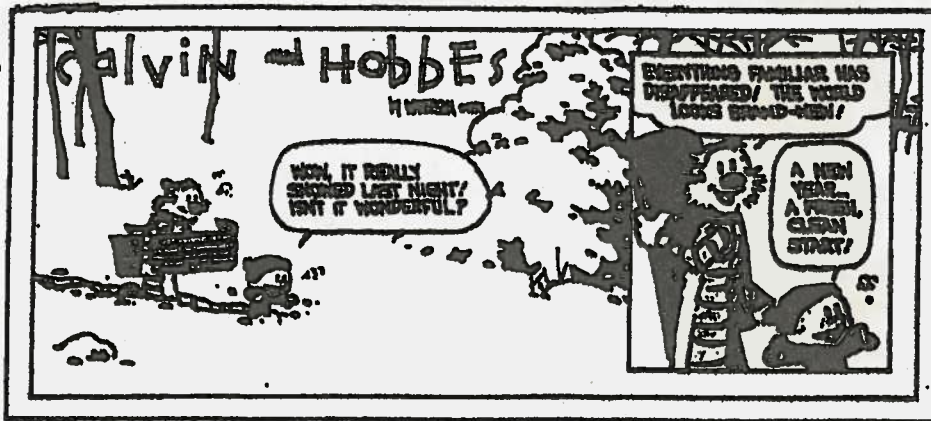
- 1 pound peanuts
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 pinch of salt
- 2 Tbsp. sugar



Put peanuts in frying pan without oil on low heat and stir continuously for 20 minutes (until thin brown outer shell comes off easily) until roasted. Allow 30 minutes for peanuts to cool. Put half of the peanuts in a blender with oil, salt and sugar—chop and blend until creamy. Then slowly add the remaining half of the peanuts. . . you may need to add a few extra Tbsp. of oil, depending on the quality of blender you are using. That's it!



FAREWELL TO...



CALENDAR

- Mon., Feb 19: US Presidents Day, holiday (office closed)
- Tue., Feb 20: Ecuadorian Carnival, holiday (office closed)
- Wed., Feb 21-23: TOT for Omnibus 75
- Wed., Feb 28-30: Peer Coaching IST Omnibus 74 (Nellie), Chorlavi
- Wed., Mar 6: Trainees (Omnibus 75) arrive in Ecuador
- Sun., Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day (Peace Corps office closed)
- Mar 17-23: Miguel Artola travels to Guatemala for a Micronutrients Workshop
- Mar 24-30: Trainees visit PCV sites
- Thurs., Apr 4: Holy Thursday, holiday (office closed)
- Fri., Apr 5: Good Friday, holiday (office closed)
- Tues., Apr 9: VAC Meeting
- Apr 15-16: Follow-up conference (Omnibus 74), Chorlavi
- Apr 17-19: Integrated Job Conference at Chorlavi (Health, Water San., Housing, Youth Dev., Special Ed.)
- Wed., May 1: Ecuadorian Labor Day, holiday (office closed)
- Mon., May 27: US Memorial Day, holiday (office closed)