



RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF OREGON/PORTLAND

• Volume 12 • Number 7 •

NCRPCV Says Proposed Peace Corps Budget Inadequate

The National Council asserts that Peace Corps requires a budget of \$254 million to assure quality programs and expand the number of volunteers to 8,000 in 1994. This represents only \$1 per U.S. citizen.

In spite of that, the Clinton Administration has proposed a Peace Corps budget of only \$219.7 million. That is less than one-half of one percent more than FY 1993 and will support only 6,114 Volunteers. Contrast this with increases of up to \$20 million a year over the last five years and it seems a disappointing request.

But without your support, Peace Corps may be lucky to get even \$219.7 million. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are highly unlikely to recommend much more than the Clinton Administration has proposed, and, if there is not enough support expressed for the Peace Corps, they might even reduce it.

That's why letters from Peace Corps supporters to Congressional decision makers are needed now.

Peace Corps is a bargain. The annual marginal cost per Volunteer is \$9,000, of which approximately \$2,000 is the Volunteer's living stipend. Peace Corps today does not even begin to approach its 1966 high of 15,000 Volunteers, or for that matter its Congressionally mandated strength of 10,000 Volunteers.

In spite of Congressional claims of insufficient funds for development assistance, military assistance remains a big ticket item in the Clinton budget: \$6.12 billion for FY94. Yet adequate annual financing for the Peace Corps and for sustainable development would greatly reduce the long term need for military assistance and costly emergency humanitarian aid.

Unfortunately, a direct appropriation of \$254 million for the Peace Corps is unlikely. But, there is another option. \$1.6 billion has been earmarked to aid countries of the former Soviet Union. Of these funds, \$34.3 million could be transferred to support Peace Corps programs in those countries. This would free up funds from the \$219.7 million Peace Corps appropriation to support programs in traditional Peace Corps countries.

This transfer makes sense, because Peace Corps has programs up and running in the former Soviet Union. Peace Corps is prepared to respond quickly through proven programs requested by host countries. With Peace Corps programs, the American taxpayer knows the assistance is going directly to the Russian people, helping them to help themselves.

How You Can Help...page 8

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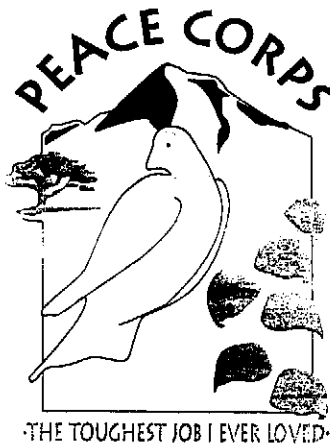
• BRENDA'S CORNER •

Dear Friends:

Did you see us in the Starlight Parade?! We were looking **G R E A T** if I do say so myself. A wonderful time was had by all...the only glitch was a fair amount of confusion and chaos in the disband area. Next year we'll have to think of a more expeditious way to get folks back to where they need to be after the march. I was grateful for everyone's help and cooperation. Thanks kindly from every corner of my heart to: Sean Rose and Dick Swee, both of whom worked to secure flags for our use; to Mike Waite, Mike Colombo and Irene Richman for their vehicles; to John Munson for driving. I was also pleased with the press coverage of us provided by KPTV Channel 12.

Afterward, a bunch of us gathered together at Bud Clark's Goose Hollow Inn for cold drafts and delicious pizza. Unfortunately, I was the target of the bar keep's venomous wrath when she accused me/us of trying to "dine and dash". It's kind of a long story but the happy ending is that we'll receive 2 free pizzas from them for the false accusations and the trauma inflicted upon us. If you were at the June 27th potluck, you got a taste. Next year, if I have anything to say about it, we won't be going back to the Goose Hollow Inn, free pizza notwithstanding.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have been to the Berkeley conference. My mind is cluttered with items I need to remember to take along, not just my own stuff (I'm hoping to get struck my some kind of magical creative lightening at the Career Fair which will give me some direction in my life) but also stuff for promoting the sale of our parade banner and our T-shirts, too. Speaking of which....



BUY OUR SHIRT!

We printed 150 of them and borrowed money from the West Cascade group to pay for the venture. The T's are ash-white, 100% cotton, short-sleeved BeefyT's by Hanes. Our up-front cost is about \$900. We will sell each shirt for \$10 until we take them to Berkeley, at which time we'll sell them for \$12 each. You can save

yourself \$2 by buying your shirt before July 10th. You may place your orders with Barb Pugh or me; her phone number is 297-0636, mine is 236-5838. And hey, even if this shirt or any Tshirt doesn't particularly appeal to you, please consider buying this one as a token of your support for the RPCVs of Oregon/Ptld. We are excited by the possibilities but limited by funds; this represents our first attempt in a very long time to create some cash for our group. Wish us good luck in California.

**Next business meeting is July 21 at
the home of Mike Waite in
Vancouver at 7:15 p.m.**

IT'S A BASEBALL GAME!

WHO: RPCVs of Oregon, our friends, and our kids and kin. (Actually, you can bring with you anybody you like or dislike for that matter)

WHEN: Sunday afternoon, July 25th, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Civic Stadium, downtown Portland, SW 20th and Morrison Streets. Find us sitting in Section 15, along the 3rd base line. Where something ethnic, if you like.

WHAT: The Beavers vs. the Albuquerque Dukes Baseball Game. This is the last season for the Beavs in Portland.

HOW MUCH: Free admission with tickets from Sunshine Dairy. [Very Affordable Indeed]

WHY: My contact person at Sunshine Dairy, Paul, honestly and earnestly hopes to pack the stadium. He is limiting the number of free tickets to us to 300! So when I say, bring as

many friends/family/kidlets as you'd like, I'm serious.

HOW: Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to me, along with a note about how many tickets you'd like, before July 17th. I'll enclose the tickets and mail the envelope back to you before the weekend of the 25th. My address is below.

FURTHERMORE: This is a wonderful opportunity to:

1) sit around in a ball park in the Sunday sunshine (the best kind) 2) smell air 3) drink beer, eat popcorn and other ballpark foods 4) girl/boy/kid watch 5) do some healthy yelling, shouting, hollering and hooting and 7) shoot the breeze with other hip/cool/fresh/talented/funny/people (that's us)

Yours truly,
Brenda Michel
254 SE 28th Avenue
Portland OR 97214-1806
236-5836

China Requests Peace Corps Volunteers

Peace Corps/China officially opened its office on May 1, 1993. Eighteen English teacher trainers began their pre-departure orientation last month in San Francisco and were due to arrive in China on June 12. Country Director Bill Speidal is in the process of establishing the Peace Corps office and training site at the Sichuan Normal University, which is 30 minutes from downtown Chengdu. A Language instructors' "Training of Trainers" workshop for five Chinese and three Mongolian teachers was scheduled to take place in late May.

National Council to Offer Advocacy Training Workshops

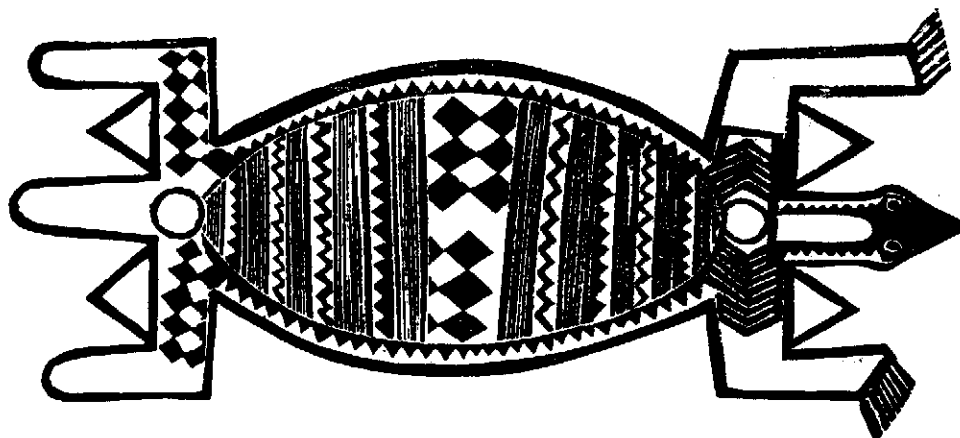
Beginning in July, the National Council will be able to bring to your community a workshop to empower participants to be more effective advocates for Peace Corps and for sustainable development. Groups interested in hosting a workshop should contact Cheryl Bartz at 202-462-5938.

Return to El Salvador

More than 32 years ago, the government of El Salvador first requested Peace Corps Volunteers. By 1977, approximately 150 Peace Corps Volunteers were working in El Salvador in various projects including natural resources, education, small business, and municipal management. In 1979, Peace Corps suspended operations in El Salvador due to security considerations. Following the negotiated end of the prolonged conflict in El Salvador, the governments of El Salvador and the U.S. began exploring ways for Peace Corps to re-enter the country. An invitation for Peace Corps to return to El Salvador was extended by the Salvadoran Government in April of 1992. Donald Peterson, the new Country Director for El Salvador, was scheduled to arrive in-country last month to open the Peace Corps office in San Salvador. The first group of Volunteers will arrive in September and November of this year, followed by a second group of 25 trainees in February 1994. These Volunteers will be working in two sectors: natural resources Volunteers in parks and management and agro-forestry, and small business development Volunteers in rural development projects and community banks.

New Peace Corps Program in Madagascar

One of the Peace Corps/Africa Region's newest country entries is now officially open with the recent arrival of two staff members at post. Country Director Bob Friedman and Associate Director Larry Blake arrived in Antananarivo, Madagascar in early March to begin setting up programs and preparing for the first group of Trainees. The initial group of ten TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) teacher trainers are due to arrive in Madagascar in early September to begin training. Additional programming in the areas of the environment and health are projected for FY'94 and thereafter.



• THOMSEN'S TOPIC O' THE MONTH •

Immigration in Oregon

As Peace Corps Volunteers, many of us have fielded questions about immigration to the U.S. For a significant minority the issue of visas and U.S. residency become even more important as they complete their service. There are "family" and friends that we want to have visit or study here. And, of course, there are those spouses and "significant others" that are willing to relocate. I'm sure we've all at least heard horror stories of negotiating the bureaucracy to get people here or help them stay.

Many people who want to immigrate don't have the resources necessary to make it through the maze of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regulations. They may not have the help of someone who lives here and speaks both languages. And they may not have the money to pay for translators and hire an attorney. Lawyer's fees alone can run from \$500 to \$1500 for a simple case of a legal resident sponsoring a family member.

First there is a \$75 non-refundable filing fee to establish eligibility for each "immediate family" member. Documents not in English must have a certified translation. If they are approved, most potential immigrants already in the U.S. must leave the country and apply for the immigrant visa at

a U.S. consulate. Juarez, Mexico is probably the busiest U.S. consulate in the world. Each applicant must appear in person, leading to transportation, lodging and food costs on top of the \$125 visa application, and \$75 to \$100 for the medical exam. Even if the application is approved, there may be a visa waiting list of years for certain classes of family members that have quotas.

Here in Oregon there are many agencies that help hopeful immigrants. One such group is the Immigration Counseling Service, Inc. (ICS), founded by Margaret Godfrey. She began working as an interpreter resettling refugees in Austria following WWII. As the bride of an American soldier, Godfrey came to the U.S. and continued to help refugees with Catholic Charities, primarily aiding Central/South Americans. In the 1970s she decided there was a need for more general help and founded ICS.

ICS's professed mission is to provide professional immigration services to low income people of Oregon and Southwest Washington. While their mission is large, the staff and budget are not. Godfrey is the executive director and is an accredited representative before the INC appeals board, allowing her to act as legal counsel to ICS clients. The agency also employs a volunteer coordinator and a Spanish-speaking caseworker.


More than 90% of clients served by ICS are hispanic. Appointments for general immigration counseling are freely given and while they target the financially less advantaged, there is no set income ceiling. Any person with drug or other serious criminal problems will normally not be represented by ICS. The agency has a schedule of recommended fees, however payment is voluntary and client fees provide only about one-third of the operating budget. Outside funding is provided by the Oregon Law Foundation (1/3) and private sources, including Fred Meyer (1/3).

If you would like more information on the services they offer, they are located in Northwest Portland, telephone 221-1689.

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Over the next few months I plan to write about the Oregon Immigrants Rights Coalition, international adoption and other issues that are of interest to me and I hope to some of you. Please let me know if you have information to share on these topics or suggestions of what you'd like to see in the newsletter.

Cathy Thomsen
731-4184



*Many people who
want to immigrate
don't have the
resources necessary
to make it through
the maze of the
Immigration and
Naturalization
Service regulations*

Will Future Clashes Involve Civilizations?

The next phase in global politics will be the barriers different cultures put up

by Samuel P. Huntington,
excerpted from
Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993

World politics is entering a new phase in which the fundamental source of conflict will be neither ideological nor economic. The great divisions among mankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural.

During the Cold War, the world was divided into the First, Second and Third worlds. Those divisions are no longer relevant. It is far more meaningful to group countries not in terms of their political or economic systems or their level of economic development, but in terms of their culture and civilization.

A civilization is the highest cultural grouping of people and the broadest level of cultural identity people have short of that which distinguishes humans from other species. Civilizations obviously blend and overlap and may include sub-civilizations. But while the lines between them are seldom sharp, civilizations are real.

Westerners tend to think of nation-states as the principal actors in global affairs. They have been that for only a few centuries. The broader

reaches of history have been the history of civilizations. It is to this pattern that the world returns.

Civilization identity will be increasingly important, and the world will be shaped in large measure by the interactions among seven or eight major civilizations. These include the Western, Confucian, Japanese, Islamic, Hindu, Slavic-Orthodox, Latin American and African civilizations.

The most important conflicts will occur along the borders separating these cultures.

Why? First, differences among civilizations are basic, involving history, language, culture, tradition and most importantly, religion. Different civilizations have different views on the relations between God and man, the citizen and the state, parents and children, liberty and authority, equality and hierarchy. These differences are the product of centuries. They will not soon disappear.

Second, the world is becoming smaller. The interactions among peoples of different civilizations are increasing. These interactions intensify civilization consciousness: awareness of differences between civilizations and commonalities within civilizations. For example, Americans tend to react far more negatively to Japanese investment than to larger investments from Canada and European countries.

Third, economic and social

changes are separating people from longstanding local identities. In much of the world, religion has moved in to fill this gap, often in the form of movements labeled fundamentalist. Such movements are found in Western Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. The "un-secularization of the world," sociologist George Weigel has remarked, "is one of the dominant social facts of life in the late 20th century."

Fourth, the growth of civilization consciousness is enhanced by the fact that at the moment the West is at the peak of its power, a return-to-the-roots phenomenon is occurring among non-Western civilizations. This includes the "Asianization" in Japan; the end of the Nehru legacy and the subsequent "Hinduization" of India; the "re-Islamization" of the Middle East; and now a debate over Westernization vs. Russianization in Boris Yeltsin's country.

More importantly, the efforts of the West to promote its values of democracy and liberalism as universal values, to maintain its military predominance and to advance its economic interests engender countering responses from other civilizations.

Fifth, cultural characteristics and differences are less mutable and hence less easily compromised and resolved than political and economic ones. In the former Soviet Union, communists can become democrats, the rich can

become poor and the poor rich, but Russians cannot become Estonians. A person can be half-French and half-Arab and even a citizen of two countries. It is more difficult to be half Catholic and half Muslim.

Finally, economic regionalism is increasing. Successful economic regionalism will reinforce civilization consciousness. On the other hand, economic regionalism may succeed only when it is rooted in a common civilization. The European Community rests on the shared foundation of European culture and Western Christianity. Japan, in contrast, faces difficulties in creating a comparable economic entity in East Asia because it is a society unique to itself.

If these hypotheses are plausible, it is necessary to consider their implications for Western policy. The West will increasingly have to accommodate to non-Western civilizations, some whose power approaches that of the West but whose values and interests differ significantly from those of the West.

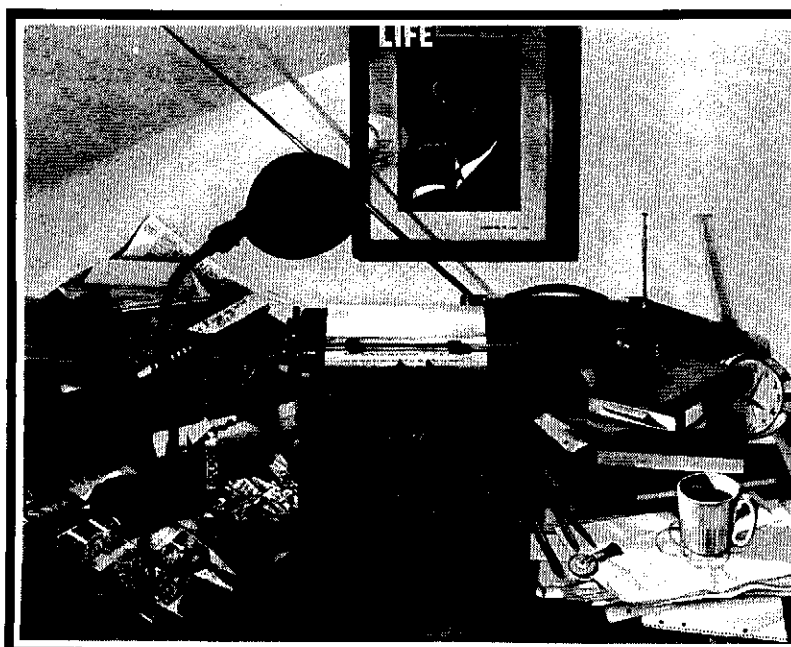
This will require the West to develop a much more profound understanding of the basic religious and philosophical assumptions underlying other civilizations and the ways in which such people see their interests. For the relevant future, there will be no universal civilization but instead a world of different civilizations, each of which will have to learn to co-exist with others.

• WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT? •

There can be confusion about what sustainable development is. The following is a definition endorsed by a broad coalition of groups in the development community.

To be sustainable, development must:

1. Help people attain self-reliance as they satisfy their basic human needs for food, clothing, shelter, clean water, literacy, and health care.
2. Increase earning capacity among the poor through programs such as microenterprise credit promotion and other empowerment activities.
3. Protect the environment for future generations.
4. Stabilize world population.
5. Promote democratic values and processes, including involvement of local communities in decision-making.
6. Foster respect for human rights.



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A portion of the sales will go to Peace Corps Partners, Inc. to benefit RPCVs with service-related medical problems.

• **Calendar of Events** •

July 21	Business Meeting at the home of Mike Waite (Vancouver); 7:15 p.m.
Aug. 20-22	RPCV Regional Campout, Wallowa Lake
August 29	Sabin Multicultural Fair, 1-6 p.m.
Sept. 19	Potluck & Program Meeting at Charlene's
July 1994	National RPCV Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Who are the Peace Corps Volunteers of 1993?

There are currently about 6,000 Volunteers serving in over 90 countries.

- 54% are female
- 12% are minorities
- 32 is the average age
- 92% have a B.S. degree
- 17% have a graduate degree

Sabin Multicultural Fair

by Gabriella Maertens, Development Education

For the third year RPCV Oregon/Portland have been invited to participate in the Sabin Multicultural Fair. This year's event will take place on Sunday, August 29th from 1-6 p.m. I will be glad to coordinate the activities, but I will need volunteers for the children's dress-up activity, multicultural games, staffing the information booth, and perhaps some slide presentations. I have acquired a book of games, but if you know any from your Peace Corps experience, we would really like to include them. To express your interest in volunteering, please call me at 254-5161.

OFFICERS

Steering Committee

Brenda Michel	236-5838
Margie Hazelton	236-8346
Joan Swee	252-2295
Mike Waite	206-574-7455

Secretary-Treasurer

Dick Swee	252-2295
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Program Coordinators

Margie Hazelton	236-8346
Pat Greendale	255-1101
Charlene Holzworth	284-3444

Membership

JoAnn von Rohr	282-1721
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Restaurant Coordinator

Leigh Knox	591-9114
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Speaker's Bureau

Not occupied

Newsletter

Robin Teater	627-0618
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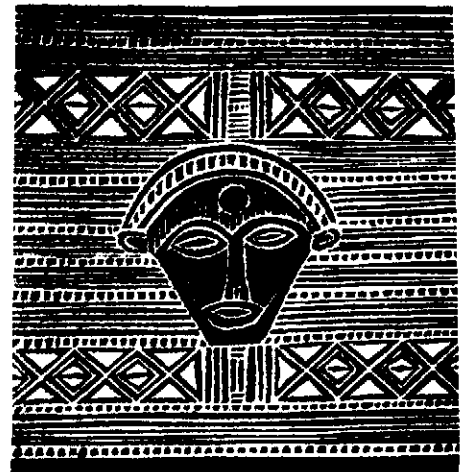
Development Education

Gabriella Maertens	254-5161
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Oregon/Portland
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Portland, OR 97207

Submissions for the July 1993
newsletter should be received by
June 25. Please mail to:

Robin Teater
12835 SW Douglas St.
Portland, OR 97225



How You Can Help: Letter Lobby

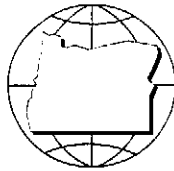
The key decision makers on the Peace Corps appropriation are the Chairmen of the Foreign Operations Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate. These two subcommittees will recommend a Peace Corps appropriation to their respective committees. It is unlikely that there will be significant changes after that.

Two other important individuals are the chairmen of the subcommittees dealing with European Affairs. A transfer to Peace Corps of funds earmarked for the former Soviet Union would need their consent.

Letters of support from you can make it happen. The following are names and address of the key decision makers. Take a few minutes to let them know your views.

<p>Senate Senator Patrick J. Leahy (VT) Chairman, Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee 137 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510</p> <p>Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (DE) Chairman, Subcommittee on European Affairs of the Foreign Relations Committee 446 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510</p>	<p>House of Representatives Rep. David R. Obey (WI) Chairman, Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee H-307 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515</p> <p>Rep. Lee H. Hamilton (IN) Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee and Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East 2170 Rayburn Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515</p>
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**RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
OF PORTLAND/OREGON
P.O. Box 802
PORTLAND, OR 97207**



**Apr 1, 1994
Marie Hermanson
Portland, OR**

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