EL CLIMA

OCT/NOV A PEACE CORPS ECUADOR PUBLICATION 1994

EL CLIMA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPENING REMARKS

A Swift Farewell by Andrew Swift
From Chris by Chris Samuel
From Debra by D.R. Wiggins
From JCV by Juan Carlos Velasquez
JES by Jean Seigle

VIEWPOINT

How I Dodged The Bullet by Jonathan Tin
(untitled) by Joe Johnson
Rebuttal by Andrew Swift
On Being Apolitical by Jack Bellanger

FEATURES

PC Director Visits Ecuador by CD Jean Seigle
Q & A with Carol Bellamy by Chris Samuel
A Creation Fable by CD Jean Seigle
Evaluations? Where Are We Now? by Barry Bem
The Violation by Miles Cooley
Male-Female Relationships in Ecuador by Kat Linden
¿Y Por Que un Proyecto de Desarollo Juvenil? by APCD Nellie Villavicencio
Day of the Dead by DR Wiggins
Nuestro Idioma by Chris Samuel
Here's to Your Health by the PCMO's
Fun with Food submitted by Ralph Coleman's Mom
Pueblo to Pueblo by John Hayes
A Grain of Hope for Battered Economics submitted by Juan Carlos Velasquez
What are They Thinking? by Todd Birchler
Tips on Applying to Graduate School from Peace Corps by Carrie Caballero

Speak Easy

Mixta Affair III: The Apocalypse by Shane McCarthy
¿Como? by Juan Carlos Velasquez
RocknRoll Dr. by Barry Lazarus
On The Bus by Juan Carlos Velasquez

Doggie Deterrents by Shane McCarthy
Three Pigs, Vertically Challenged submitted by CD Jean Seigle
It Can't Be More Than 7:30 in the Evening by Ann Burfiend
Naomi by D.R. Wiggins
Anticipation by D.R. Wiggins

VAC Minutes
Training Center Update by Tim Callaghan
Third Goal submitted by CD Jean Seigle
Administrative Corner by AO Ana Maria Castro
A Farewell Note by Ximena Baus
Money Memo
Miscellaneous
Carchi-Imbabura Provincial Poop —JCV
Convoluted Whimsy by Juan Carlos Velasquez

¿Que Fue?

A Swift Farewell

Every man desires to live long but no man would be old.
-Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745

Well, it is finally happening, my time has come- I'm fading into the after-corps. After however many years, it's time to move on. Projects are finally coming to an end and the symptoms of burn-out are clearly visible. I hate the thought of seeming like some bitter old fart who can't do anything more than gum his dentures and wax philosophical about what could have been, but the truth is that I can't help think about work I shoulda done, trips I shoulda taken, a lover I shoulda married, friends I miss and a couple of people I shoulda just punched right in the nose. But I suppose that is the nature of the beast, maybe I'll be able to learn something from it. Never too old to learn, certainly hope not anyhow.

Yesterday I met with those of *el clima* in my final meeting. The idea was proposed to change the name of *el clima*. Apparently, those who are taking over after my departure find the name distasteful and want to change it to something newer. "Why?" was my first question (though I expressed myself with a snappy pastiche of my favorite expletives just to let them know they had my undivided attention). The publication does in fact speak of the "climate" of the Volunteer community here in Ecuador. But no, they want the name to reflect the changes that *el clima* is going through. To hell with the fact that it has been *el clima* longer than anyone here can remember- they want a new name. We discussed it and when the smoke finally cleared, everyone had come to the conclusion that it would be better to just wait till the crotchety old fart (that's me) leaves and then change it. Not much I can do about that, is there? Old mister Robert back on the dairy would have had the perfect response to savy like that. He'd of said something like "There are more ways to kill a cat than by choking it to death on butter." Smart that Mister Robert and they're smart those *el clima* folk too. Hell, they remind me of myself back in my formative years before we had all these fancy computers, scanners and whatnot, did *el clima* on a typewriter we did! They're gonna make this into a respectable little publication you wait and see. Yup, I guess it's best to wait until I'm gone, no use in getting all worked up over the inevitable.

Bye-bye *el clima*, you're an old sock with the heel wearing thin and rather than darn you it looks like they'll just throw you away. I call that run away consumerism- you can have, make or buy whatever you want no matter what. Nothing for the long term 'cause we can get a new one as easy as we could fix the old one so why bother? Sexy idea really, it's just that the idea runs away with itself (that is how we got things like plastic surgery and Ronco Salad-shooters). And it's not just here and it's not just *el clima* and it's not just the Salad-shooter either, it's happening all over the world to everyone and everything. City limits are swallowin' up country-side, people are damming rivers so they can go water skiing, kids would rather work in the paper mills than on the farms and women in Beverly hills are having their five-thousand dollar poodles perfume-dipped every other week. Jesus! People everywhere are giving up what was and trying to rebuild the human race.

Damned Yahoos, think they know everything- gotta change everything. Nothing was ever good enough for em'. Hell, they traded love at first sight for casual sex, what a mistake that was. And can you believe that love doesn't conquer all anymore? If she deems your inherent personality traits as "fundamentally incompatible" with hers, well, you've about as good a chance at winning her heart as you'd have at winning a flower contest with a basketfull of road apples. I'd swear people would rather analyze me than talk to me. It's all too methodical, too scientific, too god damned cold! It's all Bulls__t! Anything worth having is worth working for. Am I right? Or is poodle dipping something that society should dedicate itself to? Yes? No, it's not. Don't give up on me just because things aren't perfect and I'll do the same for you! Whatever happened to romance and passion and chocolate candies and blushing when your sweetheart smiles at ya'? Did we give that up for five kinds of walnut-flavored coffee, E-mail and Beaver and Buffcoat? I want people who have more passion and less science- take your yoga, the self-help books and that damned soloflex machine and give me porch swings, fresh lemonade and the Savannah River on a full moon. The twenty-first century is gonna be a tough pill to swallow as it is folks, what with pollution and war and all the people hating one another- why make the transition any more difficult than it has to be? We don't need to reinvent humanity, tinker with it if you need to, but don't mess with the structure. Ah hell, I'm sorry I'm rambling again, but then again my life is little more than an experiment in free-association anyhow. Say, that reminds me of a good joke...oh never mind.

I also want to apologize if I've been hard to get along with lately. I'm not much on change but change is all that is on the menu for the next six months or so. I don't like it and I make myself crazy thinkin' about it. In any case, if I snapped at you or pissed you off or said something that was horribly inapproriate at an even more horribly inapropriate time, believe me when I say I am sorry, because I am and if I thought I knew how to make it up to you I would. And in all fairness these new folks and

their generation, they did get some things right, like the whole idea of equality whether between the sexes or among the races- that is definitely something that needed to be changed and would not have happened at the dairy, I know that now. Yeah, I suppose it's not as bad as I make it out, I'm just tired that's all. So anyhow, maybe I'll take off and look for little peices of the dairy strewn throughout the world. I guess the real question is whether I can be lucky enough to find it and smart enough to recognize it at the same time. Yeah, to hell on a bobsled with all of this trash- it's liable to depress me- go on, change the damned name- but don't be surprised if I don't come back and change it myself after y'all are gone.

So long yahoos, I wish you all good luck forever, and I mean that! Feel free to come visit me on Mr. Robert's Dairy no matter where I may be- you all are always welcome.

Andrew Swift, *Quito*

From Chris...

Things are changing and I love it! I feel very lucky to be the incoming *el clima* Editor at this time in its history. I've been a member of *el clima* staff for a while now. We've had our ups and downs, our share of criticism and compliments. I am sad to say good-bye to Andrew as Editor. Although he has driven me crazy at various times over the months, we've had some good times together. He's taken me by the hand through the complicated process of putting *el clima* together. We have always strived to improve the newsletter and make it not only entertaining but also valuable as a resource for Volunteers, whether for work-related information or Spanish language reviews (plug, plug!). For this reason, I am especially thankful for Country Director Jean Seigle's continued commitment to *el clima*. What a difference it makes when administration really shows an interest in the Volunteer publication! I'd like to acknowledge Janet Dorman's substantial contribution to the changes going on in *el clima*. She was the person who came to us with constructive ideas and suggestions about how we could improve *el clima*. Janet has considerable experience working on newsletters in the States. Her ideas included everything from scheduling to forming policy to having a standard application for Volunteers who want to be a part of *el clima*. As Art Director, she created a new layout, the results of which you see here in this edition. Juan Carlos Velasquez, who lost the campaign for Editor (ha! ha!), will be merely Managing Editor. He and I worked together to formulat the policy appearing in this issue. I look forward to his continued support as Sancho to my doña Quixote. Debra Wiggins has come aboard as Features Editor and will be coordinating stories and actively seeking out interested writers for upcoming editions of *el clima*. Julie Piskur and Suzan Smith typed this edition. Thanks to Julie for her excellent organizational skills. OK, enough thanking everyone.

Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are all quickly approaching. Christmas ads are already on TV in the States. Just imagine how fat you could be getting if you were back home now! But, tradition to the wind, it's out with the trick or treating and in with the corner mixto burgers. Things are not the way they once were...

Chris Samuel, *Cuambo*

From Debra...

As *el clima's* new Features Editor, I, along with the *el clima* staff, look forward to receiving a multitude of articles, stories, and poetry from Peace Corps Volunteers. Please note that each issue of *el clima* will feature at least two pieces of a central theme and I will inform readers of the next issue's intended theme. For the Jan-Feb issue, the central theme will be the characteristics of an indigenous group that distinguishes that group from the mestizo population. Those who live with and/or work with the indigenous people of Ecuador, please share what you have learned.

D.R.Wiggins, *Ibarra*

From JCV...

Hey man, what's up with this? "From this person, From that person..." I didn't know I was going to have to actually write something intelligent when I took on this job.I don't need this kind of pressure.

Juan Carlos Velasquez, *Mira*

El clima is a bimonthly magazine by and for the Peace Corps community of Ecuador and beyond. Opinions expressed are those of the author and are not necessarily the opinions of the *el clima* staff, the Peace Corps, or the United States Government.

Outgoing Editor - Andrew Swift
Incoming Editor - Chris Samuel
Managing Editor- Juan Carlos Velasquez
Features Editor- Debra Wiggins
Art Direction - Janet Dorman
Typing Coordinators - Julie Piskur, Suzan Smith

Submit articles for publication by leaving them in the *el clima* submissions folder on either of Quito's computer's hard disks and placing a hard (printed) copy in the *el clima* mailbox, or by mail to:

el clima
c/o Cuerpo de Paz
Casilla 17-03-635
Quito

Deadline for the next two issues:
Jan/Feb issue- Dec. 28
Mar/Apr issue- Feb. 22.

JES

I have nearly completed conducting COS interviews with each PCV from Omnibus 68. I find that COSing Volunteers have a rich perspective on their PCV experience. Most are saddened by leaving Ecuadorean family and friends, and PCV friends, but are ready to leave. Adventurous travel awaits some, others are anxious to be back home.

There was one theme that kept recurring in the interviews. Each PCV expressed this in an individual way -but the great majority spoke of the struggles of the first 6 months or a year and the productivity of the second year. Somehow "it all came together". In the written reports completed by COSing Volunteers there is a question that asks "what advice would you give to a new PCV?" Again a few universal themes appear in the responses: "Our job is to train someone - not to do it all ourselves..... never forget that you are different - thinking, actions, desires, perceptions - and never apologize for that. Rather recognize that you are here to live in a new culture - appreciate the similarities and the differences".

My thanks to the PCVs of Omnibus 68 who have provided me with thoughtful suggestions on how to improve PC/Ecuador. The COS reports which were completed by these PCVs will be part of the future site selection process and will be on file at the Training Center for review by PCTs who want to learn more about PCV history in their assigned site. To all the PCVs of Omnibus 68, PC Ecuador thanks you for your commitment to service, and for your contributions to PC Ecuador. You will be missed. Good luck!

As this El Clima goes to press our newest Omnibus is finishing field technical training. Thanks to all the PCVs who have been involved. Congratulations and welcome to the new Volunteers who will be sworn in on October 28th. We are grateful to Tim, Sarah and the entire Training Team for their excellent work and dedication.

New Site Selection Planning Process: Many of you have expressed concern about the site selection process. There is the sense that this has been done mysteriously, or worse. That has not been the case - but perhaps the process has not been explained adequately. Starting with the February 1995 training group the site selection process will be as follows:

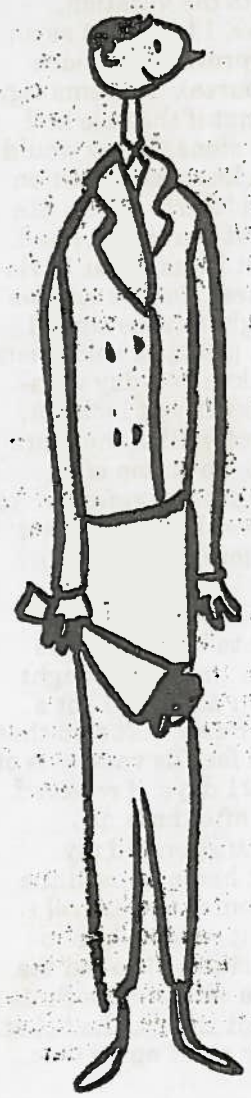
Approximately 3 months prior to the arrival of a Training class (in this case on Oct. 31st) there will be a Site Selection Integration Planning Meeting (maybe we'll just call it SSIPM in good PC Speak...) ACPDs, Barry, Tim, PCMO Staff, Ana María, María Eugenia and I will participate. We will review sites that are being considered by the 3 APCDS involved in the upcoming training. Criteria will include:

- PCV Health and Safety
- Project Plan Goals - sustainabilty of development work
- Agency/Counterpart: availability, history, desire to work with PCV
- History of PCVs in site
- Availability of housing
- Availability of transportation
- PCV input from Job Conferences, COS reports, ad hoc
- Proximity to other PCVs (saturation/isolation)
- Assignment integrates well with other projects i.e. Environmental Education/Ag - possible joint/group/or proximal assignments.
- Regional balance.
- Training needs - languages needed, specific regional training needs esp. ref. crops, animals, etc.

This process is intended to encourage us all to think about site selection in a broader and more integrated fashion. My goal is to step beyond project specific needs - although these are fundamental to proper site selection - to consider how we all, as PC Ecuador, combine to address development needs in Ecuador.

Thanks to Andrew for his dedication to and past stewardship of *el clima*. I look forward to working with Chris and the new editorial team.

Jean E. Seigle, *Country Director*



How I Dodged the Bullet

By Jonathon Tin, Sucua

Recently I came back from the States. The situation is apparently of interest to Volunteers in general so I'll describe the entire event. I called Barry in June to discuss another matter, but did discuss my upcoming thirty-day vacation. That turned out to be a huge ordeal because it violated a rule that says a vacation can be no longer than 21 days. As that was not really the focus of my call, Barry didn't put much thought into the vacation. Nonetheless, I took that as an implicit approval of the idea (later, of course). It seems logical to me that if the rule had been set in stone, Barry would have had a knee-jerk reaction when I said "thirty days". He did not, so at that point I had no idea that I was about to violate the rules. To give an idea of my thoughts at the time, I had known plenty of volunteers who had taken 30+-day vacations before without incident, but apparently all of them predate Barry. So on top of an uneventful passing reference to Barry, I never knew it to be a problem before.

Three days before I was about to leave, and the tickets had been bought (peak season at that), I got a letter from Barry that said that the Manual forbids vacations of more than 21 days. I received it in Quito, after both my Program Manager and my counterpart had approved the request. Monica (the travel agent) said it was too late to change the ticket. I called the airline twice while in the States and could not change the ticket. While Barry and I agree that this was a half-assed attempt at compliance, I wasn't rejecting the policy change out of hand. A bigger sticking point is that I didn't call the Peace Corps office to tell them that I couldn't get back. My rebuttal to that is that I did call my office in Sucua to let them know- a relationship that has a more direct impact on my work.

So when I got back, I found out that Barry considered this worthy of administrative separation. We had a long meeting with the Country Director and I spoke my peace. I said that a rule isn't valid just by the fact that it's in the manual (good laws are enforced; I got that in civics). I already had everybody signed off on it. It was peak season and there was no way (short of going for standby) to change the ticket. I was told three days before departure. What I'm trying to convey is that there were mitigating circumstances, and that is how I dodged the bullet.

But that's not even the good part (if you can believe it). It turns out that some volunteer has found out about my case, or at least he/she knows I took thirty days. In making his/her case to Barry, this person wants to take a thirty-day vacation for Christmas (I was back by the end of August, to give this some reference). I doubt that this person had even bought the tickets (it was four months away, for chrissakes). But in that grass roots movement to get us all treated exactly the same way, this person finds justification in his/her plan because I did and didn't get kicked out.

Thus proving that truth really is dumber than fiction. But Barry wanted me to get the word out about what happened and why they still have the ability to create rules (i.e. just because the rule was slightly unjust in my case doesn't mean it can never exist). And lest you think I'm playing party stooge to tired rhetoric, I'm completely on Barry's side on this and would even like to make a point of my own. Jean Seigle informs me that she's under terrific pressure to make all the rules completely uniform. That's a terrible idea that only points to the greater evil in Peace Corps-stultifying bureaucracy. Do we really want our dynamic administrators to rubber-stamp every case? Mitigating circumstances DO exist, and I would certainly want the administration to be able to recognize that and deal with each case accordingly. I expect a closer examination with such a small staff, not just Plinko bureaucracy (Plinko - being the name of that game on Price is Right where you drop the chips and they get bounced into random prize-slots). Just because you get screwed by some rule it doesn't mean that someone didn't. And if he/she did, maybe he/she had a better case than you. Jean and Barry seem like open-minded people. I think we can trust their judgment.

Another reason I had to write this article is because Barry is going to be under pressure to explain why he didn't kick me out. For all of you who would apply such pressure, you can buff these blanks. Get a life. The biggest and most common waste of time in Peace Corps is spending it by looking around and seeing what every other Volunteer is doing, and judging the experience by that standard. If a considerable worry is how other Volunteers are being treated by administration in Quito, then I doubt you're focusing on the real reason you're here. But I guess it takes all kinds.

(untitled)

By Joe Johnson, Huigra

Hey y'all. This letter is to put tangible voice to an issue I've done a lot of yapping about but haven't yet made an obvious stink over, and that issue is the way in which Quichua is treated by Peace Corps, or, mejor dicho, how it's not treated at all.

OK: Why is the Quichua language, which is spoken by a substantial percentage of the Sierran rural poor, at whom so many of Peace Corps efforts are directed, given nothing but a token and trivial handling by Peace Corps during training? Here are the answers I've been given while wondering this aloud to various higher-ups in the organization:

1."We DO teach Quichua. We have two, count 'em, TWO Quichua teachers in Tumbaco!"
2. "Those who need Quichua get it - it's always available as needed."
3. "We have to get all the trainees speaking Spanish first. That has to be our priority."
4. "Quichua, however widespread, is only one of many indigenous languages. We'd have to teach all of them to be fair."
5. "Quichua doesn't matter - They all speak Spanish." (Honest! No Lie! This was SAID to me.)

Each of these arguments is full of its own special brand of hogwash, but no matter what the individual flavor, they all come from a big canister in the back room of Peace Corps labeled "Institutionalized Ra ci—". But I hate to give away the end. Let's dissect each pearl of beauracratic wisdom individually.

1 OK - I took an intensive 8 week, 8 credit Quichua class a year before I got to Ecuador, and had met a total of SIX Ecuadorian Quichua speakers while Stateside. When I got here, and you can ask the teachers this, I spoke just as well as they did. A teacher who teaches something once a year or so for two weeks at a time can't be expected to be at peak levels of proficiency, so it isn't their fault. This level of instruction does not, to me, reflect any great commitment on the part of Peace Corps.

2 If Quichua is taught to those deemed to need it, it's taught for two weeks as an afterthought, and it might wind up doing more harm than good, community entry-wise. To teach such a pittance, the implication being that educated and worldly people don't stoop to speaking Quichua except to learn a "hello" or two for s---s and giggles.

3 I agree that Spanish would be tough to get by without in Ecuador. Still, it could be done - most tourists get into, around and out of the country successfully knowing only "taco" and "enchilada". You find the odd bus driver who speaks some English, only stay in the best hotels where the staff speaks it, and bingo, you're assimilated. Sound ridiculous? It's no more so than asking PCV's to work with indigenous people in Quichua-speaking or even bilingual sites with no Quichua. I work in a bilingual community, and would be lost without both lingos. Anything meant for me to hear would be in Spanish, and the rest of the time I'd be wandering in a surreal, fantastical world. Like on Star Trek: The Next Generation, when Jordi and Ensign Roe got phased into a slightly off time frame and could hear and see everybody else but were unable to interact with or affect them. That, I think you'll all agree, would suck. I admit that Spanish is necessary, and so suggest this: Teach Quichua to those of us who speak Spanish already when we get here, which amounted to between seven and twelve of us in my group, depending how you qualify them. "But, but, they might not get sent to Quichua-speaking sites" you say. My response is two fold. First, Big deal. It beats twiddling your thumbs for four hours a day, discussing animal rights and reading the newspaper, which is what those unfortunate facilitators who draw the "advanced" groups are paid to help us do, and besides, it would enhance our understanding and appreciation of Ecuador. (Peace Corps goal number 2, I believe.) Second: So select the sites earlier, and on the basis of the linguistic qualifications of each individual as much as on "personality" or whatever else criteria are supposedly used to pick them over the course of training.

4 I agree. Teach Shuar, teach Huaorini, teach whatever is necessary (and it IS necessary) to get each volunteer prepared, if need be by contracting one-on-one tutors. Worried about money? Sell an Explorer or three.

5 This answer, given to me by an APCD, reflects, I think, the view of most of mainstream Ecuador, which is that Quichua is kind of a hushed-embarrassement. A chink in the unity of the patria. I can't reconcile Peace Corps going along with that. As it stands, we're treating Quichua-speaking Ecuadorians like second-class citizens who speak a second-class language. I recently attended a field day with another volunteer, held in an indigenous village. We all had to introduce ourselves in turn, and when I, a non-Ecuadorian, stood up and did it in Quichua, I was met with popped eyes, grins, and, when I was done, booming applause. This is the kind of reception Peace Corps is denying all of its volunteers who work with indigenous people. Ecuador is a multi-cultural and multi-lingual place. After more than thirty years, you'd think we would have figured that out.

Note from Jean: At the Sixth-Month Conference Quichua will be offered to all PCVs who have requested Quichua instruction. Language needs will be a criteria for future site selection.

Rebuttal

By Andrew Swift, Quito

I would like to respond to Joe Johnson's editorial which criticizes Peace Corps for not offering a variety of indigenous languages to trainees. I understand the argument for wanting to be taught Quechua if you think your site will require it, but let's be realistic about what we expect from the training center. The training center concentrates on teaching us Spanish. Is the author suggesting they teach us two languages at the same time? Not for me thanks, one was hard enough in three months. I would never advise (nor expect for that matter) that prospective trainees learn anything other than Spanish before coming to Ecuador.

Second, I must say that of my two friends who came to Ecuador with excellent Spanish and then studied Quechua in training, they both complained that the campesinos were reluctant (read, ashamed) to admit speaking Quechua as their first language. As a result, they had little opportunity to speak Quechua, and in the end felt that the extra language was neither crucial to their acceptance in the community nor to their eventual success as volunteers. The training center may be wary of such experiences and reluctant to move ahead with additional third language training. But that is neither here nor there; the author says Quechua is invaluable in his sight- punto final. The author is to be commended for taking the time to learn Quechua prior to Peace Corps but as I see it trainees who come to PC Ecuador rarely speak anything other than Spanish, and therefore we should not expect the training center to keep top of the line Quechua facilitators waiting in the wings for the few trainees who want to perfect a third language. They have bigger fish to fry (namely getting volunteers with poor Spanish up to an acceptable level before they swear-in.) In my omnibus, there was someone studying Quechua one-on-one while the zero-plus trainees were still three and four to a facilitator.

Let's not kid ourselves. The training center is not omniscient and it is ludicrous to pretend that three months of training can provide us with everything we will need at our sites. There is too much to be learned in that short a period of time. Be it language, cross cultural, or technical skills, the demands of a site will be unique to each Volunteer. Successful Volunteers learn almost everything they need at their site. Finally, the author claims that the training center was "flojo" in it's attempt to teach him Quechua. Well, that may be true, but to accuse Peace Corps of "...institutionalized racism" just because Spanish receives priority over Quechua is, in my opinion, out of line, a cheap shot against Peace Corps and smacks of a half-baked conspiracy theory. •

On Being Apolitical

By Jack Bellanger, Santa Isabel

When all of us signed the papers to enter Peace Corps we also took an oath to be apolitical. For a few of us that meant leaving behind avenues for educating people on the ins and outs of politicism in our modern world. For others it meant nothing less than not being able to tie into a group that thinks politically on the same plane. For the rest it may have been of no concern that they must be apolitical.

At times the idea of being apolitical seems a bit absurd. As Peace Corps volunteers we are given our Newsweek and told to be apolitical. It is clear to many of us that the perspectives presented in Newsweek tend to have a right-wing bias. I wonder how Peace Corps would feel about issuing to us along with Newsweek a copy of "The Progressive" out of Madison, Wisconsin in order to balance out our apoliticalness.

In March the U.S. ambassador, Peter Romero made a trip to Azuay touring small towns and getting a taste of campo lifestyle. During his stay in Cuenca Volunteers in the area were invited to have breakfast with him at the Hotel Oro Verde. For a group of Volunteers vowed to political neutrality it was interesting to see the table conversation dominated by political dialogue. Questions pertaining to U.S. intervention in Panama, lack of developmental aid for Nicaragua, and laundering of drug money in Ecuadorean banks, etc. were directed towards the Ambassador. It's as if everyone were denying their need to suppress their political viewpoints. Political expression can manifest itself in many ways and be suppressed in many ways as well.

I have friends back in the States who are evangelicals and active with the church. It seems there is an agenda to suppress political activism in some of the evangelical denominations. Yes, there are exceptions (such as the abortion issue) but the rule of thumb is that religion and politics are incompatible. It's funny though, when election time comes there is a general bias to be protected and the churchgoers vote accordingly. Here in Ecuador and the rest of Latin America the Catholic church is beginning to realize its past ties to abusive economic systems and political evil and is doing something about it.

I've made friends with Ecuadoreans that work in development for Ecuadorean government agencies such as CREA, IEOS, and MAG. To my surprise I found out that they also must vow to be apolitical. At that point I began to see a disturbing pattern in this issue of being apolitical.

Just what is the reason we need to be apolitical? To be blindly faithful to the international agenda of Third World development? To protect the age old status-quo? Or perhaps to prevent the implementation of a check and balance system that holds the powerful accountable to the weak?

What am I really trying to say in this article? Is it truly possible to be apolitical? I think not. No matter what our political bias is we make decisions everyday in our life that affect other people, whether we are apolitical or not! When we choose not to decide one way or another on a specific issue, we still have made a decision that will affect the world we live in.

In many places in Latin America people are slowly losing their ability to reclaim lost property or retain rights to the property they legally already own, due to the corruptive laws regarding ownership. Others are losing their right to nominal health care, education, and subsidies that protect subsistence living. Just what do they really stand to gain or lose, those that write the laws demanding that we be apolitical? Are they threatened that the so-called apolitical workers may develop a horizontal relationship with the down-trodden of Latin America and thus become voices within the unfair international system of economics and development? Do they fear the middle-class development workers may commit treason against an international development agenda that promotes paternalism instead of empowerment? Do they worry that nurses, teachers, engineers, and others will condemn with political activism the Americanization (legalization of greed) of Latin America?

Obviously there is much to be said about how government payrolls can influence a person's decision-making process, but where does our conscience hide when injustice is within our ranks? Who will be the voice to stand out of the crowd and take the beating for condemning rules and regulations that oppress instead of enable?

As I look down over the park from the 3rd floor of the Municipio here in Santa Isabel I can't help but feel I'm looking down from an ivory tower of apolitical stagnation. Yes, I see the peasants are gathering in front of the church. The loudspeaker on top of the church says there will be a march against the declining health care available to the low-class farmers. At this moment I realize how lucky I am to be American, to experience the luxury of an international system that benefits me and discounts the value of other human beings. Today my conscience is speaking to me as I want to join the march. Indeed it is convenient for some to be apolitical, but there are others who can't afford to be. I say it is time to bite the hand that feeds you, if the hand that feeds you is feeding you bad food!•

Country Director's note: The following quote is taken directly from the United States Peace Corps Volunteer Handbook, which is distributed to all volunteers. "Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, it has held steadfastly to an apolitical course. This policy is the keystone of the Peace Corps' long-term commitment to serve the peoples of host countries and to serve them effectively. Because the Peace Corps and individual Volunteers are seen and respected as being outside the political arena, they have been able to serve people whose governments encompass almost the entire spectrum of ideologies and political alignments.

As a Volunteer serving overseas, you must not become involved in the political affairs of the host country. The Peace Corps' commitment is not to the political forces of a nation but to its people. Its responsibility is to the host country agencies through which the people can be assisted. You may develop personal sympathies for one faction or another within the host country, but any active expression of these sympathies could seriously compromise your effectiveness, as well of that of the Peace Corps. Volunteer expression of opinion on political issues or other controversial issues relating solely to the host country may be made only in a private manner while serving within host countries." "Political Expression", page 46.

PC DIRECTOR BELLAMY VISITS ECUADOR

By Jean Seigle, Country Director

Carol Bellamy visited Ecuador for four days last month. Her schedule included meeting with the Training Center Staff and PCTs in Tumbaco, and meeting with PCVs in Cuenca, Ibarra, Guayaquil, and Quito. She had a breakfast meeting with VAC. Carol especially enjoyed meeting with PCVs and their counterparts as she did in Cuenca with Luz Rivera and Barry Lazarus, and in Vinces, with Tim Rodríguez. We organized a lunch in Quito with Host Country Agency representatives during which Padre Javier Herrán presented the following speech as spokesperson for the group. I'd like to include it here as it speaks to the most important part of the Peace Corps, the work and lives of the PCVs.

"Admito la limitación de mi representatividad para ser portavoz de quienes conocen, trabajan y viven con los Voluntarios del Cuerpo de Paz. Y agradezco la distinción que me han hecho para expressar a usted, Señora Carol Bellamy el sentir de un pueblo alegre y hospitalario.

Los numerosos y diferentes grupos humanos que habitan este pequeño y bello país, tienen denominador común de la gratitud y el reconocimiento. Gratitud que no expresan con palabras sino con signos culturales: ¡cuántos cuyes, motes, habas, asados, choclos, chichas, ponchos, placas, pendones y tántos otros!, han compartido las comunidades con los Voluntarios del Cuerpo de Paz. Compartir que es aceptación y familiaridad. A nombre de ellos, de montubios, indios, morenos y mestizos, de campesinos y pobladores suburbanos, de los hombres y mujeres que han recibido el entusiasmo emprendedor de los jóvenes y no tan jóvenes Voluntarios, gracias Señora Carol. ¡Dios se lo pague!. ¿Qué le puedo decir de las instituciones que actuamos como contraparte del Cuerpo de Paz? Tal vez los Voluntarios no encuentren el mismo afecto y acogida que en los campensinos. Es probable que nuestras deficiencias, limitaciones e incomprensiones hayan frustrado expectativas y provocado algunas lágrimas.

Pero por encima de ello, reconocemos el aporte humano y técnico que los Voluntarios dan a nuestras instituciones. Encontrar nuevos puntos de vista, experimentar cóme tecnologías de punta pueden ser aplicadas en condiciones de marginalidad, son oportunidades que enriquecen el trabajo institucional.

Gracias al Cuerpo de Paz por su presencia en nuestras instituciones.

Creemos haber superado posiciones dogmáticas para abrirnos a la ventana de descubrir cada día la vida del pueblo y encontrar el rol institucional en el respeto y servicio a cada comunidad. También vemos al Voluntario como un miembro más de nuestros equipos, por eso podemos opinar sobre la orientación del voluntario.. Un punto clave es la concepción del tiempo y el espacio, la historia de la comunidad. Es difícil para nosotros entrar en el ritmo de las poblaciones con las que trabajamos, no tiene por qué ser fácil para los Voluntarios. Aquí si deberíamos ayudarles, ustedes como directivos del Cuerpo de Paz y nosotros como instituciones locales.

El sujeto comunidad, sus intereses, sus posibilidades y limitaciones, deben estar presentes en las perspectivas que un voluntario se hace para dos años. Solo así podrá apreciar su aporte como parte de un proceso, y no como un programa con dos años de vida. Los Voluntarios del Cuerpo de Paz deben hacer un esfuerzo para superar la visión de "su programa" e incorporarse al trabajo de un proyecto de desarrollo conjunto: comunidad - institución. Ratificamos nuestros compromiso de hacer juntos el camino.

Desearíamos que los Voluntarios del Cuerpo de Paz no limiten su entrega a dos años por el desarrollo, compartiendo necesidades y esperanzas con los pueblos que les han recibido. Quisieramos Voluntarios que continuen su compromiso allí donde se toman decisiones que nos afectan a todos.

Estoy seguro que compartimos una misma esperanza que nos impulsa a dar lo mejor de nosotros mismos para hacer de este mundo el Planeta Azul donde la huminidad sea El Gran Cuerpo de Paz.

Gracias a vosotros Voluntarios por el trabajo compartido. Gracias a usted Señora Carol por su dirección y servicio de este Cuerpo de Paz hoy presente en Ecuador".

Speech from Father Javier Herrán, Director of "Casa Campesina - Cayambe" in representation of Host Country Agency Officials during a lunch offered in honor of Peace Corps Director Carol Bellamy on September 26.•

Gracias al Cuerpo de Paz por su presencia en nuestras instituciones.

Q & A with Carol Bellamy

By Chris Samuel, Cuambo

During Peace Corps Worldwide Director Carol Bellamy's recent visit to Ecuador, a number of Volunteers had the opportunity to meet her and participate in question and answer sessions. This is a recap of some of the conversation at the Ibarra meeting with Director Bellamy. The questions and her responses are not word-for-word reports, but rather summations of what was said.

Q. Is the 5-year time limit for Peace Corps staff being currently reviewed?

A. No. Bellamy stated that the rule will not change. She said it supplies the organization with fresh ideas and helps to keep motivation levels high. When asked about the possible entrenchment of host country staff she replied that they, like U. S. staff, are subject to evaluations and are offered training in order to ensure that they are effectively doing their jobs.

Q. Are there any South American countries on the Peace Corps expansion agenda?

A. Yes. Peace Corps is considering possible future entry into the countries of Guyana and Surinam.

Q. Has Peace Corps ever decided to discontinue working in a country because developmental goals had been achieved?

A. Yes, in two occasions. The countries were South Korea and Malaysia.

Q. When a developing country asks for aid from the United States are they obligated to accept Peace Corps as part of the deal?

A. No, said Belllamy. She added that foreign aid is under the direction of the Secretary of State. Peace Corps is a completely separate entity. She did state, however, that in some cases foreign aid and Peace Corps entry have occured at or near the same time. This took place in some Eastern European countries.

Q. Is Peace Corps going to be pulling out of any countries soon?

A. Yes, Peace Corps is planning to pull out of Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1998.

Q. How does Peace Corps arrive at a decision to leave a country?

A. Bellamy said the decision cannot be based on any one factor, such as the GNP of the country, because no single fact can tell you everything about the developmental or safety situation of a country. She added that it is a difficult decision to arrive at and a wide range of things are considered, including the number of years of P. C. involvement, financial indicators of progress, and the political climate of a country.

Q. What do you say to people who claim that Peace Corps uses developing countries as testing grounds to conduct experiments for the benefit of American businesses.

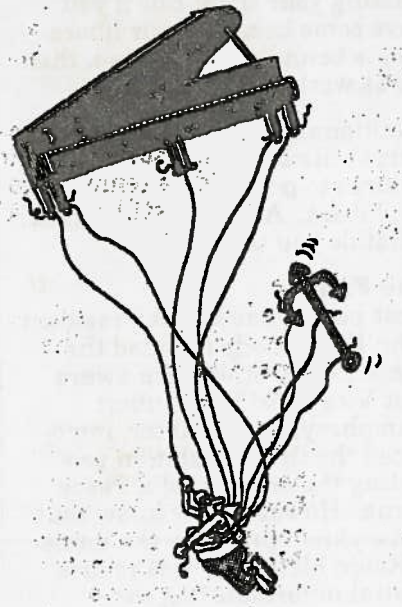
A. Bellamy replied that this allegation is untrue and that, if anything, there is a lack of information sharing between Volunteers on successful and unsuccessful projects. She added that all prospective Peace Corps Volunteers are carefully screened to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest.

Q. How do you think Peace Corps can better satisfy the changing development needs of the 90's?

A. Bellamy discussed the idea of combining traditionally separate programs to meet specific developmental needs (for example; agri-business and the combining of education and health to create an AIDS education program in some Peace Corps countries).

Q. What is the future for Peace Corps Ecuador?

A. Bellamy said that during her visit she would be evaluating the situation. As part of this evaluation, she pointedly asked Volunteers for their opinions on their respective programs and on Peace Corps Ecuador in general.



A Creation Fable

Submitted by Jean Seigle

In September I attended the InterAmerica Country Director's Conference held in Panama. The central theme of the conference was discussion and debate of development issues in IA countries and how Peace Corps can best address those needs. The debate was lively. It was difficult for the group to reach consensus about a definition of development. Each country has its own development history overlaid on individual and complex cultural histories. Marc Lindenberg's book *The Human Development Race* provided a common ground for discussion. He defines human development as ....."the process by which people expand their life choices by gaining greater access to economic resources, improving their ability to acquire knowledge and increasing their chances of a long and healthy life. " That definition provides a useful guide for me as I work with our Program Managers. At the conference I learned of a quote from an Aboriginal Australian Woman that will be with me for a long time. I'd like it to guide my work also. "If you've come to help me, you are wasting your time! But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

Additionally , we looked to Peace Corps' history, it's successes and failures to provide a template for the future. Are we still on track? What do you think?

The Fable

Most people know that President John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps; others are aware that Vice President Hubert Humphrey, as a Senator, introduced the first legislation promoting the creation of a Peace Corps. However, few know that a Maryknoll priest by the name of Kevin McGowen was instrumental in formulating the thinking on the structure and approach that Peace Corps would take in its operation. It is important to relate Father McGowen's contribution to the formulation of the Agency's operations because the principles which he articulated are still valid and as important today as they were when first laid down.

Father McGowen had worked for fifteen years with the local populace in the rural Andean areas of Bolivia in their effort to improve their lives. He understood the realities of people at the grassroots level. He had also seen the nascent efforts of the international community in promoting development throughout the Region. It was he more than anyone who recognized that, for a Peace Corps to be successful in achieving its stated goals, particularly the first goal "...to help the peoples of such countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained manpower, particularly in meeting the basic needs of those living in the poorest areas of such countries..." the Peace Corps as an organization would have to structure itself so that its members would live and work at the grassroots level, within the same constraints as the people with whom they would be working. He believed they should be human resources from whom learning could be gained and with whom learning could be shared. It was with these two organizing principles that Father McGowen foresaw that meaningful and sustainable development efforts could be achieved.

Implicit in the two organizing principles is the recognition that only by living at the grassroots level and within the socio-economic, cultural and political constraints of the local people could Americans be introduced to and understand the true reality of the underlying causes and consequences of the state of poverty which pervaded so much of the world at that time, and continues ever more today. In addition, by restricting the external resources available through the members of the Peace Corps, the local community could only undertake development initiatives within the limits of its capacity to raise local resources or leverage external resources. The resources would also be limited to their organizational and managerial capacity, thus promoting the building of a democratic, sustainable development process. There are at least two assumptions generally made about the sustainability of the development process. The first is that the resources needed to initiate and maintain a development effort will continue to be available; and the second is that democratic development is independent of the origins of the resources acquired. Peace Corps has experienced both of these assumptions to be false, or at least that they must be accompanied by various caveats. If external resources are initially supplied by external agents, and are later cut-off, development can stagnate and ultimately fail. This would suggest, therefore, that the development process requires that a community develop internal capacity to generate and maintain its own resource base. In addition, control over the generation and management of resources determines who sets the priorities in developing a community's agenda. Without community control over its resources, the institutionalization of a democratic development processes can not evolve. Development and democracy are sustainable only if controlled from the beginning by those for whom and by whom these values are deemed desirable. •

Mazorca de maiz [1].

Evaluations? Where Are We Now?

By Barry Bem, PTO

A few months ago we began a system of evaluations: PCV evaluations of program managers and program managers' evaluations of PCV's. I thought it might be useful to report to you where we are now in this process. For those of you who are from the most recent Omnibus, you may not be aware that this evaluation system grew out of a request from VAC.

Evaluations of program managers. Volunteers will have two opportunities during their service to evaluate their program manager: after one year of service and at the end of service. About the time that you reach the one-year mark, you will receive an evaluation form to complete and to return to me. I collect these forms, read them carefully, and review them with each program manager. Jean Seigle will also read them.

We began this process last March, when the Public Health group piloted the evaluation form and evaluated Dr. Miguel Artola. I have also received evaluations of other program managers, but I only receive them in bulk when a particular group reaches the one-year mark. Every year I must do an overall evaluation of each program manager—reviewed by the country director—and I have been using the PCV evaluations as part of my evaluation and discussion with program managers.

I have so far found the evaluations very useful, mainly due to the seriousness and thoughtfulness that Volunteers have put to this task.

Evaluations of Volunteers by program managers. The other part of the evaluation system is the evaluation that each program manager will conduct of each Volunteer. They are to do this at about the time that a Volunteer reaches the one-year mark of service. The program manager will use information from various sources—counterpart agency, site visits, conversations with a Volunteer—to complete an evaluation form. The most important part of the process is the conversation between the program manager and the Volunteer after the form is completed.

The real purpose of this evaluation is to help you, the Volunteer, evaluate your experience after one year—how are you doing in your work, how are you feeling, how has your Spanish progressed, how have you established relationships in your community —and to think about the second year—what you want to accomplish and how you can do that.

In many cases the Volunteer and program manager have had on-going discussions during the year, and this year-end evaluation will not reveal anything new or unexpected. Nevertheless, it is an opportunity for you and your program manager to review what is going on and to discuss any changes that might be advisable.

We are just beginning this process of evaluation. A couple of program managers have begun to complete the evaluation forms and will sit down individually with Volunteers soon to review them. Other program managers, as their Volunteers reach the one-year mark, will soon begin the process.

As you talk to your program manager about the evaluation and about your experience, I would welcome any comments/suggestions that you might have about the process and even about the evaluation form itself. A few Volunteers have expressed concern about the counterpart agency's evaluation of them, either because they have not had good relations with the agency or feel that the agency will not be able to give an objective evaluation. What your agency says about you is only one source of information for your program manager, and the evaluation will be balanced by other sources of information. However, you should discuss your agency relations directly with your program manager, who in any case should know what has been going on between you and your agency.

After many evaluations have been completed, the staff will look at the system as a whole—your evaluations of the program managers and their evaluations of you—to see how it is working, is the process proving us with useful information, are changes necessary. Your comments are very important, and that's why we want to hear your opinions about the system.

"Latte, jed?"

The Violation

By Miles Cooley, Esmeraldas

Author's note: It isn't easy to understand the evil that we do. We of humanity are often compelled to acts of malevolence, I think, by reasons we cannot fully understand. Violence seems to be as much a part of the human schemata as kindness. The citizens of El Diamante have a reputation for violence, yet I cannot be sure whether this reputation is warranted or not. How can an entire city, and the people in it, be known as violent? The generalization is absurd. Yet I do know that the rape of Daryl Marsh last fall in the manglar a half-mile from my house was an act of senseless violence. But I also believe that what compelled the rapist to his act was something he didn't fully understand. You see, the oppressive poverty that casts an ugly pallor over every facet of life in El Diamante is the serpent that can tempt the soul to evil. The people of the city see the life that swirls before their gaze and it is brutish and cruel. To a child growing up in the squalid city, looking toward the future, I am certain, is a bleak exercise: few jobs, hardly a sound education, little real material comfort, only the idleness and desperation that have characterized the city for generations. Not all of the city's citizens are poor, but the majority are. Not that there is no happiness to be found in the boundless barrios of the poor. There is, just very little of it. The people are working too hard to survive. Not that powerlessness and poverty are excuses to perpetrate the unthinkable. They are not. Oppression does not preclude the placement of blame upon the individual. Yet in the effort to understand how something so horrible could have happened to Daryl Marsh, why evil is so carelessly wielded in our world, it is necessary to maintain a perspective on such things. However difficult. Though the city sits only several thousand yards from the vast Pacific, there are no gulls in the skies above El Diamante, only legions of black vultures scanning the landscape for dead or vulnerable flesh.

I awoke on that morning with the crisp, warm wind that blows off the sea signalling the coming of a clear, tropical day.

It was going to be the kind of day that makes one think of the circus, with all that popcorn, bright color and pomp, or a sunny picnic with the red and white checkered table cloth, cool lemonade and the three-legged race. I was sharing the top floor of a house out on the beach with a co-worker, about ten miles from the El Diamante city-limits. The house was of rustic wood, two-stories, the top floor of which was an open porch facing out over a shiny, green coiffure of two almond trees, onto the sand and the outstretched Pacific twenty yards away. I had been living there for four months, and the life, save the commute to El Diamante to work everyday, was quite agreeable. Running every morning at sunrise, after work swims in the soothing depths, languishing in the glow of the navel orange sunset and slumbering to the sea's tidal murmurs every night was heaven. The prospect of a beautiful day then, wasn't anything exceptional, as I had accustomed myself to the blessings of beach living. But on this particular Saturday I was playing host to three of my girlfriend's *gringa* classmates who were visiting on break from their study-abroad program at the Catholic University in the capital city: Tamara, the track star from the Pacific Northwest, with a brilliant smile and acerbic wit, Amy, the high-energy jock with a soft edge, and Daryl, the sensitive feminist with an inquisitive nature. None of them had been to the coast before, and the weather's cooperation couldn't have been better. A hot, clear day on the beach was as good as any day could ever be. I got out of bed and went out onto the porch. Rubbing the sleep from my eyes, I looked out over the dark blue of the sea, which almost melted into the lighter blue of the sky. I could see the fishing skiffs with the fishermen hauling in their nets filled with the morning's bounty. The contrast between the billowing white sails of the skiffs and the dark figures of the fishermen laboring below, glistening in the day's first rays of sun, pleased my eye. My girlfriend and her friends had already risen and were down on the beach, swimming and splashing in the surf.

"How are you water nymphs doing this morning?," I called down sarcastically to the four of them. They sneered in unison and yelled for me to come join them. It was a funny sight, four *gringas* in their designer bathing suits, splashing around as if they were in a halftime commercial for light beer. This humble fishing community will never be the same, I thought, as I slipped on my bathing trunks and sprinted down the stairs to the beach. Already the sand was hot under my feet. I paused for a moment in the shade under the almond trees, then sprinted across the hot sand to the frolicking group. The four of them, like myself, were in high spirits because of the weather. "We have to do something special to celebrate our good fortune of being alive today on a day like this," Daryl said through the laughing and splashing. We all laughed harder at the neo-hippiness of the statement but immediately agreed. We decided to have a BBQ picnic later that afternoon. We discussed the menu. The party favors were to be chicken to marinate in lemon and then slowly broast, choclo, an ambrosia of fruit for a fruit salad, and, most importantly, a couple of bottles of cheap rum to mix with ice, lime and Coca-Cola. My girlfriend and I offered to do the shopping, leaving the three guests to explore the beach and soak up some golden rays. When we parted company with the three, it was with smiles of anticipation and that feeling of excitement you get when you

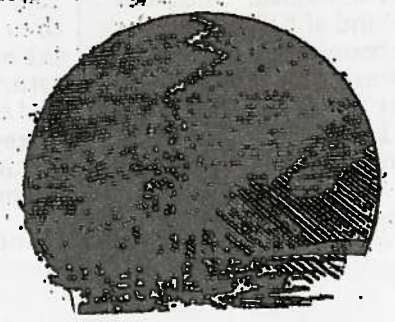
know you're going to ease into an afternoon of revelry, of fun in the sun, like a country boy anticipates the county fair and all it's pleasures. As we walked away from them there on the beach, I turned back and over my shoulder said in my best mother voice, "Be sure to be careful now dears, that sun can be a killer. Better put on number 75." They grinned and Tamara threw sand at me. "Get movin' chore boy," she called. I mumbled a "Yes ma'am" and trotted to catch up with my girlfriend who had run ahead, playing tag with the foamy waves. We headed off the beach and up the path between the manglar swamp and the road that led to Atacara.

The sights and sounds of the market in Atacara were as poignant as ever. It was the usual carpet of color, wave of smells. The rows of fruits and vegetables, reds and yellows and browns and greens and purples, the piles of white quintal sacks of flour and rice, big black jugs filled with cooking oil, the dull reds and pale yellows of the freshly slaughtered pigs and chickens, mixed up into a strange but valid odor of freshness, rot and the sweat of commerce. After about an hour of inspecting and haggling, we completed our purchases and made our way back down the road to the beachhouse. Coming up the stairs, I looked up to see my co-worker and his girlfriend standing in front of the closed bathroom door with strange expressions on their faces. The sound of the shower was coming from the behind the door. "What's up?" I asked jovially, then realizing that we hadn't thought of including them in the picnic plans. "Uh, we're having a picnic later. We could get some more chicken..." My co-worker looked at me and pointing to the bathroom door whispered, "She got raped." "Who? What?" I sputtered confusedly. "Daryl," he said. "She got raped." Then from the bathroom, Daryl's voice called out, asking my girlfriend to come in to the bathroom. I pressed my co-worker for details. He had none, except that Daryl had been walking alone in the manglar on her way to Atacara to meet Amy and Tamara, who had gone on ahead, and had been raped. My head was spinning. Where? How? I thought about trying to find the assailant. My eyes darted immediately to the machete I had hanging on a nail near the stairs. I must have been staring at it transfixed, because my co-worker had been talking to me, but I didn't hear a thing. "I'm going into town," he said. "I can go with her to El Diamante, since I am going to a party that way anyway." His last words broke the spell of the machete. *"Since I'm going to a party that way anyway."* Before I could question the absurdity of the statement, Daryl came out from the bathroom, wrapped in a towel, looking pallid and asking for hydrogen peroxide for her head. The rapist had hit her over the head with the dull side of a machete. A large chunk had been taken out of her scalp. With clear, vibrant eyes and a steady voice, she told the story of what happened while my girlfriend and I put antibiotic ointment on her head. "I was walking along the beach to meet up with everyone in Atacara and I came to the place where the river flows into the sea, and you either have to cross, if the tide is low, or walk around. I was wearing a dress, and I didn't want to get it wet so I decided to go around, up by the road. So I walked up through the manglar, and there was this guy standing there in the path. He had a machete in one hand, his t-shirt in the other, but I don't know, I didn't feel threatened, so I walked towards him as if to pass. He came at me. It was so weird like it wasn't happening to me. He put his machete to my throat and I think he told me he would kill me if I screamed. The trees formed a kind of hollow and the path was bounded by these trees, so there was no where to run, and no one could see really, although I could hear people playing on the beach. So I thought of what they talk about at the rape crisis center in Berkeley where I volunteer, and I decided to make it easy, I didn't want him to kill me. As I started to go to the ground, he hit me anyway with his machete. Twice. That really trips me out that he hit me, I wasn't even struggling. But I couldn't even feel it when he hit me. So he got on top of me, put his t-shirt half over my eyes and did it. Get that, he covered my face, not his. He didn't seem to enjoy it, it was like he was miserable. I kept thinking how weird it was that I was thinking about what he was thinking about while he was raping me. It was totally bizarre. Anyway, he rubbed my face in the dirt, I think he was trying to get me to eat dirt. How weird. Then he left. I laid there for a moment or two and just tripped on what happened. I still can't believe it. I'm glad he didn't kill me. At least now I will be able to relate really well to the women at the crisis center." She said all of this in an unwavering, almost detached voice, as if she were recounting something that she had seen on television, or read in the paper about something awful that had happened on a far-off continent. I was amazed at how composed she was. I asked her what she wanted to do, go to the police, the hospital, what? I felt exasperatingly helpless. Daryl said, "Well, I guess we'd better go to the hospital first. My head hurts." I turned to my co-worker's girlfriend, who had been absolutely silent and asked her if she knew of any clinics where we could go in El Diamante, her city. She responded with a vacuous, "No." *"No."* No words of consolation, compassion or possibility. A limp, unsympathetic *no*. I looked at her in incredulous disappointment. My co-worker mumbled something about being late and, with a hasty goodbye, they went down the stairs to their party. Leaving a note for the others who still had not returned from Atacara and who had no idea of what had transpired, we went to the road looking for a taxi to take us to El Diamante and the hospital.

Standing on the road trying to

raped or molested as children. A teary discussion continued throughout dinner, for which no one had much appetite. Hearing the recounting of various acts of sexual malevolence made me feel that as a man I had no place at the table with the four young women. At first I felt ashamed, then I started to smoulder with anger. Without really even thinking, I excused myself and went downstairs onto the beach. I walked almost trance-like to the cabaña of a friend who lived down the beach. He had shown me his hunting rifle a couple of days earlier. I was going to get it and then I was going into the manglar to find the rapist.

Why do you want the rifle?" my friend asked me nervously, "Que te pasa?" I told him that a friend had been raped and that I was going to find the one who did it. I was sure that the perpetrator lived in one of the shacks along the river in the manglar. "O.K.," he said, handing me the rifle and a handful of shells. "Cuidate." I thanked him and with the rifle sweaty against my palm and the pocketful of shells rubbing against my leg, I walked briskly in the moonlight, past the lighted veranda of the beachhouse where they were still sitting and talking, through the briny mist coming off the sea, into the dubious night. Once in the manglar, I moved quietly, only the surf and the crunch of my sandals in the dry mud could be heard. I saw up ahead the glow of a fire inside one of the shacks. I quietly loaded a shell into the rifle chamber. I began to stalk toward the cluster of shacks and I caught a glimpse of the full moon, high and brilliantly metallic, and I felt as if a beam of its phosphorescence was shining on me and nowhere else on earth. As I stood there, looking up at the moon, rifle in hand, sweat on my brow and blackness in my heart, I realized that I, at that moment, was no better than the rapist of Daryl. I was motivated by a power that was beyond me, propelling me to commit an act of irrational violence, perhaps on someone as innocent as Daryl. I had been motivated to that point, the precipice of no return, by fear, hate and powerlessness. The same nasty ingredients that gave rise to the events of the afternoon. I looked at the moon, beautiful in its cold loneliness, and felt as if my soul was lost, way up there on the icy lunar surface. I thought of my first reaction upon hearing of the rape- the machete. The rapist, too, had used a machete. My mind whirled in the arc of moonlight. I thought of Daryl, her sensitivity, her repose. Surely, she would have to face the shock of what had passed, but her grace, her composure, demonstrated throughout the fantastic events of the day, dwarfed the character of the man standing in the manglar, holding a rifle, hunting a rapist. I looked at the moon and realized that the place for my heart was here on this planet, in spite of the evil that we do, the things we are capable of. The true work is to be done not in the way of the rapist, nor my way, with violence and malice. For if it is, rapists, their hunters, and people like them will cover the world with fire and blood. No, it is to be done in the way that Daryl Marsh taught me on that Saturday that had started so full of promise. "At least now I'll be able to relate really well with the women at the crisis center," she had said. The work is to be done with grace. As I walked out of the manglar that night to give the rifle back, I realized something about what lurks in my heart, in the hearts of us all, most likely. That night in the moonlight, thanks to Daryl, I locked up the beast and threw away the key, and I will be ever vigilant to keep a watchful eye on it, lest it escape.



Male-Female Relationships in Ecuador

By Kat Linden, Loja

After my personal involvement with the sexual assault of a fellow Volunteer, my awareness of and interest in safety issues is, perhaps, higher than most. From my experience, from observations and from talking to Ecuadorean friends (both male and female), I have learned much about the differences between relationships here in Ecuador and those in the States. Not understanding and respecting these differences has the potential of putting a female Volunteer in a dangerous situation or, at the least, an uncomfortable one. While not as much of a safety issue for male Volunteers (though I suppose it could be if you consider jealous husbands, boyfriends, etc.), it can certainly cause problems that could affect work or relationships with the community. Also, with a better understanding of these issues, ,male Volunteers can better provide support for female Volunteers.

I have seen behavior in other Volunteers, such as dancing provocatively, inviting a man to a social event with no romantic intentions (sometimes even knowing that he does have romantic/sexual interests), etc., that has made me believe that many are not aware of the different social "rules" or don't realize the importance of respecting them. It's not just a matter of reputation and credibility or of not reinforcing the image of the "loose gringa" (although these are argueably good reasons alone), but a matter of personal safety.

I am certainly not claiming to be an expert on Ecuadorean relationships with the intention of "telling you how it is", but rather the purpose of this article is to share my experiences and observations in hopes of increas-

ing awareness, discussion, and thoughts on this issue.

First of all men, and women don't seem to be friends here, at least not in the sense that we have male-female friendships in the States. From what I've seen, men and women are friends on a casual basis, on a work basis or in the context of a group. So it seems safe to assume that a man (or a woman) wants more than a friendship if he (or she) seems to be pursuing anything other than the casual/work relationship. Volunteers should also keep this in mind when considering inviting someone of the opposite sex on a "date" with only friendly intentions.

Ecuadoreans seem to use a lot more nonverbal communication to express and understand sexual/romantic interests or intentions. This, combined with the fact that "no" often doesn't mean no (to either the one saying it or the one hearing it), is where the cultural differences can become dangerous for a female Volunteer that doesn't understand them. It has been explained to me by Ecuadorean friends (and I have observed it to be true) that a man doesn't use what the women is saying verbally to decide if she's interested in him, wants to have sex, etc., but rather goes by other, nonverbal cues. Some examples of these are:

-friendliness, response to advances, flirting

-accepting an invitation to eat, movie, etc.

-entering the home and/or especially the bedroom of a man alone.

Apparently, women generally don't accept invitations or respond to flirting unless they are interested romantically and they don't accept invitations to a man's home/room unless they are interested in sex. So when a woman has entered a man's room and then says "no" to his advances he will likely ignore her and even go so far as to use force. Apparently, the majority of the time this does not constitute sexual assault because the woman is assumed "willing", but to be positively responsive and not use some resistance is less respectful, somehow more "loose" or "easy". Being from a more direct culture, perhaps we don't worry so much about how our friendly flirting or invitation to a date is perceived because we figure if it becomes obvious that our intentions are misunderstood we can explain ourselves later. (We should also keep in mind that to many latinos, the fact that we're "gringas" is one more cue that we want to have sex.)

My advice to a female Volunteer who finds herself in a situation where the man is making advances and not responding to her objections is to become very clear. Use a very firm voice, scream or do whatever it takes to make him realize you're serious. From my experience I know that if something does happen and the woman doesn't scream, fight, etc., she has no defense. Just saying "please, I don't want to" probably won't be enough.

Just a comment on dealing with men in public: many of us are so eager to leave a good image of North Americans that we are friendly to strangers when we really shouldn't be. It's culturally acceptable to be a bitch to any man you don't know in public. Also, it can be a dangerous thing to acknowledge those irritating men hissing at you in the street.

I'm sure there will be Volunteers who will tell me that their experiences have been different, that I have it all wrong, etc. Of course, there are always exceptions; you can never generalize an entire population, but the most important point is to always be thinking about the situation you're in or how an Ecuadorean of the opposite sex might be seeing things in a completely different way.

My old site was in Zamora-Chinchipe and my new site is Loja. I'm sure there are some differences in customs in the different areas of the country and I encourage feedback from other Volunteers on their experiences and especially encourage responses and comments from Ecuadorean staff members. •

¿Y Por Qué un Proyecto de Desarollo Juvenil?

Por Nellie Villavicencio Ledesma, APCD de Educación Especial y Desarrollo Juvenil

Estoy segura de que, al igual que yo, muchos de ustedes de vez en cuando se han cuestionado sobre la validez o no de mantener un Proyecto de Desarrollo Juvenil dentro de la programación del Cuerpo de Paz, Ecuador. Durante un largo tiempo estas mismas inquietudes fueron, y siguen siendo, el motivo de muchas cavilaciones sobre si el proyecto debe continuar o no. Cavilaciones que se relacionan con el enfoque mismo de la cooperación a ofrecer, con la población blanco a la que tratamos de llegar, con el tipo de personas requeridas para poner en marcha el proyecto, con la calidad y cantidad de experiencia de campo y conocimientos técnicos requeridos.

Las preocupaciones acerca de la efectividad de este tipo de proyectos de servicio social, se relacionan con el análisis de la asistencia y cooperación que la gente del Cuerpo de Paz ya está brindando a organismos y agencias en diferentes áreas de desarrollo en el país. Si recordamos que un 50% de la totalidad de la población ecuatoriana, esto es más o menos 5 millones de habitantes, se encuentran entre las edades de 0 a 25 años, entonces fácilmente podemos deducir que, de una manera o de otra, todos los proyectos que estamos implementando, atienden a sectores grandes de poblaciones jóvenes.

Los técnicos del proyecto de

Salud, por ejemplo, concentran sus esfuerzos en madres jóvenes (15 a 18 años) y niños cuyas edades fluctúan entre 0 y 5 años de edad. Gente asignada al proyecto de Ovejas y Ganadería involucran en su trabajo diario a unidades familiares - madre, padre, hijos - por ser ellos los encargados directos de la crianza de los animales. Los técnicos forestales consideran que la implementación de actividades de educación ambiental dirigidas a niños y adolescentes, es una de las alternativas que permitirá cambios de comportamiento en la relación ser humano-naturaleza. Al ayudar con el diseño y construcción de sistemas de agua en poblaciones rurales, estamos asegurando la buena salud de las familias que habitan en las mismas. Y finalmente, los técnicos cooperantes del programa de Pequeños Negocios pregonan la importancia de comenzar enseñando a las nuevas generaciones a pensar como futuros empresarios.

Entonces, la pregunta de cajón sería -¿queda aun espacio, dentro de esta amplia gama de servicios, para algún tipo de actividad que beneficie a niños y adolescentes de manera más específica? Por supuesto mi reacción inicial es - "imposible, estamos propiciando la segregación mas no la integración del grupo juvenil. Estamos dándole un tratamiento exclusivista que, desde mi punto de vista, no responde a las reales necesidades de este sector poblacional".

Aproveché la última conferencia de trabajo del grupo de Desarrollo Juvenil -junio de 1994 - para compartir con los técnicos del proyecto, de la manera más democrática, mis inquitudes acerca de la posibilidad de terminar con el proyecto como tal, mis razones fueron varias. Entre algunas estaban:

-La falta de contrapartes en las agencias, consecuentemente las pocas probabilidades que habían de que los proyectos inciados, en la mayor parte de los casos por los técnicos del proyecto, se mantengan y crezcan cuando el Cuerpo de Paz saliese de la agencia.

-Los altos grados de dependencia que estábamos generando.

-El rol que algunos de los cooperantes tenían como coordinadores y administradores dentro de la institución.

-Por supuesto la falta de presupuestos fijos y por consiguiente el peligro constante de que los proyectos que se desarrollan este año, el próximo año ya no se puedan continuar.

-La falta de suficientes agencias que estén trabajando con poblaciones jóvenes. Consecuentemente, ausencia total de solicitudes para recibir gente del Cuerpo de Paz.

-Y por último, y lo más importante, la falta de políticas gubernamentales que fijen pautas, regulen y sistematicen el trabajo con los chicos.

Como contrapartida a mis argumentaciones, los técnicos comenzaron a hacer sus presentaciones individuales sobre el trabajo que estaban realizando con las agencias a las que habían sido asignados. Al escucharlos, yo sentía que las razones que justificaban la terminación del proyecto como tal se iban debilitando. Si bien era cierto que los problemas, frustraciones y falta de objetivos era obvios, estos se veían disminuidos ante la satisfacción de poder brindar a los niños y adolescentes espacios donde ellos pudieran sentirse como lo que eran, orgullosos de sus potenciales y conocedores de sus limitaciones, respetuosos del espacio de otros y conscientes de sus derechos como niños pero también de sus obligaciones. Estos ambientes de trabajo permitían al niño vivir su infancia, ya habría tiempo más tarde para asumir su otro papel de adultos prematuros.

Entendí entonces que, a pesar de que los niños reciben el beneficio indirecto de muchas de nuestras actividades programáticas, existe un aspecto que está recién comenzando a ser atendido, y este es el del desarrollo individual. Posiblemente se argumente que los resultados del proyecto no pueden ser medidos de manera muy tangible y exacta como en el caso de actividades netamente técnicas, mas estamos inmersos dentro de un mundo único de crecimiento personal.

Todavía hay mucho por hacer, las iniciativas en el país son nuevas y se está experimentando con variadas metodologías, pero lo rescatable de todo el proceso es que ya se habla de la problemática del niño y del adolescente, ya se discuten temas tales como: prevención, violencia contra el menor, derechos del niño, apertura de albergues y centros de observación, modificación del curriculum escolar y se puede observar el trabajo de fundaciones cuyos objetivos primarios son el rescate del menor como ser humano, capaz de tomar sus propias decisiones y ser responsable por ellas.

Creo que debemos congratularnos de que el Cuerpo de Paz tenga la oportunidad de participar de manera directa dentro de esta nueva línea de colaboración. Estamos siendo los pioneros en muchos campos de formación y educación de niños. Actividades de auto-estima, auto-valoración, prevención de violencia, participación de padres dentro de procesos de desarrollo del niño, entre otras, se han constituido en la carta de presentación de los técnicos del proyecto y, sin lugar a dudas, reafirman la necesidad de conscientizar a los educadores e instructores acerca del sinfín de posibilidades con las que podemos experimentar cuando se trata de diseñar curriculums, planes y programas de educación no-formal.

El grupo que se reunió durante la Conferencia de Trabajo, me permitió evaluar el trabajo que estamos ejecutando como Proyecto de Desarrollo Juvenil. Los objetivos escritos en el Plan de Proyecto y que se refieren a prevención se están cumpliendo. Continuaremos con la seguridad

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

By Todd Birchler, Cayambe

Feel a little out of touch with the environmental situation at home? Don't know what your conniving politicians have been up to? From our What Are They Thinking? department comes a sampling of some bills in Congress and also some information on different situations occurring on the wilderness front. Specific bills are mentioned along with addresses you may contact to let your voice be heard— even if you are in Ecuador.

1) **TAKINGS BILL.** These are backed by the American Farm Bureau, American Mining Congress, American Petroleum Institute, and National Association of Realtors under the guise of protecting the "little guy". Big business essentially wants compensation for any and all restrictions on private property. They want the rights to use the land however they see fit, no matter how it may affect the public (dumping pollutants, etc.). This is contrary to the well established legal precedent that the rights of property owners is limited by government's interest in protecting other public values (Pope, 1994). The bills pending in Congress include S.177-Private Property Rights Act, S.1915-Private Property Owners Bill Of Rights, H.R.561-Private Property Protection Act, and H.R. 3875-Private Property Owners Bill Of Rights. Contact your Representative/ Senator(s) to find out more.

2) **BILL TO REVISE THE SAFE WATER DRINKING ACT.** The Senate has already voted to weaken the act to the extent that water agencies would no longer have to test public drinking water for safety. If water is found to be unsafe, they would not have to tell the public. NOTE: 88~o of Congress members who voted to weaken the act won't drink the water out of their own offices (Pope, 1994). If this passes in the House, don't forget how to boil water after leaving Ecuador! H.R. 3392-Safe Water Drinking Act, let your representative know how you feel about the proposed weakening of this act.

3) **REMEMBER THE FLOOD OF LAST YEAR?** Well apparently some members of Congress have an extremely short memory because there is a bill in Congress that would weaken wetlands protection by opening many currently protected wetlands to commercial development. I need not mention that the states hardest hit by the Flood were those with the highest percentage of wetlands converted to farming and development. H.R. 1330- Wetlands Conservation and Management Act (don't be fooled by the name!). 4) Here's a little known section of the Endangered Species Act: Section 10j allows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate reintroduced populations of Endangered and Threatened species as "experimental" and labeling them further as "essential" or "nonessential". The experimental, nonessential labeling has become quite popular with the U.S. F.&W. (and with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management as well) because this label has the most liberal allowances for predator control and the least limiting restrictions on detrimental human activities. So essentially, if the reintroduction of Wolves or Grizzlies affects the ranchers, for example, in a detrimentally perceived way, then "control" can be implemented to correct the "detrimental effects", never mind that it was the ranching industry that was a major reason for the Wolf or Grizzly to become Endangered in the first place (Steele, 1994). The Endangered Species Act is up for re-authorization and there ar e two bills in both the Senate and the House, one to strengthen the act, and one to weaken it further. S.921-Endangered Species Act and H.R 2043-Endangered Species Act would strengthen the act (I don't have the specifics), and S. 1521Endangered Species Act Procedural Reform Amendments and H.R. 1490Endangered Species Act look to weaken the act further. Feel free to express your opinion to Interior secretary Bruce Babbitt and Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Mollie Beattie.

5)**ELSEWHERE:** if you're in to wilderness protection, here's another wonderful "chainsaw" management proposal by Smokey the Bear and Company :Cove and Mallard Timber Sales,

A Grain of Hope For Battered Economies

From Los Angeles Times, Tuesday, April 26, 1994

Quito, Ecuador- In Ecuador, Nestle is marketing a popular baby cereal made with quinoa. In Bolivia, an association of peasant farmers is exporting 350 metric tons of the stuff a year to the United States and Europe. In Peru, non-governmental organizations are helping highland communities reintroduce quinoa cultivation.

With a more complete range of proteins in greater concentrations than any other grain, quinoa is comparable to milk in nutritional value, experts say. Sometimes called the super grain of the Incas, Quinoa was a staple throughout the Andes for thousands of years. It has been an increasingly neglected crop for much of this century, but there are signs of a comeback.

Nestle, the Swiss-based food company, invested millions of dollars and seven years in Ecuador to develop quinoa as a commercial grain. About four years ago, Nestle decided that the cost of promoting consumption on a world scale would be too high. Furthermore, a Nestle official said available supplies could not meet mass demand and the price of quinoa could not compete with other grains, in part because of their larger production levels.

In some important ways, however, the project was successful. Nestle now makes a Nestum baby cereal for the Ecuadorean market with quinoa and honey, and it sells better than the company's rice-based Nestum. Meanwhile, whole-grain quinoa has become a popular item on supermarket shelves here in the land of the ancient Incas, mostly as a soup thickener and rice substitute.

While experts do not see quinoa as a substitute for wheat, mainly because it is not suitable by itself for making bread, it is widely regarded as a potentially important source of protein, starch, vitamins and minerals.

Technically, quinoa is a "pseudo-grain" because the plant is not a grass but rather is related to spinach. The disc-shaped grain is smaller than rice and cooks just as easily.

A few years ago, the product was unavailable in urban Ecuador except in produce markets. The crop was grown mostly by subsistence farmers in the highlands and was regarded in the cities as a lowly food for poor Indians.

That began changing as Nestle's Ecuadorean research center, named Latinreco, began developing improved strains of quinoa and more efficient cultivation methods in the early 1980's. Then commercial farmers, encouraged by Latinreco, began growing and marketing the crop.

"Today if you go into any supermarket, you will find clean, attractive quinoa, ready to eat," said Christian Wahli, general manager of Latinreco.

For its research, Latinreco buys six to 10 metric tons of quinoa a year from the country's main producer.

"Fourteen years ago I asked for one ton of quinoa, and there wasn't that much in all of Ecuador," Wahli said.

Thanks in part to Latinreco's research, commercial cultivation of quinoa in Ecuador today yields up to five metric tons per acre, triple the production with old seeds and methods, he pointed out.

International demand for quinoa has had much to do with its resurgence in the economies of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. As the health food movement expanded during the 1980s in the United States and Europe, quinoa was found to be a tasty food with impressive nutritional values. Exports of the grain from the Andean region began to grow, and the developed world's interest gave quinoa new prestige among middle-class consumers in the Andean countries.

In the United States, the Quinoa Corporation of Los Angeles is the main company dedicated exclusively to marketing quinoa.

It sells whole grain mostly for cooking but also produces quinoa flour for mixing with other flours, quinoa flakes for breakfast food and pastas of quinoa-corn and quinoa-wheat.

Two other companies, Arrowhead Mills and Eden Foods also market quinoa products nationally. But David Schnorr, president of the Quinoa Corporation, said quinoa is "still just scratching the edge of the mainstream" in the U.S. consumer market.

Schnorr said that mass marketing quinoa would require a major investment by a big company such as Kellogg, General Mills, or Campbell Soup. "They are all just watching it, but for them to get involved in something like this you would have to be able to supply millions of pounds a month at a reasonable price," he said.

So far, neither North American or South American producers can do that. But someday, Schnorr said, he hopes they can and will. "I think quinoa is a grain that deserves to be sitting right next to rice and wheat in the marketplace," he said.

submitted by Juan Carlos Velasquez, Mira•

Pueblo to Pueblo

By John Hayes, Guayzimi, Zamora-Chinchipe

Twice in the past month I've had the same conversation with a Quichua speaker from Saraguro in the province of Loja and a Shuar gentleman who lives at my site on the banks of Rio Nangaritza in the province of Zamora-Chinchipe. Although from different cultures and speaking different languages, the question they asked me was the same: "Are there people like us (indigenous) in the United States?"

"Of course." I answered, not realizing that the predominant notion about the status of Native Americans is that the last peoples were exterminated by John Wayne and other frontiersmen archetypes, some one hundred years ago. The ongoing conversation consisted of a lot of questions that needed first hand answers. Regrettably, I could not provide them.

After "thinking about" the surprise I had in regards to these men's lack of knowledge concerning the living, thriving indigenous cultures in nearly every state in our country, and their surprise in hearing that there are other languages and ideas that are native-born which have not made their presence known on satellite beamed images into nearly every land of the globe, I talked with one of the Shuar Center's leaders.

Why couldn't we as volunteers try to establish a link between Native Americans from the U.S. and interested indigenous communities whom we work with here in Ecuador? Perhaps try a system along the lines of the World Wise program, the addresses can be given and questions and answers can be translated, but the rest of the exchange would be left to take it's own natural course. In such a manner each person could converse on their own time, coming from different yet fundamentally the same background, people struggling to keep traditions and languages alive under the advancing shadow of the late 20th century monoculture of Chicago-Bulls-Baywatch. Knowing that one is not alone can be strong medicine for any struggle, I realized that my first month as a Volunteer.

I've sent an article to Smoke Signals, a nation wide paper by Native Americans and fellow volunteer Jeff Hovermale in Sozoronga, Loja has contacted some friends who are well established within the Indian network. We are looking for assistance, ideas, and participation. I can be contacted (eventually) at Correo General Zamora, Zamora-Chinchipe. JOHN HAYES and JEFF HOVERMALE can receive letters at Correo General Sozoronga, Loja.•

Eschew Plastic

From *Reader's Digest*, April 1994

On December 1991, a 46-year-old Ohio man with numbness in his fingers and palms, ringing in his ears and possible mental impairment was found to be suffering from lead intoxication. Usual sources of adult lead poisoning couldn't be found. The mystery was solved when the patient, an electrician, revealed that for 20 years he had habitually chewed on bits of plastic insulation he had stripped from the ends of wires. The colored wire coatings were tested and found to contain moderate to high levels of lead.

Lead compounds are sometimes used to color plastics. Previous cases of poisoning from these products have been associated with exposure during their manufacture, or to burning plastic. Although this is the first report of lead poisoning resulting from chewing wire coatings, more than two million Americans have jobs that involve electrical work. Those who use plastic-coated wire should stick to chewing gum.

submitted by Janet Dorman, Cuchudel•

your jawbone. Bolster your bones with plenty of calcium (found in dairy products and dark green), and exercise.

4. DON'T SMOKE. Smoking increases the risk of gum disease, both due to its effects on bones and on circulation.

5. STOCK UP ON VITAMIN C Vitamin C won't cure gingivitis, but can help check bleeding gums.

6. SCRAPE YOUR TONGUE Scrape from back to front 10-15 times after each tooth brushing in order to remove the bacteria and toxins hiding there.

7. EAT A RAW VEGIE A DAY Hard and fibrous foods stimulate teeth and gums, keeping them strong and healthy.

8. SEE THE DENTIST Since plaque is the primary cause of gingivitis, it is important to have dental cleanings at least yearly.

9. INHIBIT BACTERIAL GROWTH Several products can help kill bacteria that cause plaque. Rinse with a mouthwash that contains either cetylpridinium chloride or domiphen bromide. Another option is to mix hydrogen peroxide half and half with water and swish it around in your mouth for 30 seconds. Don't swallow. Brushing along the gum line with a mixture of baking soda and water will also help.

FUN WITH FOOD

MONSTER COOKIES

These cookies are incredible!

1/2 c butter, softened
1 c sugar
1 c + 2 T brown sugar (packed)
3 eggs
2 c peanut butter
3/4 t light corn syrup
1/4 t vanilla
4 1/2 c oatmeal
2 t baking powder
1/4 t salt
1 c M&M's
1 6 oz pkg semisweet chocolate morsels

Cream butter, add sugars. Beat well. Add eggs, peanut butter, syrup, and vanilla; beat well. Add oatmeal, soda & salt. Stir well. Stir in remaining ingredients. Dough will be stiff. Use a 1/4 c to measure out portions of dough onto an ungreased cookie sheet, 4 inches apart. Lightly press each cookie into 3 1/2 in circle. Bake at 350° for 12 to 15 mins. Cool slightly on wire rack.

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

Cream together:
2 c butter
2 c sugar
2 c brown sugar
Add:
4 eggs
2 t vanilla
Mix together:
5 cups oatmeal (ground fine)
1 t salt
2 t baking powder
2 t baking soda

Mix together all ingredients then add:

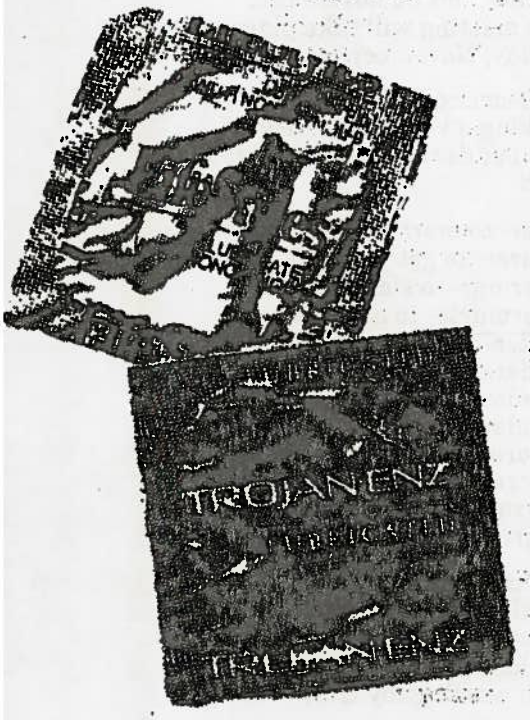
24 oz chocolate chips
8 oz Hershey chocolate bar (grated)
3 c chopped nuts (optional)

Drop golf ball size portions, 2 inches apart, onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 6 mins or until done. Makes 112 cookies.

T=tablespoon

t=teaspoon

Submitted by Ralph Coleman's mother



Here's to Your Health

From your PCMO's

We have heard from VAC a report that several volunteers have experienced condom breakage. Please report directly to the Medical Office any such incidents, so that we can keep track of which brands have a higher incidence of breakage. If necessary we will make changes in our stock. To prevent condom breakage, don't forget to squeeze the tip of the condom to remove air and to never use Vaseline or oil based lubricants. If you need a water based lubricant, they are available in the medical office.

The VAC Health Committee has brought to our attention concerns on the part of PCVs regarding infection control standards for our Peace Corps approved dentists,. a very real concern. There is no question that both dental patients and dental health workers may be exposed to a variety of microorganisms via blood or oral or respiratory secretions during dental treatments. These microorganisms include mycrobacterium tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and C, Herpes I and II, HIV and a variety of other viruses and bacteria. In regards to blood borne pathogens—HIV and Hepatitis—the possibility of transmission from a dentist to patient is very small, but isolated cases have been reported. Infection control standards for dentistry hope to reduce the risks of disease transmission in all directions—patient to dentist, dentist to patient and from one patient to the next.

During this next month, we will be making personal visits to each of our dentists to specifically discuss infection control guidelines. Unfortunately, no such guidelines exist in Ecuador to control dental practice. We will give each dentist a copy of the CDC publication "Recommended Dental Control Practices for Dentistry 1993," which outlines everything from when hands should be washed to what disinfectants should be used to proper sterilization techniques. In order to practice on PCVs, our dentists will need to agree to follow all outlined CDC recommendations. Certain things such as sterilization techniques will be difficult for us to control. Other practices you will observe as a patient and we would like feedback as to whether this is happening or not.
You can expect:

1. Dentists will wear disposable gloves for all exams and procedures. For surgical procedures, sterile gloves will be worn.
2. Hands will be washed before putting on gloves, after their removal and after touching any inanimate object that may be contaminated.
3. Surgical masks will be worn.
4. A gown will be used if doing a surgical procedure in which splattering of blood or body fluids is likely.
5. An X-ray shield will be used when X-ray are taken.
6. Dental instruments should be taken directly out of a sterilizer. The environment—dental chair, table, countertops—should be spotless.

During this visit to the dentists, we will also be discussing the application of prephylactic flouride paste to teeth during Midterm and COS exams.

While we're on the subject of dental health, we'd like to stress again the importance of taking good care of your teeth while in Peace Corps. It is not uncommon for someone with a history of excellent dental health to begin to have dental and gum problems during their Peace Corps service. The reasons can be multiple—dietary changes, particularly increased sugar and decreased roughage, stress, poor dental hygiene and age (ie. gum problems tend to begin in the late 20's).

Gum disease usually presents with the following symptoms:
1. Gums that bleed easily
2. Gums recede and more of the tooth is exposed. This is often accompanied by a sensitivity or pain along the gum line as roots become exposed
3. Gums may change color from a healthy pink to cloudy pink or red.
4. Bad breath or a bad taste in mouth.
5. In later stages, loose teeth or a change in bite.

Gum disease can be prevented and early disease controlled. The following comes from Prevention Magazine: "Steps to Stop Gum Disease."

1. DON'T JUST TAKE 30 SECONDS ANYMORE. If you want to get rid of gingivitis, you have to take the time to brush and floss correctly—this means 3-5 minutes twice or three times a day.

2. TRY GUM MASSAGE. To increase circulation to your gums, massage them either with your finger or your toothbrush at least once a day.

3. TAKE CARE OF YOUR BONES. Just like the bones in the rest of your skeleton can

Habrá que averiguarlo.
It will be necessary to look into it.
Había que ver la cara que puso!
You should have seen the look on his face!

2.) **Haber de + infinitive**- to be supposed or expected to, must
Ha de ser tonto por dejarte a ti.
He must be a fool to leave you.
Ya ha de llegar el bus de las 3.
The 3'o clock bus should come soon.

3.) **He aquí**- here is, this is, here are, these are
This idiom is used mainly in written Spanish.
He aquí los premios que se concedieron ayer.
These are the prizes that were given out yesterday.

4.) **More Idioms**
No hay de que- you're welcome, don't mention it
¿Que he de hacer?- What am I to do?
¿Que hay?- What's the matter?

D.) **Gender**
Here's the quick gender review.
1.) **Masculine nouns**- the following nouns are usually masculine.
a.) nouns that refer to a masculine person
el padre, el hijo, el policía, el poeta
b.) nouns ending in 'o'
el suelo, el espejo, el carro
*the most common exception: la mano
c.) certain nouns (of Greek origin) ending in -ma, -ta, -pa, especially those ending in -grama, -orama, -ema, and -eta.
el mapa, el clima, el programa, el sistema, el planeta, el panorama, el diagrama.

2.) **Feminine nouns**
a.) nouns that refer to a female person
la mujer, la hija, la poeta la dentista
b.) nouns ending in 'a', except if they refer to a man
la ropa, la mejilla, la olla, la galleta
*the most common exception: el día
c.) all nouns ending in -ción, -tad, -dad, -tud, and -umbre and most nouns that end in -ie, and -ión.
la nación, la libertad, la ciudad, la multitud, la costumbre, la serie.

3.) **Other facts**
a.) La persona and la víctima are always feminine even when they refer to a male.
b.) El testigo and el personaje are always masculine.
c.) Nouns ending in -ista are either masculine or feminine, according to the gender of the person to whom they refer.
el turista, la turista, el artista, la artista

E.) **Capitalization**
In Spanish, the names of languages, nationalities, days of the week, and months **are not** capitalized. The names of countries **are** capitalized.

Hablamos francés.
We speak French.
Es un escritor alemán. He is a German writer.
Voy a esquiar a Chile.
I'm going to ski in Chili.

La reunión tendra lugar el viernes, dos de noviembre.
The meeting will take place on Friday, November second.

F.) **Reflexive Verbs**
Making a verb reflexive very often adds the idea of 'get' to the verb.

casar- to marry (someone off)
casarse- to get married
enfermar- to sicken
enfermarse- to get sick
perder- to lose
perderse- to get lost
enfadar- to anger
enfadarse- to get angry
mejorar- to improve, enhance
mejorarse- to get better, recover
alegrar- to make someone glad
alegrarse- to be(come) happy

G.) **How to say 'to waste'**
perder- to waste (time)
Estoy perdiendo tiempo hablando contigo.
I am wasting my time talking to you.
desperdiciar- to squander, waste
Estás desperdiciando la comida.
You are wasting your food.
echar a perder- to waste, spoil, ruin
El echa a perder todas las oportunidades que se le presentan.
He wastes all of the opportunities that he's been offered.

Diógenes el vagabundo

Nuestro Idioma

by Chris Samuel, Cuambo

Haber is a funny verb. It's really funny when you can't figure out how to use it to say what you want to and when you don't understand what someone's trying to say to you. I've had a few requests to review Haber. It's actually simple to learn and, with a little practice, you'll soon be wondering how you ever communicated without it.
Gender is pretty easy, right? If it ends in an 'a', it's feminine, if it ends in a 'o' it's masculine. We all know that this isn't always true, and, even knowing full well that 'mano' is feminine, it can still be difficult to say, 'la mano mojada', for example. I found a good, concise review in the *A Concept Approach to Spanish*, by Zenia Sacks Da Silva, which is reprinted here. Capitalization rules and reflexive verbs finish off the column. Until the next Nuestro Idioma, may Spanish roll off your tongue and all your 'holas' be without an 'h'.

A.) Haber
The verb 'haber' is most commonly thought of in conjuction with the perfect tenses. Of course, we all know it is also used in many idiomatic expressions. The following is a review of everything.

The Present Perfect Tense- I have spoken, eaten, etc.
he hablado, comido, vivido
has
ha
hemos
han
¿Has comido hoy? ¿Have you eaten today?

Pluperfect or Past Perfect- I had been , gone, etc.
había estado, ido, muerto
habías
había
habíamos
habían
¡Esperanza! ¿Estás aquí todavía? Yo pensé que ya te habías ido a Ibarra. Esperanza, you're still here! I thought you had already gone to Ibarra.
*Notice that this tense always reports what had happened before something else took place.

Future Perfect- I will have done, said, written, etc.
habré hecho, dicho, escrito
habrás
habrá
habremos
habrán
Cuando regrese de vacaciones, ¿ya se habrán ido Uds.?
When I get back from vacation, will you all have already gone?
*This tense can also be used to conjecture about what probably has happened and to express wonder.
¿Por qué no me habrá escrito?
-Se habrá olvidado de ti.
"I wonder why he hasn't written to me?"
"He's probably forgotten about you."

Conditional Perfect- I would have gone, opened, died, etc.
habría ido, abierto, muerto
habrías
habría
habríamos
habrían
¿Habrías abierto esa puerta?
-¡Ay no! Me habría muerto del susto.
"Would you have opened that door?"
"No way! I would have died of fright(been scared to death)!"

Present Perfect Subjunctive- May have spoken, had, told
haya hablado, tenido, dicho
hayas
haya
hayamos
hayan
Espero que hayan venido.
I hope they've come.
Me alegro que haya llovido.
I'm glad that it has rained.
*Subjunctive is used here because feelings are expressed about what has happened or what may have happened.

Pluperfect Subjunctive- Might had (would have) bought, saw, been.
hubiera comprado, visto, sido
hubieras
hubiera
hubieramos
hubieran
Me hubiera ido, pero no tuve plata.
I would have gone, but I didn't have any money.
Dudo que ella hubiera podido salir más temprano.
I doubt that she could have left earlier.
*This tense can also be formed with 'se' in place of the 'ra' (hubiese). Depending on where you are, one of the two forms is usually preferred.

B.) Haber as a main verb
1.) Hay- there is, there are
Hay mucha gente aquí.
There are a lot of people here.
For distance: ¿Cuánto hay (you can also say 'se hace') de aquí a Quito?
How far is it from here to Quito?

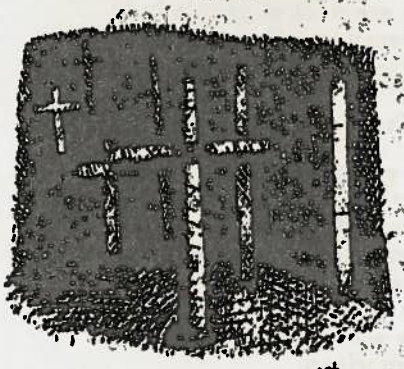
2.) In all other tenses, haber expresses the same idea (there is, there are) by using the 3rd person singular (había, hubo, habría, hubiera, haya).
Hubo un accidente en la Pana.
There was an accident on the Panamerican.
Había mucha sangre cuando llegué.
There was a lot of blood when I arrived.

3.) Haber also has the same meaning when used in the compound tense.
Ha habido un error en el Departamento de Contabilidad.
There has been a mistake in the accounting department.

4.) Haber used in the infinitive keeps the same meaning.
Puede haber culebras en la selva.
There may be snakes in the jungle.
Debe haber suficientes lápices para todos.
There should be enough pencils for everyone.

C.) Idioms using Haber
1.) Hay que + infinitive- one must, it is necessary
Hay que tener fe aunque todo está yendo mal.
One must have faith even if everythings's going wrong.

de que sobre la marcha de los acontecimientos, podremos corregir, modificar o ratificar acciones. La labor no es fácil, los resultados no son siempre alagadores, pero mientras observemos un niño sentirse feliz porque su padre lo escucha y ya no lo golpea, o porque simplemente comparte sus sentimientos con otros, estaremos seguros que los sacrificios, malos ratos, discusiones y horas extras de trabajo tienen un sentido y un fin loable. Contribuimos con la formación de un ser humano más sensible, respetuoso, orgulloso y seguro de que sus sueños tienen por límite el espacio.•



Day of the Dead

By D. R. Wiggins, Ibarra

Remember the days when a photo of a deceased loved one beautifully laid out in an open casket adorned by white velvety flowers was the coffee table center piece or the main attraction on the mantle piece? You would perhaps remember such a time if you were around during the late 1800's or early 1900's when there were only two occasions in one's lifetime worthy of being photographed - one's wedding day and one's funeral day. We North Americans have kept the custom of wedding day pictures but the very thought of capturing in living color a satin lined casket and the expressionless face of the dead, causes us to shudder. In fact, we are often reluctant to even utter the names of those loved ones who have passed away. We seem to be in unspoken agreement that talk of the dead will deaden our lives. Or to put it another way, reminiscence of a deceased loved one's voice, laughter, the way he moved his hands while talking, reminds us that one day we too, will be no more.

On November 2nd, Ecuadoreans and other Latinos throughout Latin America will celebrate Day of the Dead, a memorial day to remember the lives of dead relatives and friends. They will visit cemeteries bearing food and flowers. The mid-day meal will be eaten at the graves of the dearly departed and an improvised altar will serve as a station for a priest to administer mass. Then upon leaving, the visitors will leave gifts of food and ornate flowers at the graves as tokens of their undying love and care.

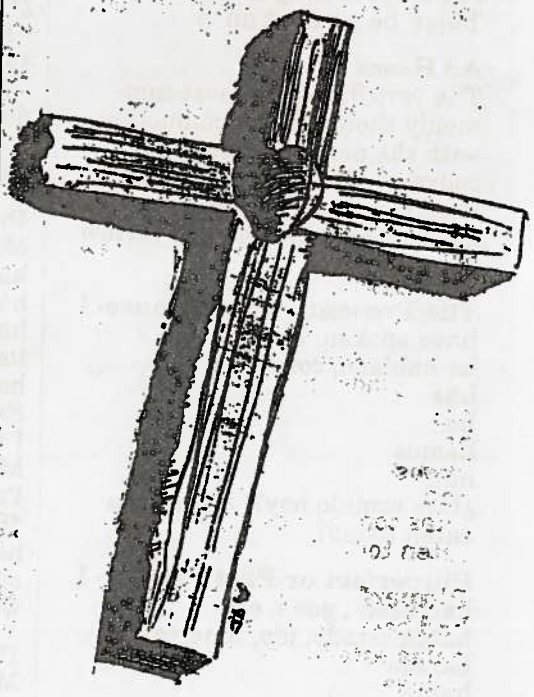
This holiday which is a religious celebration is a mixture of the indigenous and the mestizo cultures—mestizaje de la cultura and religion.

Before the arrival of the Spaniards and Catholicism, the indigenous people buried their dead with objects and foods which the deceased had enjoyed during his time alive. When the Spanish brought Catholicism to Latin America, the indigenous who believed in several gods and practiced what the Catholics considered idolatry, embraced the Catholic religion but also continued to adhere to some of their own religious beliefs.

Latinos certainly have a view of death which is very different from North Americans. Not only is this evident in the celebration of The Day of the Dead, but also in the first year mass anniversary of a deceased loved one.

For this particular mass which occurs one year to the day of the loved one's death, a symbol of the casket is placed at the altar, friends and relatives wear black and the priest performs a mass that is almost equal to the eulogy which was given at the actual funeral. Afterwards, there is a reception at the home of the family.

North Americans will no doubt feel that a memorial mass or ceremony for a deceased loved one would only make dealing with the death harder as the funeral with all its funerary paraphernalia would be replayed like a recurring nightmare. Although it is impossible, we try to bury the memory of our dead, whereas in the Latin American culture, the dead are incorporated into the lives of the living.•



Nez Perce National Forest, Central Idaho. Begun in 1993, and will if completed, remove 80 million board feet and add 150 miles of roads in an area that abuts three designated Wilderness: Frank Church River of No Return, Selway-Bitterroot, and Gospel Hump. There are 3.2 million acres of roadless area in the River of No Return, but only 2.3 million acres are protected. This remainder, what is essentially wilderness, is what the USFS has targeted for fragmentation and biological diversity depletion during their pristine wilderness to roaded tree farm taxpayer funded conversion process. These Wilderness and roadless areas make up a large part of the 26 million acre Greater Salmon- Selway Ecosystem, our largest temperate wild land complex, but with repeated assaults by the USFS under the guise of the latest buzzword, Ecosystem Management, this ecosystem is continually shrinking. The only way to manage ecosystems is to protect and restore (Wolke, 1994). The USFS, unfortunately, is able to stay abreast of the latest buzzword (remember multiple use and sustained yield?), but the "chainsaw" management remains the same. H.R. 2638- Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act would protect areas such as Cove- Mallard as legal Wilderness. Also let the Chief, Jack Ward Thomas, know how you feel about the management of the public domain by the USFS. This timber Sale is currently under federal injunction to temporarily halt logging and road building, but is subject to change. For more information write: Cove-Mallard Coalition, POB 8968, Moscow, Idaho, 83843.

6) GUIDELINES to write your Representative and Senator(s) and other public officials:

Write your Representative Senator!

Get to the point. If talking about specific legislation, identify it by name and number. Limit the letter to one topic, and if possible, one page.

Tell your reasons for advocating this position. Explain how the legislation will affect you. Be specific, state facts, and use examples where possible.

Be polite, positive, and constructive.

Repeat your reason for writing and thank your Rep! Senator/ Public Official for her/his cooperation.

ADDRESSES:

The Honorable U.S.. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable U.S.. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20510

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Department of the Interior 849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240

Director Mollie Beattie,U.S.. Fish and Wildlife Service 1849 C. Street, NW,Washington, DC 20240

Chief Jack Ward Thomas, U.S.. Forest Service Washington, DC 20250

If you do not know who your Representative or Senators are, request a copy of

"Communicating With Your Elected Officials" which lists Governors, Senators and Members of Congress by writing to:

Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Office of the Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon, Room 1B457, Washington, DC 20301-1155

8) LITERATURE CIRTED

Pope, Carl. 1994. Ways and Means: Wrong- Headed Right. Sierra. 79(2):31-32.

Pope, Carl. 1994. Ways and Means: Tapwatergate. Sierra. 79(4):30-32.

Skeele, Tom. 1994. Fish and Wildlife Service Experiments with Endangered Animals. Wild Earth. 4(2):37-39.

Wolke, Howie. 1994. Butchering the Big Wild: Tragedy in the Salmon-Selway,Wild Earth. 4(2):27-30.

Let me know if you are interested in obtaining copies of the articles.

Stay tuned for more "What Are They Thinking?" (WATT?).•

Calvin and Hobbes

Tips on Appying to Graduate School from Peace Corps

By Carrie Caballero, Cayambe

Through trial and error I have discovered some easier ways to gather graduate school information while in country. I recommend starting the process at least one year before most of the application deadlines. For example, for a fall 1996 enrollment most department deadlines will be from February to March 1996. Therefore, you should start investigating programs and writing for information in early 1995. This it allow for international mailing delays, contacting professors within the department with your specific research interests, gathering your letters of recommendation, etc.

1 Research graduate programs. The Fulbright Commission in Quito (Ave. Colon y Almagro—behind Peace Corps) has a good selection of graduate school catalogs organized by state. This will give you an idea of the institution's program and course offerings. The Lincoln Library (next door to Fulbright) has graduate school reference guides such as Peterson's Guide to Graduate Schools 1994-1995. These guides list programs by discipline and give general information about requirements, admission deadlines, contact person for applications and information, etc.

2 Request both departmental application and graduate college information- Be very clear in your request for applications that you are a U.S. Citizen living and working in Ecuador. You may wish to write 'Please do not send an international student application' and then again clarify that you are a PCV. I have written to some schools three times requesting the correct application and have received international student applications on all three occasions. (Thus my recommendation for starting early.)

3 Returned Volunteer Services publishes a Graduate School Guide for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. This guide lists graduate programs that offer: 1) specific financial assistance and/ or academic credit to RPCV's, and 2) special consideration for admissions and/or financial assistance to RPCV's. To obtain a copy, write to Publications, Returned Volunteer Services, Peace Corps of the United States, Washington, DC 20526. Ask for RVS-15 Graduate School Guide. RVS also offers a forwarding service for graduate school applications. In order to receive school catalogues, instruct the institution to address them exactly as follows: Volunteer Name/Country c/o Returned Volunteer Services Peace Corps Washington, DC 20526 Please stress to the institution the necessity of including Your country of service on the mailing label when ordering catalogues to be forwarded through RVS. Catalogues that do not have your country of service on the mailing label will not be forwarded. Please limit the number of schools from which you request catalogues and information to five. RVS is unable to forward more than five catalogues per Volunteer.

4 GRE and GMAT Bulletins are available from the Fulbright Commission. The GRE will be offered December 10, 1994 and April 8, 1995 in Quito and April 8, 1995 only in Guayaquil. The resource center in the Peace Corps lounge has some study guides available.

5 Career Resource Manual has excellent guidelines on how to translate your Peace Corps achievements into terms graduate committees and/or employers will understand and appreciate. The Manual also has resume writing guidelines.

Many graduate selection committees request a resume of professional experience to complement your application. It is also very helpful to include a resume when requesting letters of recommendation from supervisors and past professors. Start writing to your college advisors and professors early and be persistent. Make it clear that you are facing deadlines and would appreciate their support in your application process. Ask them to please respond to your request whether or not they are able to write a recommendation for you. This enables youto look for alternative references. Once a professor/advisor/supervisor agrees to endorse your application to graduate study you can send them the evaluation forms (if provided by the grad school) or a letter of guidelines and/or points you would like emphasized in the recommendation. For example, if you are a Cattle Volunteer and applying to a Public Administration program, you will want to emphasize the administrative rather than the agricultural aspects of your work here.

6 Application fee waiver letter- Maria Eugenia has a format letter to ask the Director of Admissions of the institution to waive your application fee. Sometimes this works, sometimes it doesn't but it is worth a try. It may save you $35 to $50 per application. At worst, the school will write back and say that they cannot begin processing your application until the application fee is paid. Peace Corps will allow you to take money from your readjustment allowance to pay graduate school application and test fees.

7 List a parent or relative on your application to call and check the status of your application. Good luck! •

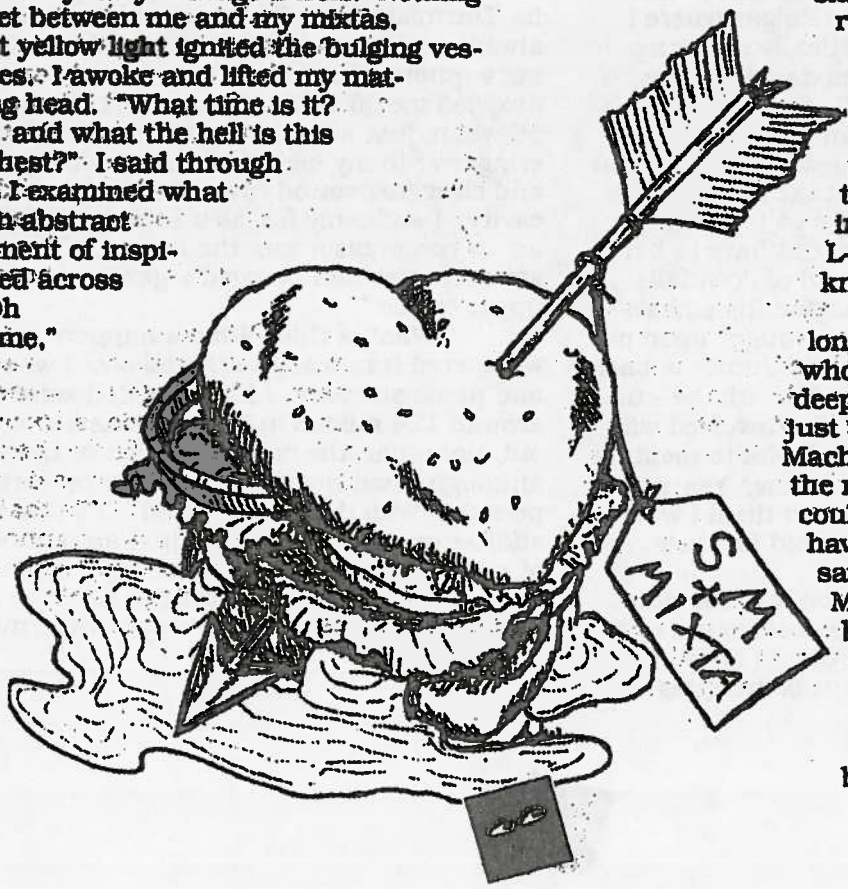
Mixta Affair III: The Apocalypse

By Shane McCarthy, Riobamba

My hands were shaking wildly and drool slid down my chin as I fondled the two double mixtas with extra mayonnaise and held them close to my chest. The crowd stared at me with that look of mixed pity and disgust. Their eyes reached out to me and said "You poor pathetic bastard." I didn't care what they thought about me, I didn't care about anything; I had two beautiful, steaming, dripping mixtas squished against my heart and a three mil room at the "Las Pulgas" hostel. I fled the all-too-familiar scene at Colon and 6 de Diciembre and staggered through traffic, kneeing little kids and old women, elbowing street vendors and meandering tourists out of the way. At one point I tripped and fell into a sidewalk stand and venomously accosted the cowering entrepreneur. "Dammit!", I screamed in her terrified face, "I don't want any bloody Chiclets! Are you blind?! Can't you see I've got mixtas?!" Then swinging away I cooed to my quickly cooling companions and headed for my daily menage a trois. Nothing would ever get between me and my mixtas.

Bright yellow light ignited the bulging vessels of my eyes. I awoke and lifted my matted, throbbing head. "What time is it? Where am I? and what the hell is this all over my chest?" I said through caked lips as I examined what looked like an abstract painter's moment of inspiration smeared across my torso. "Oh mother help me," I moaned shamefully, "I've done it again, and this time it's even worse." I looked at my watch and realized not only the time- 2:47 PM, but also the day - Sunday! Oh my gosh, I had been on a Mixta binge for 48 hours. My money, trousers, and socks were gone, I wreaked of stale grease and mayonnaise and my J.C. Penney all-cotton vented boxer shorts were on backwards and upside down. Thank God I still had my Montana driver's license, rubber boots and comb. At this point there was only one thing to do-- Colon and 6th.

I used to think all of those darned love songs were for rejects. "Oh-boy-oh-boy" I'd say sardonically as another one came on the radio, "Here's another tear jerker for the love rejects". Yes, and then I met Mixta and suddenly all of those silly love songs took on new meaning. Even though they were in Spanish and I couldn't understand a single word, I could sense the meaning, and I was moved almost to tears. I began to notice flowers, baby ducks, candy and other sweet things. I became more tolerant of bus controladores screwing me out of my change and of dogs shredding my pant legs as I rode on my bike. I just smiled and said "gracias". I was completely captivated, incensed, obsessed, oblivious. For the first time in my life I think I was experiencing....L...Lo..L...Lov...L-L-L-L-L..gl-ag-ugh-oof. You know what I mean.



It didn't take me long to realize that this whole gender business goes deeper in the culture than just the language, though. Machismo extends even into the realm of food (actually it could be said that gringos have been guilty of the same: remember the Papa, Momma, and Junior booger at the A&W?). Anyway, the mixta comes in two sexes, the Mix-TO booger which has a weiner, eggs, and a bunch of other manly

stuff. Then there is the Mix-TA which has a beet, cheese, and other soft feminine stuff. For me there was no confusion...I was in love with the Mix-TA (despite rumors that I had been seen ordering a Mix-TO).

So the days passed in bliss. Eating mixtas in the park, eating mixtas in the sun. Eating mixtas on the bus, in the museum, the library, the bathroom, day, night, afternoon, morning, rain, clouds, wind. I floated along for days, spilling goop down my shirt, smearing goop in my mustache, waiting impatiently at Colon and 6th for another, another, and yet another fix. It just didn't matter. When you are addicted and in love nothing matters. Time did not matter, being at my site didn't matter, bathing, brushing my teeth, copping an occasional balanced meal-bagh! It all added up to nothing in the face of mixta-love. What is it about the Colon and 6th mixta you are probably asking yourself now, is it special or something? I can answer your well-intentioned query by stating simply, read Mixta Affair I and II. Oh sure, I tried other mixtas, in fact, I hit every mixta stand between Tulcan and Macara. But none could fill the shoes of the original. It's the essence of the whole don't you see? There is no love like the first love.

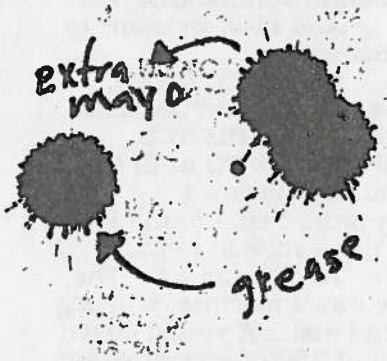
Soon, as in all pre-doomed affairs, the love and blind infatuation began to wear off and was quickly substituted by unadulterated addiction and raw uncontrollable lust. My days were spent slinking to 6th, snatching two double mixtas with extra mayo easy on the ketchup there bub, and shuffling back to Las Pulgas where I would cower and grovel pathetically under my bed, crying and stuffing the mixtas down my throat. I was a damn mess.VI was close to bare mineral soil when the all-volunteer conference came around. The Apocalypse was drawing near and I could feel it. I knew that the AVC may be my only salvation. I didn't dare go to Nurse Broomhilda, get psycho-vaced and have to bare the weight of this most shameful of downfalls the rest of my life. I could imagine the embarrassment and disappointment wrought upon my poor family: "Oh, yes, our beloved Junior is back from the Peace Corps already. He - uh, he - uh had some problems it seems. Got involved with some weird awful tropical drug." Not to mention trying to explain it at a job interview. Yes, my friends would soon be here and to them I would reveal this shameful secret and bid for their help.

"You look like stepped-on dog doo-doo Shane. You're skinny and pale and your hair is a horrible greasy mess. Your breath stinks, your body stinks, and your butt is drooping. You look awful, you smell awful, and you sound awful. You are a disgusting, pitiful mess and.....what is that.....eeewww! what is that stuck in your hair?!" I reached up and felt the matted lock. "I don't know, Franna", I droned, "I think maybe it's dried mayonnaise. At least I HOPE that's all it is." My worst nightmare had just reared up full length in front of me. It was Franna, the dreaded Franna. I was weak and defenseless and Franna was the predator that specialized in preying on poor wretches like myself. Like any predator, she immediately sensed my fragile condition and moved in for the easy kill. I knew that this would be the final blow required to topple me into the gaping maw of the psycho-vac whirlpool. I had to escape to survive. I would escape to the clean safe confines of the wonderful Savoy and would seek out my trusted friends Sleeve and Young Chief. Yes, they would help me. But first, one more mixta. Just one for old time's sake. A lovely warm dripping oozing mixta. Just one, to settle the nerves a bit. After all I had just evaded the dreaded Franna. Cause to celebrate. A final parting. Just one more. The last mixta.

The final blow came like a fried comet streaking out of the sky hunting for my mouth, its mission to ravage my digestive system from top to bottom. To roto-rooter me, to blow me out, suck my tissues dry like a giant mosquito, leaving me flaccid and pale, weak and pathetic. I had eaten my last mixta ceremoniously in the back of a taxi going to the Savoy. It was as beautiful as the very first, but I had to make a decision. My life depended on it. The mixta had slid down without event as always and immediately I slumped into the soothing euphoria that I had come to rely on. The taxi dropped me off at the Savoy and I floated to room 56 when, just after oozing the door shut and slithering over to my bed, there came a deep rumbling and chugging sound from within my abdominal cavity. I suddenly felt as if someone had plugged an air compressor into the lower orifice while someone else had plugged a garden hose into the upper orifice."

"What is this? What's happening to me?", I whispered frantically to the pillow. I was baffled and panic stricken. I had ingested somewhere around 124 mixtas in the previous six weeks without more than the occasional fart or belch (although I had not been "solid" once during this period.). Was this the dreaded DT's that all addicts experience? Was it just an innocent case of explosive indigestion, was it my body and mind psychosomatically conspiring to help me make the break, or.....was it....the revenge of the mixta?

My body righted itself from the bed in what could only be described as power levitation, and vaulted headlong into the bathroom, landing butt-down on the pot like a basketball finding the hoop in a perfect swish. My undulating body was immediately jetted upward by a powerful column of stuff that apparently was wanting to get out really bad. Again and again I rallied to the call, each time weakening more and more. Through it all a hatred was building, a rancor like no other. A despisal, a disgust, an unbearable distrust and sense of betrayal.



After what seemed like a thousand deaths I crawled onto my bed and settled into my thoughts. "It's over," I rasped,"I'm free." The door squeaked open and my friend Sleeve tentatively entered. "Geez, what happened in here, did the sewer pipes break or what?", he said with an innocent dagger in his voice. "No, I've been sick, Sleeve, really sick, but I'm O.K. now. Everything is going to be O.....K."

Author's note of admission: Even though I am completely cured of the Colon and 6th mixta, I do break down and get some papas fritas with extramayoeasyontheketchupbub every now and then.•

¿COMO?

"Hey, that guy owes me ten mil."

Alex Thomas, after hearing about Jaime Zavala's recent Medevac to Washington.

•••••••••••••••••

"People die in war."

Jack Bellanger, arguing in favor of the use of motorcycles by PCV's and what the reality would be of having to tell loved ones back home about an accident.

•••••••••••••••••

"I like it when you can slap butter on 'em and it melts all over the place. Aw boy, I like that!"

Charlie Armstrong, on the benefits of fresh bread.

•••••••••••••••••

"I can't say that."

Jim Potts, when asked, after ordering a 'porcion de arroz' for breakfast, if he enjoyed his meal.

•••••••••••••••••

"I could've burned the house down if it wasn't adobe."

Carissa Bongiorno, after leaving a pot of peas to burn in her kitchen.

•••••••••••••••••

"When I eat, I eat. I don't mess around. When I dine it's different."

Miles Cooley, on his habit of eating – well – quickly.

•••••••••••••••••

"Food is love."

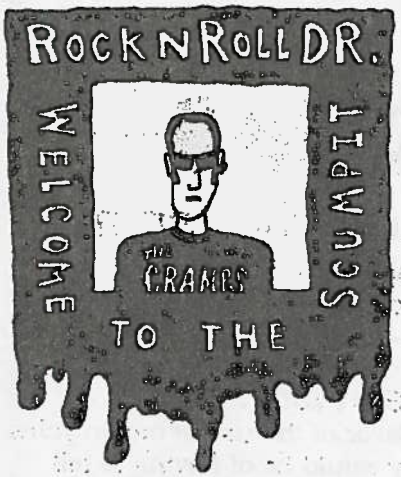
Ann Burfeind, when explaining the importance of eating food given by Ecuadorian hosts.

•••••••••••••••••

"I'm going to Papillon's."

Chris Samuel, when asked about plans after COSing.

— JCV



So I'm a bit confused here. See, I was at this party. A gringa introduces me to an older, not quite elderly woman. Later, as this woman leaves, the gringa goes to kiss the woman on the cheek. The woman turns to say goodbye to me,. so I go to air-kiss her cheek, and she kinda hesitates. Mild confusion between both of us. My couple of tragitos didn't help. So I'm confused about the rules and regulations of "cheek-kissing". I wish it was more straightforward. I think I could've used a cheek-kissing seminar during cross-cultural training.

I like it best when women simply stick out their cheek. It's easy and simple. I don't get too confused. But what about when she does NOT offer her cheek? What am I supposed to do? And is there a length of time I have to know her before the first air-kiss? And what about age limits? When are they too old, or more importantly, too young?

Once I went to the cheek of a friend, and she says, "don't, I have a skin problem right now." Chevere. Perfecto. I knew exactly where I stood because of her instructions. Not long ago, I ran into a big-wig director of an arts foundation who is several years older than me. Man, was I relieved when she put out her cheek. Major confusion was about to set in for me at any moment. Is this as confusing for women as well? Things are going OK now, maybe I'm unconsciously learning the subliminal rules of this very complex cultural interaction...

LIVE MUSIC - IN CONCERT IN ECUADOR

GRUPO MITOTE at Banco Central, Cuenca: A jazz trio from Mexico. But calling them jazz would be unfairly limiting. They combined several different forms of traditional Latin music with different styles of jazz. Charismatic vocalist percussionist **ISABEL TERCERO** went from Colombian folk singing to a jazz standard in perfect English. Drummer **ANDRES CARRERA** played non-stop subtle poly-rhythms. And group leader CIPRIANO played a passionate, often spiritual alto saxophone. On one song he blew a wild Rahsaan Roland Kirk-style flute solo. The show was gratis, with intimate surroundings and very inspirational music.

VILMA PALMA E LOS VAMPIROS at El Coliseo, Cuenca: I was desperate for live rocknroll. It had been about one year. I had to go, had to try, gambled on 15 mil. Supposedly they are one of the most popular (a bad sign) pop groups on the continent, from Argentina. I had a bad feeling when I saw a 1/3 mile line of teenyboppers outside. Well, to me, the music and band stunk. Dry-ice bubble-gummy commercial pop swill. And you could not hear the damned guitar! What's rocknroll without a friggin guitar? And VILMA was just a back-up singer! What's up with that? Get rid of the phoo-phoo haired loserio lead singer! I heard a group of Canar volunteers went. Hopefully they enjoyed it more than I did. Highlight was thousands of screaming girls in impossibly tight clothing. Yes, I'm old enough to be their mother. I left after a half hour, relieved to get out.

RECORD REVIEWS: "Llego la INDIA via EDDIE PALMIERI": I just discovered this sizzling newish ('92) salsa featuring the young "sensation" singer INDIA, and the Latin master of piano innovation, bandleader SR. PALMIERI from Puerto Rico. Hot band and very hot sounds.

DUB SYNDICATE - "Echomania": My all-time favorite reggae group, labelmates with African Head Charge on the awesome "ON-U Sound" label in the U.K. These guys used to be maximally creative. Though no longer as innovative, compared to "normal" reggae they're still very good. Highlights are guest vocals by **LEE "SCRATCH" PERRY, AKABU**, and JALAAL (ex-Last Poet). For the best by the Dub Syndicate, check out their amazing "Tunes From the Missing Channel" LP, some of which is on the killer "Classic Selections Volume One" CD.

And now, welcome to the Scumpit...

LIVE: NOTOKEN, KAOS, INCARNATUS, THE SADIST EXPERIENCE, CHANCRO DURO at El Centro Social de Artesanos, Guayaquil: Yep, I found it. Live punk rock in Ecuador. It exists. And it was fun. The show was a matinee, starting around 4ish. A young crowd of about 150 often exuberant yet always friendly in "the pit". Lotsa Tropico consumed straight out of the bottle by endless black concert T-shirts. Four of the bands were what I think is now called "grindcore", an ultra-growly metally-thrash. Not great nor my style of punk, but the live loud rocknroll felt like a fix. The second to last band was **NOTOKEN**, the nice guys I contacted by mail who told me about the gig. Hot, pure, energetic, fast hardcore punk rock. I was happy.

MORE RECORD REVIEWS: JIMI HENDRIX- "Blues": Scumpit material? I certainly think so. By far the greatest guitarist of all time, and he f—king proves it here. Another album of never released material from the vaults, and this

one smokes. Blistering psychedelic bluesy rock like nobody's business. Goes from the straight stuff ("Catfish Blues") to classic Jimi ("Hear My Train A-Comin"). Get a rocknroll lesson and buy this disc.

JELLO BIAFRA & MOJO NIXON- "Prairie Home Invasion": Ex-Dead Kennedys frontman Jello and looney bumpkin Mojo team up for a punky ride through country and western hell. They run through the gamut of C&W styles with their biting cynical satirical edge. Each song rips it up featuring a different traditional C&W instrument: banjo, washboard, fiddle, honky-tonk piani, pedal steel and slide guits. As always Jello's vocals and lyrics are right on the mark. Songs include: "Are You Drinkin With Me Jesus", "Where Are We Gonna Work (When All The Trees Are Gone)", "Atomic Power (Given By The Mighty Hand of God)", and the previously reviewed single from the album, "Will The Fetus Be Aborted". Recommended.

REVEREND HORTON HEAT- "Liquor in The Front": The latest guitar god, hailing from where else but east Dallas. The Rev plays "psychobilly", a combination of traditional rockabilly a la Johnny Cash, Link Wray, Carl Perkins, etc., with a psycho edge. No murky grunge shit here, but crystalline fluid guitar lines dished out by the dazzlin fingers of The Rev on his hollow-body Gretsch. Though this ain't as good as his legendary debut, "Smoke Em If You Got Em", it still cooks. My faves are his instrumentals, like "Big Sky", the wicked opener on this new LP. Also hot is the surfy tune "I Can't Surf (And Neither Can You)". He slows it down with a bossa-nova style ballad "(I'll See You) In Your Wildest Dreams". This 3 piece combo also features a crazed pompadour-sportin stand-up bass player, and a literally giant of a drummer that looks like a heavy metal Incredible Hulk. And of course The Rev. He loves drinkin and cavortin. He has a great smile and a big tattoo of a naked 50's style gal. And be forewarned: The Rev is exceedingly un-P.C. As if you didn't notice from the album title.

THE BOREDOMS- "Onanie Bomb Meets The Sex Pistols": In my humble opinion Japan puts out some of the most shredding punk music in the world. There is their big scene of the U.S. 50's-60's sound redone wildly, and then there's the noisier stuff, and The Boredoms are the kings (and queen) of noise. An assaulting pounding bass, flailing guitars, machine gun-fire drums, spastic insane vocalizing. Otherwise indescribable. They are the best newer live band I've seen in the last several years. Unfortunately, they just signed to a major label and played Lollapoloser to crowds of 15 to 20,000. Not the way rocknroll is meant to be experienced. Song titles include: "Melt Down Boogie", "Wipe Out Shock Shoppers", and "Boredoms vs. SDI". Also try their earlier release "Soul Discharge". Not recommended for Whitney Houston fans.

GUNS N ROSES-"The Spaghetti Incident": Yeah, this isn't very new, but it came out since I've been here, and I just got the tape. I recorded it from a friend- I wouldn't give these idiot corporate loserio f—ks a sucre of my money. That said, they still should get a little credit for this tribute to the early years of punk rock, all cover songs from about '75 to '81. GNR's versions are not very creative and are true to the originals, going from the "first" punk **IGGY POP** with "Raw Power", to my fave track, the **DEAD BOYS** cut, "Ain't it Fun". Also good are covers of **THE DAMNED, NEW YORK DOLLS, and T REX.** A fun nostalgic release.

ENDNOTES...

So if the Antidoctor is so knowledgeable about music, how come out of his 52 horrendous bands from the 80's I haven't heard of only two of them? And by the way, Antidoctor, NEVER make fun of **CHER.** She rules...

After a lucky 13 months here, I thought I was immune. Wrong. Lots of critters slithering around in my stomach right now. I feel and look like shit. Boo-f—kin-hoo...

Well I'm going to visit the good 'ol U.S. of A. for Thanksgiving. When my folks first surprised me with the plane tickets a few months ago, I did not even feel like going back. It's a wonder what a few months here will do. I'm very psyched now. Off to my family in Los Angeles, and my real home of Berkeley/San Francisco. Micro holiday brews, real burritos, real pepperoni pizza, my Mom's turkey day feast, and of course lots of live rocknroll...

I just read a superb and very depressing book on the genocide in the 1800's of the Native American Indians, "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee". I'll leave you with a quote from it: "To the Kiowas and Comanches the white man seemed to hate everything in nature."

Later,
Barry N. Lazarus, Cuenca

The Antidoctor will not be appearing in this issue. The author is researching the next installment in an undisclosed location. Stay tuned. In the last installment, credit was not given to Alex Thomas and Todd Birchler who contributed wit, wisdom, and ideas over a few bottles of beer. -

JCV.

On the Bus

By Juan Carlos Velasques, Mira

I just want to do it once, that's all. You know, everyone has their dreams. Why can't I have mine? Man, just one time. It looks so damn fun. And I'll admit, there's some degree of power involved. Do you think there's a rule against it somewhere in the Peace Corps bible? Will they make me wear a helmet? I mean, I'll do it for free (of course, I'll accept tips).

Just the short two hour Quito to Ibarra run. That's not to long, yet it has all the elements. I know I can do it. I've been practicing and I know I can get it down.
"¡Ibarra!, ¡Ibarra!, ¡Ibarra!".
"¡Otavalo!, ¡Otavalo!, ¡Otavalo!"

This second part is important when you go down Patria or whenever you see anyone closely resembling an Otavaleño or tourist. See, I've figured out some of the details. Man, hanging out the bus, one foot in the door, the other nearly in the gutter. Wind blowing through your hair. One arm holding the sidebar on the door, the other pointing, flailing about, and otherwise keeping busy. Who hasn't thought about doing this and how fun it would be?
"¿A donde va?"
"Suba, suba."
"Si hay asientos"
"Siga, siga"

You're flying down Avenida America (hopefully I'd have one of those famed kamikaze bus drivers who you would swear thinks he's the second coming of Ayrton Senna), hanging out the door of the bus, pointing and yelling "Ibarra, Ibarra, Ibarra." You're pointing and yelling at people innocently standing on street corners and walking down sidewalks, then BAM!, someone flags you down.
"¡Aguante¡"
You yell at the bus driver to stop, then even more fun. As the bus is still screeching to a stop, you jump out, then the interview starts.
"¿Adonde va?"
"Si hay asientos"

While all of this is going on, you assess the equipaje situation. Big fundas or maletas? On top of the bus or inside? It's split second decision making, man. The bus has now been stopped in the middle of the street for a few seconds and the cars are starting to honk. That rival bus line you've been racing through Quito is sure to gain ground. You've got to act quick.

Big fundas. Before the bus is at a complete stop, you're grabbing the fundas, climbing the ladder and throwing them on top of the bus as the passenger climbs aboard. Then another decision to make. Do you just throw them up there or do you tie them down? If you have to tie stuff down you're up there till the next stop.
"¡Dele!"

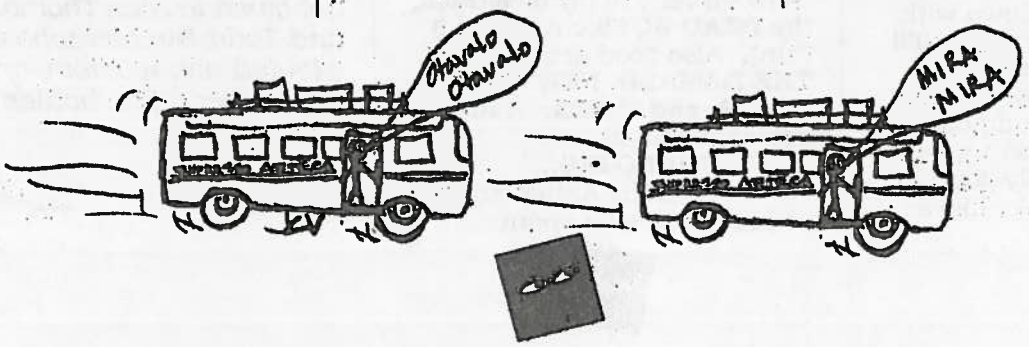
If you just throw them up there, you gotta be quick. You climb up the ladder, throw the fundas up, and while you're still coming down, you yell out "¡Dele!" You jump down, and then sprint to catch up to the accelerating bus. As the ghost of Senna takes over the bus, and just when all the passengers think you'll never make it, you jump in the door. Fun shit, man.

As the bus is filling up, you got a couple of other things going on. One is the coronation of "La Reina Del Viaje". You know, the seating of the woman (or women) in the suicide seat, right next to the driver. You have to keep your eye out as the passengers file in. Preferably she's young, maybe 16 or 17, good looking, maybe more than one, and of course talkative. Of course, they have to be unaccompanied and hopefully going the whole way (no, I don't mean going 'all the way'). Sometimes it's a bad day and not many good-looking young ones are travelling that day. You've got to use your judgment and do the best you can. For some reason, this is all kind of important, mostly for entertainment the rest of the ride I guess.

Then there's the mandarina lady power trip'. Who gets on, who doesn't. When and where. It's a battle. If you decide to block all mobile commerce, you have to guard that door, man, especially at those traffic lights.

It's a constantly hectic thing, or can be. You have to keep assessing the situation. Looking over the bus, counting the empty seats, while keeping one eye on the sidewalk. Then, when the bus is full or you're out of Quito,-
"¡La Puerta!".

The first part of your job is done. It's time for a break. You move up and sit up front near the driver and relax for awhile. If it's a bus with a TV and VCR, now's the time to put on the latest Jean Claude Van Damme movie. If not, maybe you start fiddling with the radio. You've got to



put it loud enough to offend any gringos that may be on board. You chat with the driver for a while.

This part is a little bit of a mystery to me. What are they talking about? Are they talking about the passenger situation? Who's going where, how many, etc. Am I supposed to give the driver some sort of report? Or, are they just flirting with the Reina Del Viaje? Or maybe congratulating themselves on kicking that rival bus line's butt all the way through Quito, grabbing the majority of the passengers?

After a while, usually past Calderon, the other game starts-the battle for the sueltos, get as much as you can, giving up as little as possible. Otherwise known as the collection of the pasajes.

I know they all have their own style. Some guys fold bills lengthwise, some the regular way. Some guys sort the money, others pile it all together. I know what my style would be; the long fold. You have to run your fingers over the crease a couple of times with this method. Then when someone gives me a big bill I can't change right away, I'd slide the bill in between my fingers, till my left hand looks like a fan.

One thing though. How the hell do those guys remember who got on where, who's paid, who they owe change to, etc.? I have to admit, I may not be capable of doing this. I mean, it can get kind of complicated. There's got to be some sort of trick. I might have to only do it once. I'm sure I'd get fired for being short.

"¿No tiene los sueltos?
"Deme los sueltitos."

You have to demand the sueltos. Damn them if you'll accept a 10 mil or even a 5 mil if you don't have to. And if they don't do it, you give them a dirty look, slide that bill in between your fingers, and make them wait for change. Maybe you'll even forget to give them the change. If it's someone you think has the sueltos but is holding out, make them ask for it.

Once that is out of the way, you pretty much kick back the rest of the way. Unless it was a bad day and you have to keep dropping people off and picking people up the whole way. That would suck. Other than that man, I can't think of any other job I'd rather do here, except of course, being the driver...

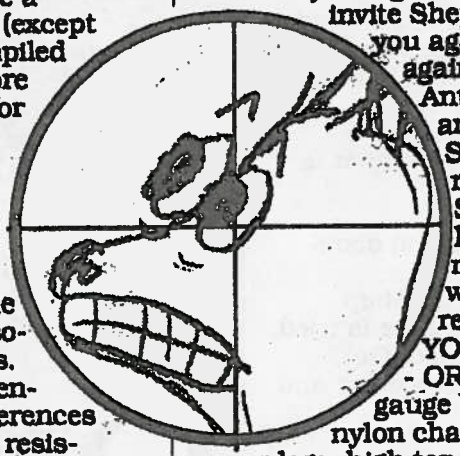
Juan Carlos Velasquez on the bus, Mira, El Bancon de Los Andes•

Doggie Deterrents

or Conflict Resolution Tecniques They Didn't Teach You In Training

By Shane McCarthy, Riobamba

Ever-disheartening tales of conflicts between PCVs and Ecuadorean "guard dogs" abound in all quarters and conversations. Since I purport to be a resolver of conflicts (except my own) I have compiled some tactics, to shore up your strategies for dealing with "el amigo mejor de hombre." Since PCVs are such a diverse group with diverse ideas I have attempted to include tactics for all philosophies and ideologies. So if you have tendencies, talents or preferences in violence, passive resistance, guilt mitigation, psychology, basic business manipulation (salesmanship) or multiple combinations therein, there is something here for you. But don't blame me if it doesn't work.



VIOLENT/QUICK RESULT RAMBO METHODS

- Crack Shep's skull with a rock, brick, or bottle.
- Crack Shep's skull with a bat, pipe, or tire iron.
- Lop Shep's head off with a machete (then mount Shep's head on the handlebars of your bike as a warning to others).
- Blast Shep between the eyes at point blank range with one of those nifty sawed-off shotguns that you can buy in the market for 40 mil.
- Rent a trooper and run over Shep.
- Toss Shep a hamburger loaded with strychnine.
- Toss Shep a Mixta burger from Colon y 6 and watch the poor bugger writhe and die an agonizing, horrible death (this method is recommended only for extreme cases).

*These methods are guaranteed to arouse Shep's owner, despite their previously amused and noncommittal reaction while Shep attempted to disembowel you earlier in the week.

PHYSICAL DETERRENT/LESSON IN HUMILIATION METHODS.

-Wrap barbed wire around you legs and arms and invite Shep to bite you again and again. Antagonize and provoke Shep if you need to. Shep will hurt his mouth and will always remember YOUR leg.

- OR wear eight gauge ballistic nylon chaps around your legs, high top steel toed boots and chain mail gloves and gauntlets. Make Shep attack and bite you. Antagonize Shep into a frenzy. When he is exhausted and beaten, point out the folly of it all: "Look Shep, you've broken out all of your teeth and for

what purpose? Was it gratifying? I'd say you'd better reexamine your goals a bit Shep."
- For you cattle and sheep volunteers: Rope Shep, choke him down, hog tie him, put a pop bottle rocket in his butt and light it. He will remember that FOREVER. All you will have to do in the future is show Shep a pop bottle rocket and he will flee a-yelping.
- Spray Shep with cheap perfume. He will be thoroughly humiliated, and it may even stimulate his passive loving side.
- Bust a water balloon filled with YOUR urine right on ol' Shep's head. He will wreak of urine. YOUR urine. He will be thoroughly humiliated by his peers, but best of all he will be bonded to YOU. You see, dogs have this thing about urine and using it to mark what's YOURS. It means a lot. Shep may eventually become your personal bodyguard. You may have to douse Shep again periodically lest he forget.

BUSINESS/POLITICAL METHODS
- Toss Shep a steak every once in a while. "Buy him off" if you will. Eventually he may even provide "protection" from other terrorists.
- Buy Shep out. In other wards, pay off his owner (usually needs to be paid every three to five days).
- Pay a "professional" to "remove" Shep (my number is 565-505).

GHANDI METHOD (no disrespect intended)
- Stand there and let Shep shred your legs until he is tried, frustrated or satisfied. Go directly to the nurses office and get a rabies shot.

TOUCHY-FEELY WIN THEIR HEARTS METHODS
- Get down on your hands and knees and coo to Shep. Tell him you love him, that there is nothing to be mad about and that you would like to swap butt sniffing if possible. Go directly to the nurses office and get a rabies shot. (You might want to upgrade your insurance policy before using this method).
- Toss ol' Shep about 20 pounds of hamburger every day and tell him you love him. You will starve but hey, you will have won a friend, and your new friend will be really healthy and happy. This method is guaranteed to assuage your guilt tendencies.

PHARMACEUTICAL/PHILOSOPHICAL METHOD
- Toss ol' Shep some hamburger laced with a healthy dose of San Pedro Cactus. Then philosophize with him for hours afterwards and teach him love and peace. This could also be a really good time to bust a urine balloon on his head.

THREE PIGS, VERTICALLY CHALLENGED

From Politically Correct Bedtime Stories
by James Finn Garner

Once there were three little pigs who lived together in mutual respect and in harmony with their environment. Using materials that were indigenous to the area, they each built a beautiful house. One pig built a house of straw, one a house of sticks; and one a house of dung, clay and creeper vines shaped into bricks and baked in a small kiln. When they were finished, the pigs were satisfied with their work and settled back to live in peace and self-determination.

But their idyll was soon shattered. One day, along came a big, bad wolf with expansionist ideas. He saw the pigs and grew very hungry, in both a physical and an ideological sense. When the pigs saw the wolf, they ran into the house of straw. The wolf ran up to the house and banged on the door, shouting, "Little pigs, let me in!" The pigs shouted back, "Your gunboat tactics hold no fear for pigs defending their homes and culture!"

But the wolf wasn't to be denied what he thought was his manifest destiny. So he huffed and puffed and blew down the house of straw. The frightened pigs ran to the house of sticks, with the wolf in hot pursuit. Where the house of straw had stood, other wolves bought up the land and started a banana plantation.

At the house of sticks, the wolf again banged on the door and shouted "Little pigs, let me in!"

The pigs shouted back, "Go to hell, you carnivorous, imperialistic oppressor!"

At this the wolf chuckled condescendingly. He thought to himself "They are so childlike in their ways. It will be a shame to see them go, but progress cannot be stopped."

So the wolf huffed and puffed and blew down the house of sticks. The pigs ran to the house of bricks, with the wolf close at their heels. Where the house of sticks had stood, other wolves built a time-share condo resort complex for vacationing wolves, with each unit a fiberglass reconstruction of the house of sticks, as well as native curio shops, snorkeling and dolphin shows. At the house of bricks, the wolf again banged on the

door and shouted, "Little pigs, let me in!"

This time in response, the pigs sang songs of solidarity and wrote letters of protest to the United Nations.

By now the wolf was getting angry at the pigs' refusal to see the situation from the carnivore's point of view. So he huffed and puffed, and huffed and puffed, then grabbed his chest and fell over dead from a massive heart attack brought on from eating to many fatty foods.

The three little pigs rejoiced that justice had triumphed and did a little dance around the corpse of the wolf. Their next step was to liberate their homeland. They gathered together a band of other pigs who had been forced off their lands. This new brigade of Porcinistas attacked the resort complex with machine guns and rocket launchers and slaughtered the cruel wolf oppressors, sending a clear signal to the rest of the hemisphere not to meddle in their internal affairs. Then the pigs set up a model socialist democracy with free education, universal health care and affordable housing for everyone.

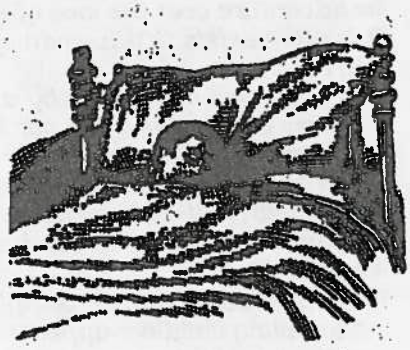
PLEASE NOTE: THE WOLF IN THIS STORY WAS A METAPHORICAL CONSTRUCT. NO ACTUAL WOLVES WERE HARMED IN THE WRITING OF THE STORY.

Submitted by Jean Seigle, CD

IT CAN'T BE MORE THAN 7:30 IN THE EVENING

By Ann Burfriend, Patacocha

Early to bed, early to rise makes - whoever- healthy, wealthy and wise. Great Ben, it's 7:30 in Patococha. Dinner's eaten, the el clima has been read - (almost all of it). Nothing much left to do except attempt to write something readable for the next el clima. I'm not insinuating that I'm bored, rather the life of a Peace Corps Volunteer in a town of 15 families is one of serious lounging in the evenings. When you get tired of the lounging you go to bed, or it you're waiting for a recently drunk cup of tea to go through the system, you write a Pulitzer prize winning article for el clima. "Work, liver, work" you all can say!



Having recently returned from Quito and the 6 month conference, I feel a sense of rejuvenation and renewal. Ah yes, how a hot shower and comfortable bed can do that. Actually, the 10 hour bus ride from Cuenca allowed me time to reflect on my life in Ecuador - it's boring.

Once again, don't jump to any conclusions. I'm fulfilling obligations to myself, the Peace Corps and the people in my town. There simply isn't much to do or say when it gets dark on top of my hill. That's fine. In the capital of my canton there is a Spanish priest; the "conquistador" as he is affectionately called here. He asked me once, "Don't you get bored in Patococha?" He couldn't concentrate long enough to get my answer through my faulty Spanish. I tried to explain to him that boredom in this quality and quantity is difficult to come by in the United States. I considered myself lucky to have the opportunity to explore different aspects of boredom; to really bask in the full glory of boredom.

Through our language we attempt to mask boredom with words such as tranquil, restful and calm. I consider boredom a working vacation. It's not dumb to be bored. One bored won't make a beautiful table - you need many.

I am attempting to allow myself to be bored and enjoy it. Once during my proselytization a friend said, "that's great Ann, we're all here for different reasons." How right she was, however, for those of you who are interested in exploring the bright side of boredom, relax, sit back and think about nothing. What a great place I have to do just that. Remember there is nothing dumb about being bored.•

Naomi

By D. R. Wiggins, Ibarra

Sometimes
a wind lifts
the cotton
curtains
and touches the nape
of Naomi's neck.
That part of her body
the sun seeks out
determined as
a mad-man
and thick heat circles
and tightens
as a man's hands would.
Her always damp neck
where coarse hair
lay twisted like
many patterns of lace
and a two-year old's tears
mix with July sweat.
But sometimes a wind stirs...

ANTICIPATION

Where is that man of mine?
The day is dying.
Where is that man of mine?
The bed is waiting.
Where is that man of mine?
My thighs are shivering.
Where is that man of mine?
My hips are twitching.
Where is that man of mine?
I hear him coming.

By D. R. Wiggins, Ibarra

Youth is not a time of life;
it is a state of mind;
it is not a matter of rosy cheeks,
red lips and supple knees;
it is a matter of the will,
a quality of the imagination,
a vigor of the emotions,
it is the freshness of the deep springs of life.
Youth means a temperamental predominance
of courage over
timidity of the appetite,
for adventure over the love of ease.
This often exists in a woman of 60 more than in
a girl of 20.
Nobody grows old merely by a number of years.
We grow old by deserting our ideals.
Years may wrinkle the skin,
but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.
Worry, fear, self-distrust bows the heart
and turns the spirit back to dust.
Whether 60 or 16,
There is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder,
the unfailing childlike appetite of what's next
and the joy of the game of living.
In the center of your heart and my heart
there is a wireless station:
so long as it receives messages of beauty,
hope, cheer, courage, and power from women and men
and from the Infinite,
so long are you young.
When the aerials are down,
and your spirit is covered with the snows of cynicism
and the ice of pessimism,
then you are grown old,
even at 20
but as long as your aerials are up,
to catch waves of optimism,
there is hope you may die young at 90.
By Samuel Ullman
Submitted by Suzan Smith, Sta. Ana, Manabi

VAC MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 1994

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Congratulations to Ralph Coleman for leaping into the role of VAC Secretary. He is responsible for bringing you this publication.

-In this time of COSing PCV's, please make sure the VAC rep duties get passed on in your province. If anyone is in need of VAC info (charter, by-laws, etc.) get in touch with Ralph Coleman, Casilla 55, Ibarra or Jeff Nield, Casilla 635, Quito (also has mail drop in lounge).

-The next meeting will be held January 3, 1995.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Washer/Dryer Status: Fund as of 10-4-94 was S/300.600. Cost of maintenance for tri-monthly check-up is S/ 85.000. VAC decided on a majority vote that as of Nov 1, 1994, the washer and dryer will be DIS-CONNECTED (yes you read that right, disconnected) if we continue to receive inadequate funding to maintain machines. Before this meeting we were averaging S/1000 a day.

B. PC Lounge: The two week rule re: lounge lockers is being strictly enforced. See Irene for more details.

COMMITTIES

1) Health committee: Members-Ruth Navarette (Manabi), Audrey Shapiro (Morona-Santiago). All PCVswill receive fluoride at the dentist during 1 year meds. Complaints of condoms breaking (see Asuntos Medicos).

2) Hospitality Committee: Members-Dave King (Bolivar) and Tim Bradley (Guayas).

3) Allowances Committee: Members-Alex Thomas (Pichincha), Carol Loveless (Loja), and Rich Valeika (Azuay). VAC is working with admin to set guidelines for PCV living standard. They have presented Ana-Maria a new and hopefully more accurate market-basket survey.

4) Meeting and Conferences Committee: Members-Bernie Dick (Carchi) and Wendy Quance (Pichincha-Sto. Domingo).

5) Washington D.C. Committee: Members-Carol Loveless (Loja) and Ralph Coleman (VAC Sec.) Reminder-Please review the possible policy changes to be presented to PC Wash D.C.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Evaluations-PCVs and APCDs will evaluate one another at the one year mark of service for the Volunteer. PCVs will choose the individual most appropriate to evaluate them. Refer to Barry Bem's article in *el clima* for more details.

2) Computers-Admin will be looking into updating and hopefully expanding the computer system in the lounge.

3) Living allowance-Kelly McBride (Los Rios) submitted a memo re: the PCV living allowances. It criticizes the current living allowance formula and offers possible improvements, one of which is to evaluate how much a Volunteer actually spends versus how much a Volunteer feels they need to spend.

4) PC Admin-Ana Maria has emphasized that all problems, concerns etc. related to the PC Admin staff and PCV admin services outside program specifics should be brought to her attention. VAC and PC Admin are currently working on a guide for the Quito office.

5) Regionalism/Saturation-Jean Seigle is working with APCDs to analyze the current site selection process of APCDs. A possible Integrated Site Planning Day is in the works for the Quito staff. Also, in troublesome and needy areas possibly putting 2 Volunteers there. Possible 3 year Volunteer programs.

6) Bike Policy-All PCVs have to return bikes at COS or ET. This is necessary to maintain the bikes and to do inventory. Also:

AS OF DEC 15 1994 ANY PCV SEEN RIDING A BICYCLE WITHOUT A HELMET WILL BE TERMINATED. There have been 15 bike accidents this year alone. There was a majority VAC vote on this. What can we say? Head injuries are forever. *(Editor's note: This policy is currently being reviewed and may very well change. Jean will soon be sending out a memo detailing the bike helmet policy.)*

PROVINCIAL REPORTS

Bolivar-Tools: Suggested that admin do an inventory on all tools that exist in the bodega.

Guayas-New casilla #s: For all new Volunteers-Cas. 16460. For all PCVs in Guayaquil-Cas. 5161. All Guayas campo Volunteers-Cas. 5855.

Loja-Loja city PCVs want to be moved up to B scale. Want 2 way flights for official PC business.

Pichincha-What happens to sign-in sheets in the guards office after they are filled out? Want PC to copy Barry Lazarus slides for official PC use.

Azuay-Ecumcolor discounts-See Ximena for details. Health Ins. when going to the U.S. all have a 3 mo. min.

Chimborazo-Reminder: All emergencies that occur stateside must be communicated through PC/W. Problems with bike and helmet fittings-see Ximena for possible reimbursement.

Provincial Lockers-Jeff and Ana-Maria will see if its possible to do some modifying to the provincial locker bodega.

FINAL COMMENTS

Macas-Any one flying there can get a 15% discount. Need PC ID, passport, and letter from Monica.

Loja-PCVs in Loja may use the Metro Touring office there to book flights. Just need to set up correspondence between that office in Loja and Monica.

-Foreign Service Language Tests-See Yolanda Vivar at the Training Center for more details.

-If any Volunteer has items to sell you are welcome to post notices at the training center.

TRAINING CENTER UPDATE:

Staff Training:
On September 30th 13 training center staff members completed a six week sign language course whose objective was to train staff members to be able to communicate to current and future deaf Trainees, Volunteers and their counterparts. The course was offered three times each week with each session lasting two hours. Each participant was required to present a charla in sign language as part of their requirements for course graduation. The course was highly evaluated by all participants. Future staff training courses include: English, Computers and Diversity.

Participants:

Sonia Aguirre	Facilitator
Anita Penafiel	Facilitator
Bolivar Chiriboga	Facilitator
Jacqueline Acosta	Facilitator
Mariana Suarez	Facilitator
Miryam Flor	Admin. Office
Marlene Jaramillo	Lang. Coordinator
Paulina Espin	Secretary
Silvia Valencia	Facilitator
Monica Carrion	Facilitator
Carmen Rosero	Facilitator
Teresa Sanchez	Tech. Coordinator
Leititia Klinger	Facilitator

Omnibus 72
The current group is in week 10 of Pre-Service Training. During week 11 we will hold a two day Counterpart orientation for all trainees counterparts. The orientation will be held in Tumbaco. The objective is to begin a positive and professional working relationship with the individuals with whom the trainees will be working during the next two years.

During week 12 of PST two new sessions which will be offered: (1) bicycle safety and maintenance, and (2) computer training. This is in response to staff concerns and Volunteer concerns which have surfaced through VAC.

Swearing-In
Omnibus 72 will have their swearing-in on Friday October 28th at 11 a.m. Currently we have 48 PCTs in the Water/ Sanitation, Rural Public Health, Housing, Youth Development and Special Education programs.

Additional Training News:
* The sixth month follow-up conference for Omnibus 71 will be held from Nov. 7-9, 1994. The conference will be held in Tumbaco. Lodging will be provided at the Hotel Republica in Quito.

*The Close of Service conference for Omnibus 69 will be held in Ibarra from January 24th until the 26th. A letter was sent detailing sessions that will be held during this conference and specific logistic information will be sent out around December 1st.

* If you are interested in receiving assistance with resume writing and writing cover letters, please let me know about one to two weeks before you will be in Quito.

As always if there is any way the Training Center can provide assistance to you in the field please feel free to write to me in Quito or call me at 370-197.

Stay Well,

Tim Callaghan, Training Director

THIRD GOAL

Golden Opportunities
Boston Area Office recruiter Diane Gallagher was profiled in a recently released book entitled Golden Opportunities. It is a Volunteer guide for Americans over 50 and includes hundreds of ways to make a difference around the world. Diane, a Volunteer in Cape Verde from 1990-1992, was 53 when she began her service and continues to share her expertise through her recruitment efforts in Boston. Her profile appears in the "Volunteer Away" section of the books.

Art Exhibit.
Rudolf Grass, Director of Politischer Club Colonia (PCC) in Germany, and supporter for PCPP projects in Latin America, visited with Peace Corps staff. He was here for the opening of an art exhibition at the IMF for Felix Dorese, one of the artists who has donated some of his work to PCC in support of Peace Corps. The exhibition, entitled "Vanishing Images", was shown in the IMF Atrium during September. One piece, entitled "The Construction of Latrines for Ecuador" was inspired by PCC's support of PCPP projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER

Personnel Issues:
It is with considerable sadness that Peace Corps/Ecuador will say good-bye to valued members of the Administrative Section, Ximena Baus-Cornejo and Katia Alvarez. Both will be leaving on October 15, 1994 for jobs which offer exciting professional development. Ximena Baus-Cornejo has contributed much to Peace Corps for the past eight years serving in different positions such as Project Coordinator, PTO's secretary, Cashier and Administrative Assistant (fiscal matters) and most recently as Administrative Assistant (General Services).

Throughout her tenure, Ximena has devoted much of her time supporting Volunteers' work in Ecuador. As one of her recent evaluations stated, "Ximena is a fully competent employee. She knows the importance of accuracy and thoroughness. Her work products rarely require revision. She likes to be aquainted with regulations and one can be sure that she has checked the Peace Corps Manual and/or other applicable policies and regulations before turning-in new assignments". She was recently granted a cash award.

Katia Alvarez has been with Peace Corps for almost two years. She has greatly contributed to the Administrative Section in her position as Administrative Assistant (Fiscal Matters). She has efficiently handled the PCVs Payroll, PCVs Income Tax, Cuff Records and other fiscal matters.

Needless to say, they both will be missed. Good luck to both of you!!!

The recruiting process through the US. Embassy will take some time (position must advertised throughout the US Mission in Ecuador). In the mean time, two temporary employees have been contracted. One is Sandra Palacios and the other one is Xavier Coral. Please stop by our office to meet them and introduce yourself.

Maintenance of Facilities: Office improvements are over. The entire office looks cleaner and the garden nicer. Thank you for your patience. The PCVs lounge has some additions too. There is an extra Macintosh for PCV use. There are some open lockers at the entrance of the lounge and an extra sofa. Close to the PCMO's office, there is a bicycle rack. Remember that suggestions are always welcome.

Provincial Lockers: The Provincial Locker Closet is being renovated to accommodate eleven new lockers. The existing plywood wall is being removed to facilitate the construction. Therefore, the closet will become one large room with a lock on the exterior door. As usual, the guards at the front gate of the Quito Office will have the keys. Also, the guards will continue to use the closet and will be supplied with their own locker. With regard to the distribution of the new lockers, VAC will be in charge of receiving requests and looking into the issue of provinces that do not have lockers.

Pavos: Suzan Smith, Health Volunteer is kindly helping the administrative section with the "Thanksgiving PAVOS". Suzan will coordinate proper distribution.

Vacation Leave Payments I'd like to review the vacation checks. Vacation checks are requested from the Embassy on a quarterly basis and paid to PCVs at the beginning of each quarter. The exception is the first quarter. PLEASE NOTE: this affects you now.! Because it is the new fiscal year, checks are delayed by one month and will be available for pick up in December.

Checks may be picked up at the Cashier's Office in Quito. Remember that no per-diem is authorized for the purpose of picking up vacation checks. Authorizations in other Volunteer's name to pick up checks are accepted by the Cashier.

Months	Period	Arrival of checks	Amount
Nov/Dec/Jan	quarterly(1)	Dec.	$72
Feb/Mar/Apr	quarterly (2)	Feb.	$72
May/June/July	quarterly (3)	May	$72
Aug/Sept/Oct	quarterly (4)	Aug.	$72

Who is Who in Admin. In the next *el clima* (Jan/Feb 1995) I will present a description of "Who does What" in Admin. By that time, our new staff will be on board. In the meantime, please bear with us and feel free to come to me with any questions you may have.

Hasta la próxima.

En Paz . Ana Maria/Administrative Officer•

A FAREWELL NOTE

October 14, 1994

Dear Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff,

This is a little note to say goodbye. I'm leaving the Peace Corps to be part of a new company. It has been 8 years that I've been working with PC/Ecuador and it has been a great experience.

I wanted to thank all of you for your support and friendship during this time. I will miss you for a long time, but I will always remember each one of you as my good coworkers and friends.

I tried to give the best of myself to Peace Corps and in exchange I received the best of Peace Corps.

Love, Ximena Baus•

NO MORE SF-171

As of January 1, 1995, each Government Agency will determine the application to be used for applying for employment with that agency. Resumes, job application forms, and the SF-171, are among the options. The SF-171 will no longer be the uniform requirement.•

?

CONVOLUTED WHIMSY

A new Omnibus, a relatively new Country Director, a new VAC President, a new paint job in the office, and a new look at el clima. Change is definitely in the air in PC Ecuador.

CONVOLUTION		WHIMSY
Carol Bellamy's visit	↑	Bellamy seems to be for real changes, plus free meals at El Jardin, the Chorlavi, and Hotel Quito for PCV's!
Office Remodel	↔	Like the new couch and plastic cups in the lounge, but all done just before Bellamy's visit?
Omnibus 68 COS	↔	Who's going to take up the fight against APCD's now that James Fowler is gone?
Omnibus 72	↔	I hear it's a good looking group, but only one Water Volunteer going to the coast?
Jaime Zavala Rule	↓	Should there be a rule mandating helmet use for bicycles? Wear it or get a ticket home? What do you all think?
Washing Machines	↓	Why did mostly COSing VAC reps vote to shut off machines? Why should they care?
Doña Quixote	↑	The new chief is definitely better looking, but will future staff meetings be held at Papillons?

— JCV

CALENDAR

October 16-23: AO/Cashier's conference in Mexico City(Ana Maria and Martha Cecilia)
October22-29: Ecotourism conference in US Virgin Islands (Francisco)
November 2 is an Ecuadorean holiday
November 11—Friday—is Veteran's Day, a U.S. holiday
November 24 is Thanksgiving, a U.S. holiday
November 13-20: PTO/TO/Senior APCD conference in Jamaica (Francisco, Tim, Barry)
November 8-12: Micro-nutrient conference in Bolivia (Miguel)
December 6 is a holiday in Quito
December: PCVs please note: Most PC/Ecuador staff take vacations over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. If you need information, approvals, or help from your APCDs please anticipate this as much as possible. Most APCDs will be on vacation from December 15- January 6.