

Nouakchott Notes

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Got a website? photosite? blog? new email address? new phone number? any little electronical thing; send Will a link. It'll go into the roster at:

<http://mr.pcv.org/roster/>



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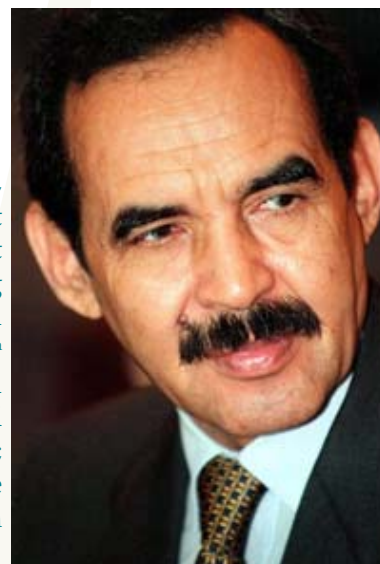
will@himiabi.org

Even the Date Trees are Happy

By Alison Mickey

What was supposed to be a festive, boisterous holiday in honor of President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed turned gloomy at the news that he would not, in fact, be arriving on Tuesday, 8th February 2005, but would instead fly into Atar on Wednesday, 9th February. Atar's citizens, who had prepared songs, dances, and posters in his honor, had eagerly anticipated Maaouiya's visit; fortunately, the Adrar volunteers made the most of the unexpected holiday by holding a 12-hour marathon barbeque. By Wednesday, however, the holiday spirit had revived, and throngs of people crowded the airport and the main traffic circle in "downtown" Atar.

Nine volunteers turned out at ten o'clock in the morning to try and catch a glimpse of the president, although by ten thirty, that number had dropped to six die-hard gawkers. The crowd that ringed the traffic circle was a sea of blue and white boubous, saffron and pink mulafas, and banners saying things like, "The Atar Baker's Commune Welcomes President Maaouiya." In the empty road of the circle, **continued on page 13**



President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya

Meet Brian Zoeller

Who is he?! He's Peace Corps Mauritania's Associated Peace Corps Director for Small Business Development. He's bold, brash, kind, mysterious and brand spanking new. I sat down with him in his posh bureau office to get a sense of the man behind the mystery and to ask the tough questions that most are afraid to ask...

Assignment	SED APCD
Peace Corps	Volunteer Niger Regional Recruiter, Seattle, WA
Education	MBA, BA International Studies
Hobbies/Interests	Big Brothers/Big Sisters Basketball, biking, hiking, swimming, rafting Organic gardening
Family	Comes from a German-Catholic-Conservative family. Has three brothers and considers himself the "black sheep" of the family because of his chosen career path

What color describes your personality?

Green. I had two pairs of green pants when I was a kid that I wore all the time. They were way over my belly button and way above my ankles.

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Director's NEWS

Hello Volunteers:

I hope the last two months have treated you well. It was a pleasure seeing a number of you over the holidays! A very belated Happy New Year to all. I am sincerely pleased to be back in country with you.

- First off, I would like to welcome Brian Zoeller to PC Mauritania. He will be serving as the APCD for SED and ICT programs. So to all of you SED and ICT PCVs who I have been neglecting over the past ten months, I promise that Brian will make up for my absence ... smile.
- Brian and I had an opportunity to train together for four weeks at Peace Corp's "Overseas Staff Training" (OST) in Washington, DC. We were there with 50 other PC staff from around the world. I am confident that you are going to be very pleased with Brian. He is dedicated, professional, and has a very good sense of where you are all coming from, as he served as a Volunteer in Niger.
- I am pleased to report to you that the PC Office of Inspector General (OIG) has published their final report of PC Mauritania's Program Evaluation. PC Mauritania and the Africa Region have addressed all fourteen recommendations to the satisfaction of the OIG and as such our evaluation has been officially closed. Those of you wishing to read the report please contact me and I will get you a copy.
- Hearing what a wonderful time was to be had in Mauritania, the PC OIG has also informed us that PC Mauritania is due for an Audit. This process will most likely occur in the April/May time period. Unlike the Program Evaluation carried out by Carlos Torres last July, the auditor will most likely spend most of his time here in the office. I will keep you informed as the dates are confirmed.
- Work continues on the planning and logistics for the Close/Continuation of Service (COS) workshop to be held at Keur Macene, April 1-5. I would encourage all second year PCVs to contact their APCD, Sidna, myself, or your COS Committee with suggestions or ideas that you may have for sessions to be included at your conference.
- Many thanks to the first year Volunteers and staff for a very successful Early Term Reconnect (ETR) and Technical ISTs.
- For those of you continuing on to FESPACO (the world-renowned PanAfrican film festival) in Ouagadougou, have a great time and please take in a film or two for me. You might also be interested in information found on this PCV produced website <http://www.angelacarpenter.com/burkinafaso/>. Please note that the PC Transit House in Ouagadougou is restricted to only Burkina Faso PCVs. You will need to arrange for private accommodations.
- Many thanks to the GAD Team for their enormous efforts in pulling off yet another extremely successful conference! You are really setting the Gold Standard!
- Some great news from our partners at PC Washington! The Africa Region has approved an increase of 12 Trainees to our July 2005 PST. As a result, we expect to welcome 52 trainees this year. In addition, the Region has also approved funds for the creation of an additional Program and Training Assistant (PTA) staff position.
- Second and third year volunteers interested in possibly serving at PST should begin a dialogue with their APCDs. There will be a number of positions available to PCVs this year. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the training dates.
- With the increase in trainee input, the staff will be looking for new sites and projects that are deserving of a PCV. If you have any suggestions for site placement, please pass these on to your APCDs.
- Finally, I would like to express my appreciation and admiration for two members of our PC family who will have left us in the month of February. Aicha Mint El Hadj, our Financial Admin Assistant, has left PC to pursue her entrepreneurial spirit and devote full time to building her business. And, Mohamadou Diallo, our General Services Officer, will be taking a new position with the World Food Program. I wish them both the very best in their new careers and remind them that while they may not be with us every day, there is no escaping the fact that "Once Peace Corps, Always Peace Corps."

Very Best,
Obie



By Mohamadou Aw, APCD/AgFo

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. I wish you a happy new year, full of joy, happiness, accomplishments, health (not many diarrheas), etc. Many things are happening during this time of year. Most of it will already be done before you get this submission (ETR, IST and WAIST etc.) I hope you all had a wonderful time reconnecting and seeing each other again.

For the first years: I hope your first months at site are rewarding and that you are getting adjusted and feel more at home everyday. I have read your quarterly reports (thank you for submitting them). Over all everyone is doing fine and that you all are adjusting very well.

I know with the locust situation this year, most of the agricultural activities have been slow, if they

"I have learned a great deal in the last few months but probably the most important thing is to cultivate patience and faith, because things are slow...and sometimes very hard, but every day, every week, every month is a learning experience. And, from each experience, comes some sort of success, accomplishment, or gift worth the effort."

existed at all. I hope that you took advantage of this time to get to know more your community and work with them to help identify needs and set up a plan of actions.

Locust/Feeding Center Project: As you all know from Heather Delong's e-mail to all of you we have requested help from the RPCVs and any caring souls for donation for these projects. There are two projects within the locust project:

- 1) Locust control/treatment methods: We would like to train gardening cooperatives members on locust life cycle, prevention methods, mechanical methods of control, the chemicals used for locust treatments, their efficiency, dangers and the proper way of handling them.
- 2) The second one will be to establish or to re-enforce the existing feeding centers to help fight against malnutrition due to a bad agriculture year (drought, locusts and sesamia). We will be contacting many of you to help identify sites with the ministry of health and local organizations etc.

and to run these centers with the local communities. We want to include Moringa promotion and nutritional awareness in general as part of this project. We

have an incredible person working on Moringa promotion here in Nouakchott. He has powder and technical pamphlets about Moringa that he has developed. We would like to use him to help with the Moringa promotion part of this project.

So far we only have \$4990 raised. We would like to use for the feeding centers. As for the locust control/treatment training, I will explore, with those of you who are interested, the Peace Corps Partnership option for funding the activity. We need to work with the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment for the handling for the chemicals. Please refer to Heather's memo for the details on this project. I will talk about it during the IST in Dieuk with the first year volunteers

CCBI: I have just received e-mail from PC Washington that the Community Content Based Instruction training for first year EE volunteers, their counterparts, some school directors and inspectors have been approved for funding. It will be a 4-day training event with both theoretical and practical sessions. We are looking on the tentative dates of April 06-09 (right after the COS conference). This is mostly for first year EE volunteers with an exception for Katie because her new school wasn't included in the last CCBI training. The second year PCVs can attend the training if they can lead some of the sessions. Please let me if you are interested and we can talk about it.



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By M.Abderrahmane O. Bagga, APCD/ED

ETR and Technical IST: February 13th and 14th

These two events went very well. Participation was overwhelmingly positive and constructive. PCVs have had a chance to reconnect as a group for the first time after PST and share invaluable useful strategies and lessons learnt. The objectives of the Tech IST (see agenda also) are:

- Share best working strategies re identified teaching/working challenges to be able to effectively address these;
- Gain a working knowledge of testing and grading systems in RIM schools;
- Develop techniques in teaching grammar to multi-level classes;
- Gain a functional understanding of how to conduct and implement secondary projects;
- Develop a good understanding of the new syllabus and the competency- based approach as it pertains to it.

I would like to thank all of the second year PCVs whose contributions to the success of this event were just monumental! I have named Genevieve Kirk, Karl Adam, Jay Davidson, and Kristen Weaver. I also extend my gratitude to our very able GAD duo, Mariem and Jessica-they like to call themselves *GAD Committee*, but that then will have to include at least myself, if not more PC/RIM staff. But no kidding GAD is growing, check out the GAD page!



Try scaring your students into behaving. Karl recommends the "deranged nasrani"



If that doesn't work, open up a can of whoop-ass

Upcoming Events:

ED/IST in Rosso: In perpetuation of the highly successful Boghe Intensive teacher training workshop and Model school on *Lesson Plans That Work*, the Education PCVs are planning on organizing a revision/editing and supplementing of the last textbook in Rosso. The activity intends to expand the book with more lessons specifically addressing



group tailored needs, such as preparing Terminal students for the BAC or developing handwriting courses for 'arabisant' students.

The activity, which hopefully will be granted SPA funds, will bring together no less 50 Ed PCVs and counterparts for 2 and a half days in Rosso to field test new lessons, revise existing ones and supplement the existing book w/ new activities.

Karl, Genny, and Jay are taking the lead in this and they welcome your ideas/contributions. Please everyone, 1st and 2nd year, send your revised lessons that work or proved- to work lessons of your own to Jay at teacher@jaydavidson.com

Also please remember to send me the name of your counterpart so that I could send via the Ministry an official invitation.

Dates for the prospect IST are April 6 and 7th, with the 5th and 8th being travel days. The second year PCVs will just go straight from the COS conference (Keur- Macen Resort) to Rosso.

Reminder of important school dates:
Summer Vacation/Grandes vacances:

Thursday, June 25th, 2005

to

September 25th at 8:00

End of second term exam:

March 27th - 31st, 2005

Final Exams:

June 12th-16th, 2005

Health NOTES

By Alassane Djakite, APCD/Health

Posting Follow UP:

Five out of the seven new Volunteers for were visited for their posting follow-up. Our Posting follow-up was suddenly interrupted in the Assaba during Ramadan by an interesting event in Kiffa. If you are nice with me, I will abound in details about that chapter in the next Nouakchott Notes. That was a time of trial, compassion and untried recipes: Andrew and his Counterpart Coumba have been extremely nice to us and we are forever indebted to them, n'est-ce pas Macire?

Anyways, because of that, I am infamous in Lexeiba and Sinthiane Diama, for not visiting for the follow-up. Laura and Sarah hold your horses: I am coming (read for my travel plans, below). I will spend a night at each site and I am almost sure that I will be forgiven.



HIV/AIDS:

I am taking this opportunity to inform you that Mauritania has become one of the thirteen African countries to host an HIV/AIDS treatment center providing ARVs free of charge for those who need them. Out of the 150 patients listed in that facility, 75 of them are under ARVs.

The French Red Cross and the World Bank have supported this achievement. I am planning to take the Health Volunteers to visit this CTA during IST. I think that this is a major achievement and needs to be advertised to Mauritians at large.

That is all for now and hope to be more detailed in the next issue (promised, Audrey.)

April 2005							1	2	3	Marge's 35 th
							Spring Break			
							COS Conference (Keur Macene)			
4	5	6	7	8	Cailin's 23 rd	9	10			
(Nouakchott)										
Education IST										
11	12	13	14	15	Whitney's 26 th Alicia L.'s 23 rd	16	Jill's 24 th	17		
18	19	Jenny's 27 th	20	21		22	Jae's 25 th	24		
25	26	27	28	29		30				
May 2005										1
2	Jared's 24 th	3	4	Todd's 26 th	5	6	7	8	Becky's 25 th	
9		10	Maggie's 27 th	11	12	Genny's 26 th	13	14	15	
16		17		18		19		20	21	Matt M.'s 28 th
23	Jae's 25 th	24		25		26		27	28	
										29
										Julian's 24 th Tarn's 26 th
										Memorial Day
30	31									

Nouvelles

VAC Update

Living Allowances

In response to increasing food, rent, and transportation costs, HQ has approved our request for additional funds to augment living allowances for urban and semi-urban locales.

We are currently receiving living allowance deposits every two months until further notice. As a result, accounts are fully paid through the end of March with the next bank deposit to cover the months of April and May. Per diem is set at 2300 um per day for 7 work days each quarter in Nouakchott.

It has come to the attention of the staff that several PCVs are experiencing difficulties receiving bank deposits on time, particularly those PCVs who use BNM. If you have trouble accessing your accounts in a timely manner, please email or call Cheikh Gueye immediately and copy David as well. If possible, it is recommended that PCVs switch to BMCI and advise both Cheikh and David of the changes before the next deposits are sent.

Monthly Shuttle

If the budget allows, the shuttle may be expanded to the North on a bi-monthly basis. In the meantime, supplies will be sent as missions travel to the region.

Pre-Service Training

HQ has approved 52 PCTs for stage this year. This is an increase from the 40 originally requested. An additional assistant training staff person will also be hired on a permanent basis.

Bikes

As a result of a VAC request made two years ago, bikes have been phased out with living allowances adjusted to reflect this. Consequently, no new bikes or supplies will be offered. All bikes must be returned at COS and then will be redistributed to volunteers as requested after maintenance has been performed. No intra-PCV transfers are allowed even if bikes are to remain in the same region or site.

Postal Services

Several regions have had problems receiving packages from their local post offices. If this continues to occur, PCVs may request access to the back rooms of the post office to search for packages themselves.

PCVRC Information

If regional computers are not functioning correctly, please talk to Cheikh Boubacar. Each regional bureau should have a computer, printer/scanner/fax, and phone. Logs should be kept for all phone calls as well as internet time. RCs are reminded to submit accounting reports at the end of each quarter with copies of all receipts. Cheikh Gueye will supply a detailed breakdown of how RC funds can be allocated. Funds will be adjusted each quarter according to the previous quarter's remaining balance. The administration is looking into the option of opening separate RC accounts to facilitate the accountability process.

The next VAC meeting will be Thursday, March 31st.

The Rumor Mill



No Nouakchott volunteers next year?

"Absolutely false," confides Obie Shaw, "Any third year with a legitimate project can live in Nouakchott." Several incoming first-years can be expected to take IT, SED and ED positions.



Stage 2005 in Boghé?

Also false, according to our illustrious director. "Where do you guys come up with this stuff?" Mr. Shaw exclaims. Current training plans are in the same mold as last year; held at the beautiful Kaédi lycée.



We don't need to take vacation days for WAIST or JazzFest?

"Are you out of your minds" says Mr. Shaw, raising one eyebrow mysteriously...



Obie is not the Risk champion of Mauritania?

"Ridiculous!" according the man in the big office. "No true Risk tournament has been held in this country since 2003. And I won it." Mr. Shaw hastens to add that he is more than willing to defend his title, should any would-be aspirants dare to attempt it.

A Battle Plan for the Democrats

By Mark Lange
My Life, by Bill Clinton

President Bill Clinton is a gigantic political force and his book is almost as super-sized. This lengthy autobiography takes the reader from his birth in Hope, Arkansas through his journey of two terms in the White House. "My Life" is extremely self-flattering throughout and its appeal as a story unfortunately diminishes after he regains the Governorship of Arkansas in the early 80's. The book's political importance, however, is significant. It provides the arguments to defend his historical standing and to combat the impression that his Presidency was rife with scandal. This is also a battle plan for Democrats on how to compete effectively with the New Right Republicans.

A child born in rural Arkansas, father dying before the child's birth, mother and maternal grandparents providing unconditional love, important lessons of charity and kindness to whites and blacks learned from his grandfather, second marriage of his mother to an abusive alcoholic provide the outline of our 42nd President's early years. An excellent student in high school without exerting great effort, accomplished saxophone player, big and pudgy physically, not as popular as the jocks, continuing home life turmoil as a result of his alcoholic step-father are the circumstances of his adolescence. This is all told with a mixture of likeable self-deprecation and mildly irritating self-indulgence.

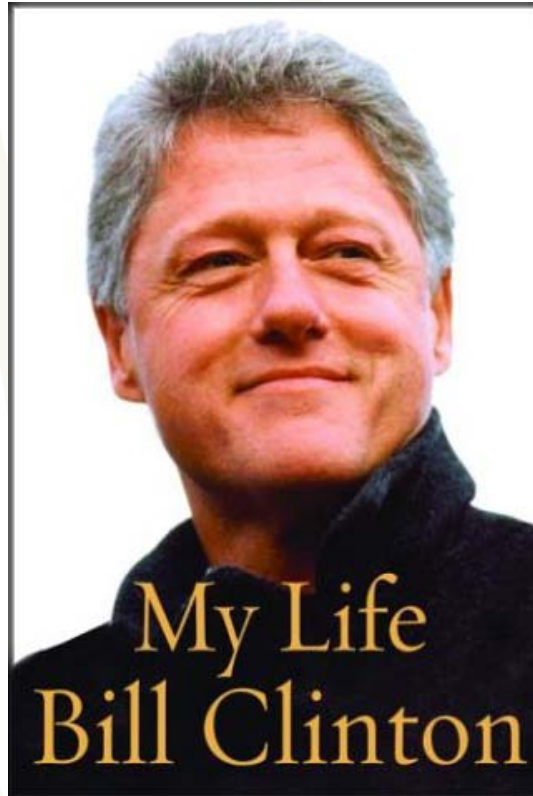
Chooses Georgetown for college because it is in Washington DC, lives frugally by consuming donuts and coffee for breakfast, Hostess fruit pies and RC Cola for lunch, deli sandwiches with a soft drink for dinner at a total cost

of one dollar a day. This is the most interesting portion of "My Life", including securing the Rhodes scholarship, onward to Oxford at the time of the Vietnam war and military draft, Yale Law School where he meets his future wife, and after an unsuccessful congressional race runs successfully for Governor of Arkansas.

President Clinton is too careful and forward looking to write a book that would hurt him or retard his wife's political aspirations. He does take aim at his political adversaries, Ken Starr for his viciously unethical attempt to bring his presidency down, the National Rifle Association for hardball politics that cost lives and, of course, the right wing Republicans for their insatiable desire for power at the expense of the poor. There is bitterness in this writing; however, the message of how to combat Republicans is not lost. The message is Clintonomics vs. Reaganomics, moderation vs. right wing extremism, racial sensitivity vs. bigotry, religious values vs. a religious state, clean water and air vs. disease-inducing pollution and most importantly, to never miss an opportunity to take full credit for historic job creation coupled with projected budget surpluses that occurred during his administration.

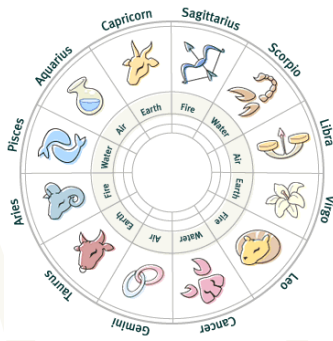
The presidential years are the most disappointing portion of the autobiography. The writing is extraordinarily spiritless. Too many names with uninteresting administrative and legislative minutiae make dull reading. The highlights include helpful clarity pertaining to the Bosnia and Kosovo conflicts and some insight into Middle East negotiations. Surprisingly favorable commentary is offered regarding the former president of Syria, Hafez al-Assad, and his apparent willingness to make a peace deal with Israel.

"My Life" is neither as revealing nor as interesting as we know it should be; however, the political counsel offered to the Democrats rings clear.



Told with a mixture of likeable self-deprecation and mildly irritating self-indulgence

"My Life" is neither as revealing nor as interesting as we know it should be



Fun PC Mauritania Horrscopes



Aries:

(Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You will do something that Thomas approves of.



Taurus:

(Apr 20 – May 20)

With Venus waxing and Mars going into equinox, the stars see wedding bells for your host brother Abou and Condoleeza Rice.



Gemini:

(May 21 – June 21)

You will achieve both popular and critical acclaim for writing the first "Where's Mohamed?" children's book for Mauritaniens (find the red striped turban).



Cancer:

(June 22 – July 22)

When a cloaked man in a land speeder stops to ask you where the Tuscan Raiders are, just point North.



Leo:

(July 23 – Aug 22)

You know it, they know it, and Richard Simmons will know it soon enough.



Virgo:

(Aug 23 – Sept 22)

The scourge of Peace Corps Volunteers and the salvation of Mauritanian Environmental Consciousness, you will soon find your jingle, "reduce, reuse, give me a bicycle," to be a little too catchy.



Libra:

(Sept 23 – Oct 23)

You will find out that there are parts of the camel that are definitely *not* specialties.



Scorpio:

(Oct 24 – Nov 21)

It will be like Big Blue and Grandmaster Kasparov, but instead it will be Dwayne, tri-state pie eating contest winner and Aminatou.



Sagittarius:

(Nov 22 – Dec 21)

You will find the fastest chauffeur to Nouakchott, but you have to put up with him yelling, "eighty-eight miles per hour!" and, "1.21 gigwatts!" the entire way.



Capricorn:

(Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You will soon find out why the old, Japanese NGO guy in Nouakchott said to keep Mauritanian children away from water.



Aquarius:

(Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Despite Obie's persuasive efforts and his, "third-year pyramid plan," don't do it man.



Pisces:

(Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Thöugh yöü dëfinitëly will röck müch härdër, pütting ümläüts in yöür löcäl längüägë äccënt will nöt bë thät cööl.

Grammy Winners

The 47th Annual Grammy Awards, hosted by Queen Latifah, wrapped up February 13th with a memorable night for the recently deceased Ray Charles who won eight Grammys.

The biggest surprise of the evening was John Mayer's Song of the Year win for "Daughters". Critics were baffled, thinking Alicia Keys would easily win for her mega-hit, "If I Ain't Got You".

Britney Spears also shocked the establishment by walking away with her first Grammy for Best Dance Recording, "Toxic". Another first-time Grammy winner, Rod Stewart, snagged an award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album after decades of questionably decent songs. Bill Clinton also won for Best Spoken Word Album, "My Life", which he adds to last year's for a children's album and to Hillary's 1996 Grammy for "It Takes a Village".

Record of the Year: Ray Charles w Norah Jones, "Here We Go Again"

Album of the Year: Ray Charles, "Genius Loves Company"

Song of the Year: John Mayer, "Daughters"

Best New Artist: Maroon 5, "This Love"

Best Rock Album: Green Day, "American Idiot"

Best Rock Song: U2, "Vertigo"

Best Alternative Album: Wilco, "A Ghost is Born"

Best Rap Album: Kanye West, "The College Dropout"

Best Rap Song: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best R&B Album: Alicia Keys, "The Diary of Alicia Keys"

Best R&B Song: Alicia Keys, "If I Ain't Got You"

Best Contemporary R&B Album: Usher, "Confessions"

Best Country Album: Loretta Lynn, "Van Lear Rose"

SPAs

FY '04 Regular SPA Grant Authority: **\$20000**

Volunteer Name	Titles	SPA Request Amount	Exrate	Project Cost	Check Recieved	Completion Report
Caroline Handschuh	NGO Aides et Soutiens des Femmes	590 450 MRO	\$268,42	\$2 199,72	X	X
Megan Kaufmann	The Women's Artisan Coop for Self Sufficiency of Atar (w/PCV Lella)	214 640 MRO	\$268,42	\$799,64	X	X
Jessica Laribee	Community of Ouadane Tourist Center	918 800 MRO	\$268,42	\$3 422,99	X	X
Heather DeLong	Julloom Construction of School Well/Deepening of Women's coop well	543 533 MRO	\$268,42	\$2 024,93	X	
Whitney Rokui	Improving MFT's Through Computer Training for Women	1 300 000 MRO	\$268,42	\$4 843,16	X	
Rebecca McKnight	Toulde Village Marketplace Development Center	675 000 MRO	\$268,42	\$2 514,72	X	X
Scott Edson	Mfinance Bookpvg Tour of Women's Coops in MBout, Selibaby, Kankossa and Aioun	306 740 MRO	\$268,42	\$1 142,76	X	X
Jennifer Justus	Moringa	388 600 MRO	\$268,42	\$1 447,73	X	X
Angus Kelly	School Garden	426 284 MRO	\$268,42	\$1 588,12	X	
		5 364 047 MRO		\$19 983,78		



FY '04 HIV/AIDS SPA Authority: **\$7500**

Volunteer Name	Project Title	SPA Request Amount	Exchange Rate	Project Cost	Check Recieved	Completion Report
Nkechi Eneh	ONG STOP-SIDA Délinquance Juvénile et Pauvreté	257 280 MRO	\$268,42	\$958,50	X	X
M. Ambrosino	Qtrly Art Exhibit/HIV/AIDS Awareness Seminar for NKC based youth	900 000 MRO	\$268,42	\$3 352,95	X	X
Kari Brashers	Peer Group HIV/AIDS Training in cooperation with FLM and SOS	251 500 MRO	\$268,42	\$936,96	X	X
Julia Kennedy	AIDS Educator Training and Community Awareness-Raising	290 780 MRO	\$268,42	\$1 083,30	X	X
Daniel Sutton	Peer Group HIV/AIDS Training	312 500 MRO	\$268,42	\$1 164,22	X	
		2 012 060 MRO		\$7 495,94		



Peace Corps Partnerships '04

Volunteer Name	Project Title	Funding Recieved	Exchange Rate	Funding Recieved	Check Recieved	Completion Report
Caroline Handschuh	Primary School Garden Project	50 680 MRO	\$268,42	\$188,81	X	X
Nkechi Eneh	Kindergarten repair and refurbishment: Project handed over to Stephanie R.	675 076 MRO	\$268,42	\$2 515,00	X	
Christopher Hemmig	Well for School Garden: Project handed over to Tarn Mow er	234 999 MRO	\$268,42	\$875,49	X	
Alice Paal	Waste Management System	58 899 MRO	\$268,42	\$219,43	X	
Marc Valentin	Microfinance Training Project	1 610 520 MRO	\$268,42	\$6 000,00	X	
Catherine Horn	Pre-School Supply Project	0 MRO	\$268,42		X	
Jessica Dunsmore	Girls' Education	0 MRO	\$268,42		X	
		2 630 175 MRO		\$9 798,73		

Eats

Vegetarian Chili

Genevieve Kirk

"Mmm. This is good. Mmmm...this is VERY good!" After many meals of rice and couscous during his travels out east on the Road of Hope, Jay Davidson gave his official seal of approval for Hector and Genny's veggie chili in Aioun. Even amongst meat eaters, this chili is a big hit and makes good use of local veggies available during the short veggie season in Mauritania. So make it now, or wait another 10 months.

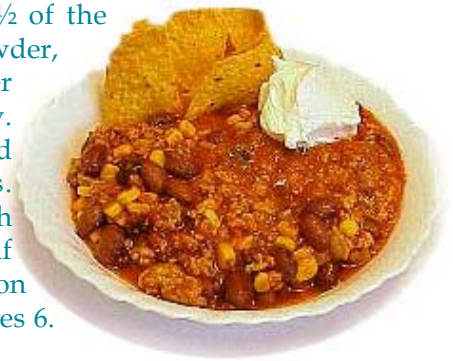
2 medium eggplants, diced
1 tsp salt
2 zucchini, diced
2 bell peppers, diced
2 onions, diced
4 cloves garlic, minced
8 plum tomatoes, diced chunky
1 ½ c. water
1 Maggi cube
½ c. fresh chopped basil
1 c. fresh chopped parsley



½ c. olive oil
2 c. cooked beans (local black eyed peas work well: soak overnight, then boil until tender)
1 can corn, drained
3 tbsp lemon juice
1 tbsp dried dill
1 tbsp dried oregano
1 tbsp cumin
2-3 tbsp chili powder
¼ tsp Ground pepper

Dice the eggplants in ½ inch cubes. Toss with salt and let drain in a colander for 1 hour. Meanwhile, chop all veggies. In a big, heavy pot, heat ¼ c. olive oil. Add zucchini, onions, bell pepper and garlic. Sauté over medium heat for 15 minutes. In a skillet, heat ¼ c. olive oil and add drained eggplant. Sauté 10-15 minutes. Add cooked eggplant to zucchini mixture, along with

tomatoes, water, Maggi, basil, ½ of the parsley, oregano, cumin, chili powder, and pepper. Cover pot and simmer 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add beans, corn, lemon juice, and dill. Simmer 10 more minutes. Adjust seasonings to taste. Garnish with green onions and cheese, if you have it. Serve with bread or on top of rice for a bigger meal. Serves 6.



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FY '05 SPA Grant Authority: **\$35000**

Volunteer Name	Project Title	SPA Request Amount	Exchange Rate	Project Cost	Check Recieved	Completion Report
Scott Edson	Accounting & Pedagogy Training	1 348 479 MRO	\$269,80	\$4 998,07	X	
Dan Buonadonna	Charcoal from Light Biomass	121 100 MRO	\$269,80	\$448,85	X	
M. Ambrosino	Computer System for Bank Management Staff	680 499 MRO	\$269,80	\$2 522,23	X	
Brandon Guernsey	Jeddida Well	401 881 MRO	\$269,80	\$1 489,55	X	
Julia Kennedy	Primary School World Map Project	36 100 MRO	\$269,80	\$133,80	X	X
		2 588 059 MRO		\$9 592,51		

FY 05 HIV/AIDS APA Authority: **\$18000**

Volunteer Name	Project Title	SPA Request Amount	Exchange Rate	Project Cost	Check Recieved	Completion Report
Jessica Dunsmore	Health and HIV/AIDS Awareness Tour	1 230 000 MRO	\$269,80	\$4 558,93	X	
		1 230 000 MRO		\$4 558,93		

Peace Corps Partnerships '05

Volunteer Name	Project Title	Funding Recieved	Exchange Rate	Funding Recieved	Check Recieved	Completion Report
Virginia March	Training/Leather Treatment	1 330 300 MRO	\$269,80	\$4 930,69		
Katie Shroepfer	Robinet extension for School Garden	50 722 MRO	\$269,80	\$188,00	X	
Julia Kennedy	Community Health	2 686 850 MRO	\$269,80	\$9 958,67		
Lisa Jackson	Small Enterprise Development	749 998 MRO	\$269,80	\$2 779,83		
Andrew Furlong	Garden Expansion	973 600 MRO	\$269,80	\$3 608,60		
Natalie Eft	Earth Day Conf. & Dune Fixation Project	727 000 MRO	\$269,80	\$2 694,59		
		6 518 470 MRO		\$24 160,38		

Fashion

Pha'shun Repawt

By Aissata Camara, Ilot K

Burberrys of Cinquième: Sightings of that signature tan plaid adorn Nouakchott youth in the form of matching baggy pants; jacket and jaunty cap, à la Nate Dogg or P Diddy. Made in England or Made in China? No one knows how it found its way to our dowdy West African capital, but the look is here to stay; quoi?

Official color of the Nouakchott disquette? Red! Be on the watch for red nylon tops and expect to pay upwards of 500um....and to match that slutty red top?

But of course, t-i-g-h-t seam-busting jeans. If you can't see yellow stitching along the butt seam, eat some more couscous, they're not tight enough to show off that budonkadonk! Save the baggy pants for the man in the genuine faux Burberry. The little red top can be seen in a variety of styles and materials, on display from the Socogims to the Sixième. Watch for it in your regional capital.



Local toubabs appropriating "le rouge saisonelle"



If you can't be cool, at least you can have style

Fashion tip for the gentlemen: Try snazzing up those post-Tabaski boubous with a crazy pair of patchwork pants to go underneath for a surprise – and remember: there is no such thing as color or pattern clashing in West Africa! Comme vous voulez!

New SportsCenter

Goodbye chub-rub! The new Adrar Women's Sports Center is all the rage amongst the professional class in Atar. Five

days a week, Heads of Condition Feminine

and Mayor

Adjoints mingle

while perched

precariouly on

sagging exercise

bikes and

pretending to find their active and resting pulse rates.

Having been raised on a strict anti-Atkins diet regimen of

roughly a kilo of starch a day, the women tend to hover

around the 100 kg mark. They are a bit wary of losing some

of their precious smiin, but demonstrations of butt-

building exercises are fortunately enough to counter

fears of undue weight loss. The center, which includes several

handweights, a library, a TV with satellite and VCR and a large

collection of handballs and

handball publications, costs

members 1000 UM a month. It

provides formations on accounting,

marketing and health, as well as

bi-weekly physical training sessions with their local friendly

PCVs, Lars, Olaf and Ken (Audrey, Alison and Jessica).

Atar is the third city in Mauritania to have a sports center

and, as far as we know, is the only exclusively-female gym in

the nation. No word yet on new branches, but stay tuned, and

start asking around!



Brian Z

What makes you happy/smile?

Being in an environment with people who are happy and smiling.

What ticks you off?

People taking advantage of situations, also I'm impatient with myself sometimes and that ticks me off, I don't like when there's no coffee, and sitting still for long periods of time.

What are your weaknesses?

For this job in particular, I don't know the angles for culture, linguistics, administration and protocol.

"To this point in my life, this is my dream job...I'm mission driven and am fond of the Peace Corps mission...it's mix of the social and professional one rarely see in a job."

What are your strengths?

- I'm willing to learn about the angles for culture, linguistics, administration and protocol
- My will is strong
- I know I don't know
- I'm interested in learning about others

Are you open to brown nosing by PCVs?

No. There's no need for it and it will get you nowhere with me.

Are you open to receiving gifts from PCVs?

As with brown nosing, it will get you nowhere with me, however, they are nice.

Preferred Gifts List:

- Coffee
- Flowers
- Art (doesn't have to be good but meaningful and have a story attached)
- Kittenburgers

Let's say, hypothetically of course, that a volunteer wants to give you clothes made from local fabrics as a gift. What are your measurements?

Shirt, 35 long; pants, 34/34, shoes 11 U.S, 44 European.



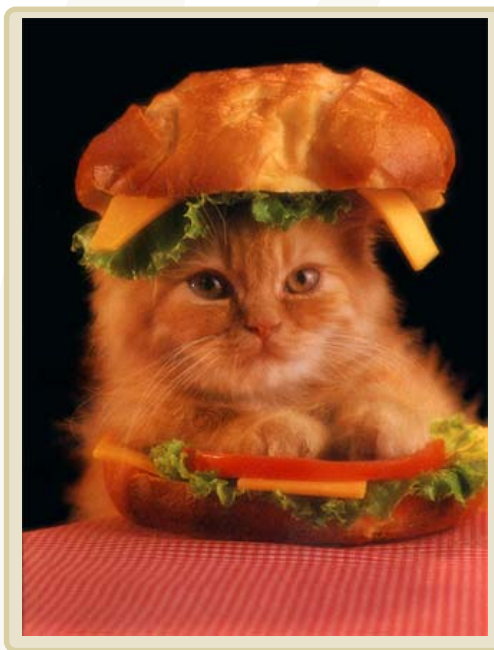
Do you have a boubou?

Not yet.

What is your management style?

Galvanizing people. I don't like micro managing. I try to set goals then build consensus.

"I'm open to doing things, being active with volunteers when they are in town: tennis, basketball, running, etc."



Eco-Camp: I am sure you all know that this year's ECO-Camp will be held in the Brakna. The Brakna volunteers and particularly Katie and Andi are getting ready for it. There is no firm date yet for the event but I am sure they will get to you as soon as they know it.

Site Assessment: We will soon be starting to do site

assessment in your regions for the new group of volunteers. We will let you about our schedule as soon as we finalize it. Please

let us know if you find wonderful sites for volunteers and do a pre-assessment of the sites (you should have site assessment and volunteer request forms in your regions, if you don't, please let us know and we will send them to you)

SPA Money: We still have money left in the SPA, please submit your best projects.

Seeds: We have a stock of Moringa seeds from WFP. They are here to be used, so use them.

EE Lesson Plans Manual: As you all EE volunteers know Amy H. is continuing the work of Caroline Handschuh and Katie S. to compile the EE lesson plan manual. She has already sent a detailed memo about it. Please refer to the memo and send us your best EE integrated lesson plans

School Gardens Supplies: I have forwarded your requests for your school garden supplies. PAM said that they have most of the supplies and will be sending them to your site whenever they can. They are busy now with the emergency food distribution program.

Quarterly Reporting: As a reminder again: you need to submit copies, or a summary of your quarterly reports to your counterparts, and most importantly to your supervisors. The most important things to include in the report for the supervisors are: the planned activities for the past quarter, activities actually accomplished and how (including activities that were not originally planned), what the challenges have been, what the plan for the next quarter. You need to keep them informed, get their feedback on the activities you are doing.

girls in green mulafas energetically waved yellow, pink, and blue handkerchiefs in the air. During the hour before Maaouiya's arrival, école students sang and an announcer energized the crowd with exhortations to "go to the airport to welcome the president" and "clap your hands and shout when Maaouiya arrives." He also worked the



Atar-ois into a fever pitch by shouting that "even the date trees are happy Maaouiya is coming" and "we would not be alive without Maaouiya!" Eventually, frustrated by our inability to see over the heads of the crowd, we moved over to a large, flatbed truck and climbed onto the roof of the cab, from which height we had a marvelous vantage point. We were facing the road from the airport; to our left

was the grandstand that would house the dignitaries and speakers.

Eventually, in almost the heat of the day, when the dancers had finally gotten tired and stopped waving their handkerchiefs, the announcer called that Maaouiya was coming, and sure enough, we saw a distant line of SUVs and military vehicles inching down the airport road. Maaouiya and the Gambian president walked in front of the procession, surrounded by men in both uniforms and suits. Eventually, they reached the stand, where the mayor of Atar made a short speech welcoming both presidents to Atar. The Gambian president followed with a brief address in English, while Maaouiya smiled beatifically on. Anti-climax was achieved when, following the Gambian president's brief address, the whole kit and kaboodle packed up and departed, without a word from Mauritania's illustrious commander-in-chief.

Nevertheless, the day was a success. According to one Mauritanian source close to the Adrar PCVs, twenty percent of the crowd consisted of plainclothes security forces with guns concealed beneath their boubous. There was also a more obvious security presence atop every building around the traffic circle, and all the surrounding second-stories had been closed off. Their presence paid off, as the joyous occasion ended peacefully, and the whole city was invited to a 42-camel meshoui feast.

Closing

For Andy, who has been known to pitch a loaf:



What's worse than being back in the States, working nine-to-five?

Being back in the States, unemployed. To find job listings aimed toward Peace Corps Volunteers, look for the monthly newsletter, "Hotline," in the PC Nouakchott library. Sample listings from January range from openings for organic farm interns to directing an anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria. Good luck!

Dear Obie,

Hello! I am an RPCV from Senegal on my COS trip headed northward and Mauritania happened to be one of my stops. The last 10 days here have been indescribable – visiting the capital, trekking through the Sahara on a camel, riding in the back of a dusty pick-up truck that gets two flat tires in 60 km, etc.

I am writing this note to commend you for the amazing volunteers you have serving in Mauritania. Worldwide, I have witnessed the camaraderie of PCVs who are living a life so different than the one they left behind in the USA. After 2 ½ years in Senegal, I realize that the community I developed there is irreplaceable. But after 10 days here, I have been nothing but impressed – even shocked – by the unequivocal kindness your volunteers have showed me, a perfect stranger. Every single PCV we met on our travels here has bent over backwards, offering us city tours, a night of cards (at your house), a bed to sleep in, hot tea on cold evenings, lots of smiles and many other hospitable acts too numerous to mention. If not for the Sahara desert, the romanticism of a new place, I'm glad I came to Mauritania for just that; the reminder that Americans can be so kind. On behalf of all those who have come and all those yet to come experience the RIM, I thank you! Please let the PCVs know how much they are appreciated. (Mauritania is TOUGH! Du Courage...)

Peace only,
Sarah Hohl
RPCV Senegal

This Just In: WAIST 2005!



WAIST

Veni Vodka Vici: Rim Pirates do it again

By Audrey Bottjen

For a year, the handle on the Mauritanian jack-in-the-box had been slowly turning, building pressure, tightening the coils in preparation for WAIST 2005. Finally, on February 18th, the spring popped and out sprung PCRM in full glory, trailing sunbeams and fluffy clouds behind them. While the exact number of players is unknown, RIM participation was massive and menacing, with close to 70 swashbuckling Pirates in attendance. Though team "Red Eyes" couldn't even beat the high school missionary team and was quickly knocked out of the competition, the "Brown Eyes," featuring many returning players from WAIST 2004, saw it through to the bitter, stumbling end—a tête-a-tête with their fine and worthy opponents, the very ones who defeated them in the championship game last year: Team Asia. Whether because the Pirates actually had two team practices before WAIST this year, or because of the debilitating, havoc-inducing, psychological force of the cheering section, or simply because God Willed It, PCRM decimated Team Asia and the game was called early with a score of 18-8.

The playing was crisp and spectacular, a testament to the skill of the many who courageously entrusted their beers to friends not playing, and hit the field running. Though the decision was tough, the MVP trophy was awarded to "Barefoot" Ben Richey, at the nomination of Lisa Michael, one of two volunteers who could actually afford the awards banquet. With his quick arm and steady glove, Mr. Richey would have been a contender regardless, but his team spirit, demonstrated by his 4000 mile trip from America, clinched the deal. When the long weekend ended, Mr. Richey returned home, reportedly just in time for his next shift at the bookstore where he is employed.

Despite the resounding victory, the sailing wasn't always smooth. The first game of the season, against the old nemesis Team Asia, was too close for comfort. "Somewhere around the 7th inning, it occurred to someone to actually find out the score, at which moment we realized we were tied. It was then we resolved to tattoo the ball—still only

scraping by," says emergency catcher Angus Kelly. Mauritania rolled with the punches both on and off the field, in the case of the West Side Story-esque rumble with Peace Corps Senegal on Ebbet's field during the bonfire. Although missing the knives, chains, singing and choreographed dancing, the notorious "bonfire rumble" was no less amusing to most observers, and the only casualties were the occasional beer bottles caught in the line of fire.



When they're on top of their game, nothing gets by Dan and Mark

When asked about their strategy in getting through the bad times, the players acknowledged that it was the buoyant spirit of team Mauritania that kept them floating. The unstoppable enthusiasm and relentless, almost ruthless, good cheer kept the players on their feet and in the game, even when what they most wanted was a 36 hour nap and a couple of ibuprofen. Other teams' reactions to the Pirates were predictably mixed. Many admired and sought to emulate the PCRM's no-holds-barred approach, while others shied away in what appeared to be a mixture of fright and apprehension. The US Ambassador to Senegal generously conceded that not

only did the Mauritians play well, they were also "marginally" better behaved than last year. Immediately afterward, however, he apparently muttered that the players were, in fact "insane." Whether loved or hated (there appeared to be no middle ground) one thing was certain, the Pirates from Mauritania came, they got moor booty, and they conquered. Mashallah.

Living Allowance Survey says.....

Effective June 1st, certain demographics of PCRM will be seeing a bit more money in their bank accounts. Living allowance surveys have been evaluated by Washington and the numbers are ready.

Rural – A big fat nothing. Sorry guys. Do a better job on the next survey!

Semi-urban – an increase of 8,700, bringing the grand total to 51,800 UM.

Urban – Patron-hatta! The highrollers are up to 119,800 UM.