

Nouakchott Notes

RIM Pirates don't even know what to do with so much booty

From staff reports

It was rumored we had lost our team. People thought there was no hope. It was said it couldn't be done.

They were wrong.

On February 21, 2006, the RIM Pirates took home our third WAIST trophy, secured our second first-place win, and figuratively punched naysayers and unbelievers in the balls.

This year's tournament offered many ups and downs, laughter and tears.

On the first day, the Pirates won three consecutive games, barely squeaking by against our former adversaries, the Tigers. Going into the second day, the Pirates were cocky and brash. Heads swimming from the previous night's activities, the squadron suffered a stunning defeat against Team Dakar. Immediately placed at the bottom rung of the losers bracket, the Pirates

had to fight their way back to the top through eight consecutive wins. I game championship Embassy team.

Mira: 'I'm saaaaaaaaaaaaaiiiiiiiiiiiiilling awaaaaaaay.'

Only two veterans returned to the team this year, Scott Eidson and Jarad Logsdon. As assistant coach, Logsdon was under heavy pressure to deliver on the amazing play of Team Pirates 2005.

"I did the best with what I had," he said. "We had some solid gold players like Mike T and Adam. For the toughest decisions, I just relied heavily on The Captain. God, he is a master of strategy and phraseology."

Head Coach, Keith 'Cap'n' Gaddis was the secret to the Pirates' success. Not only did he look stunning every game, but he actually helped the team out one time by pointing out a random rule to the umpire, getting Todd back to first base.

A surprising addition to this year's lineup was our very own Administrative Officer, David "Pay Day" Solomon. Solomon climaxed in his position in left field on the last day of the tournament. Even with glaring sunlight in the face, not a single ball was dropped.

PCV Saman Wijesooriya took home the MVP award at the catcher's position. Weighing in at a mere 75 pounds, Saman was able to stop screaming softballs whizzing in from the outfield

continued on page 14



Inside this issue:

PCV's absence from site results in baby-weighing disaster: 1000s feared dead 3

Hadas Vacation Form Full of Lies and Inconsistencies 8

Andrew Found Your Black Sock and Babba Maal Poster 9

Aaron Dibner-Durber-Doolittle-Dunlap-Dexter-Deltron2000 Thinks Jake Needs to Experience The Ultimate, and You Know What He Means. **11**

Chebbugen Is Still Good, and Frequently Misspelled 13

Study Shows Break Dancing Still Not Cool 34

Director's NEWS

Obie Shaw, Country Director

Hello All: This has been a very busy and successful last quarter for both staff and PCVs! The inspiration for this past quarter was in no small part due your glorious victory at WAIST for a second year running. Hopefully the new trainees being recruited as I write will be prepared to carry the Pirate flag to Dakar next year. So, here it goes

COS Conference

I cannot believe that your group is already at the point of a COS Conference! I want to thank you all for the fantastic job you have done here in Mauritania. You are a fantastic group and I am honored to serve with each and every one of you! Thank you very much for the solid feedback you provided the staff. You have my word that it does make a difference in how we operate here in Mauritania. The staff and I truly do wish to set the conditions that permit volunteers (both current and future) to succeed. I would also like to thank Ellie LeBaron for her wonderful facilitation of the conference!

New Office

It is official! The PC office in Nouakchott will be relocating to new space in a mixed commercial building in downtown near the Saudi Mosque. We will be taking two full floors in the new *Al Khaima City Center*. It is very easy to find: just look for the tallest building in town with tents on the roof. Peace Corps Washington has been very supportive in this move and I would like to publicly thank everyone both here in Mauritania and at PC HQ who have helped in making this move possible! Some of you may be questioning why we are moving. I can tell you that this is a process that has been underway for 11 months. At the end of the day, the owners of our current office space have decided to move forward with plans for this building that preclude them from entering into a new lease with Peace Corps. We have had a very positive relationship with our current landlords and we wish them the very best with their new enterprise. I fully expect to be moved into the new office space as of August 2006.

PST Trainers

Congratulations to our FY06 PST PCV Trainers! Saman (Health), Keith (EE), Jordana (SED/ICT), Todd (X-Culture), Matt (Admin), Lisa (Ed), and Caleb (AgFo)! The new trainees are very lucky to have such a strong PCV team at PST. I am sure that you will do a fantastic job.

Third Year Extensions

For any of the COS'ing PCVs interested in extending for a third year of service, please contact your APCD or me directly. Serving a third year is a unique opportunity and if you are interested we can provide you with more detailed information. There are a number of "set" positions reserved for third year extendees (GAD Coordinator, EE Coordinator, ICT Coordinator, SPA Coordinator), however, we are always willing to work with individual PCVs on designing a third year project that fits your goals. I am very pleased to announce to you that as of today, three second-year PCVs have been approved for third year



extensions! I would list their names but as I do not have their permission, I will just let the PC Rumor Mill get you the names... ha.

Trainee Input

More good news! It looks as if recruiting will be able to fill our TI of 60 this year. The new trainees will be arriving in Nouakchott on June 30. I will have to opportunity to meet with the trainees in Philadelphia June 27 and 28. PC Mauritania is positioned for growth in the next two years with a TI of 60 scheduled for FY07 and 80 TI in FY08. With these new numbers, PC Mauritania will be one of the largest programs in Africa.

Restricted Travel

Please be advised that due to a number of issues (TI arrival, staff on leave, office move, etc...) PCV travel to and through Nouakchott will be restricted during the period June 28 to July 6. Only PCVs needing to catch a flight or those on emergency Medical Travel will be authorized travel to/through Nouakchott during this period. Please plan accordingly. Thank you very much for your understanding!

Inspector General

Jim Scanlon will be visiting Mauritania **continued on page 9**

HealthNOTES

Daouda Diallo, APCD/Health

Congratulations to all second year PCVs on your successful COS conference and “bon courage” to the first year PCVs. Keep up the good work. While we are waiting for the next group, we are also hunting for sites. I would like to thank all of you for the recommendations you have provided and encourage you to give more comments and ideas. I heard the marathon was successful and only staff was missing there. I hope we will be able to take part next year if there is one.... and if we become younger.

HIV/AIDS

With the Nouakchott-based NGO Espoir et Vie, volunteers are working on an AIDS quilt in which each person living with HIV/AIDS will decorate a square of fabric to represent him/herself, or an acquaintance living with HIV/AIDS. The squares will be sewn together to create a khaima (tent), which can be used during AIDS sensibilisations. The khaima project will personalize the AIDS issue; people living with HIV/AIDS will no longer be just numbers in the mind of the onlooker, but “real people.” In addition, this gives those with HIV/AIDS a positive project and creative outlet, which can be psychologically beneficial.

Nutrition/Gardening

Health volunteers are also working with feeding centers to educate women on nutrition and childcare. In Rosso, all meals at the feeding center are prepared on the Masse-Coono stove, and all women who attend are educated on the benefits of the stove. In Kiffa, Andrew conducted a canning training at the Girls Mentoring Center in March, in addition to a successful SPA garden project.

In the Tagant, Matt recently used SPA funds to help set up a community garden in Bouar, where gardening techniques are being transferred to community members.

CéréAmine

From Dr. Diagana, who introduced the product in Mauritania: it is spelled **CéréAmine**, with a capital A in the middle... In an April 6 meeting, Dr. Diagana agreed to collaborate with Peace Corps volunteers and programmers to better promote the product. Dr. Diagana's NGO operates a production unit in Basra where a team of trained workers produces CéréAmine. On the Peace Corps side, the PCPP CéréAmine project has been successfully completed. In all, the project resulted in the production of 1053.1 Kg of CéréAmine and the training of 188 people. The average yield per training was 58.5 Kg. I would like

From Dr.
Diagana: it is
spelled
CéréAmine, with
a capital A in
the middle.



to thank volunteers who worked with PVC Brock Emerson during this long training marathon in many parts of the country.

PCVs conducted CéréAmine trainings with cooperatives and other organizations, sometimes using the Masse Coono stove as a cooking tool for the grains. Also, women learned about nutritional content of food, the benefits of the stoves and wood conservation, and SED opportunities with CéréAmine. Other trainings are planned in conjunction with local NGOs. The goal of these trainings is to teach mothers more about health and bring more CéréAmine to feeding centers as an alternative to the fortified flour.

Health Education

Mentoring activities in GMCs and communities led by volunteers are exploring topics such as female reproductive health, marriage, undesired pregnancies, STDs/AIDS, anemia, hygiene, breastfeeding, infant and toddler nutrition, family planning and use of contraceptives.

Some volunteers are also holding mosquito cream formations, which are incorporated into malaria sensibilizations. Such trainings contribute immensely to the fight against malaria and train people to share the knowledge in their communities.

There are great initiatives in the area of waste management, particularly in the communities of Boghe and

continued on page 8

M. Abderrahmane O. Bagga, APCD/ED

Spring break proved to be a popular time to travel for most of you, which is good as you get to see other places and regions in the country. Make the most of it!

Columbia SIPA Project

The second and final round of the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs research project took place in Nouakchott and in the regions from March 9 to 23. Team members planned in a day-long exchange workshop with some 40 participants from international, government and non-government institutions; conducted field trips to three regions; and interviewed officials, technicians, and community members playing a role in education, in general, and girls' education, in particular.

The seven-member strong team is looking at the impact of Peace Corps and UNICEF activities supporting girls' education, especially schooling in terms of retention, transition, and success. For Peace Corps specifically, the SIPA team will evaluate the GMCs, the annual mentors' workshop, and the Annual Girls' Education Conference. The review findings and recommendations report, scheduled to be out by May 2, comes at a crucial time for the education sector. Indeed, these recommendations will play an instrumental role in shaping further strategy for expanding the girls' education and empowerment component to have it become a stand-alone sector by 2008, as envisioned in the last project review recommendation.

Finally I'd like to say that Peace Corps/RIM is proud to have two RPCVs on the team, one of whom is the team coordinator/leader: Rachel Bingham (Racey) and Sherif Ayoub. Along the same lines, special thanks go to all of you who volunteered to assist in the research /evaluation projects. Your time, ideas and extra-miles will were highly appreciated and worthwhile!

PST Announcements

TEFL/GEE Assistant Coordinator: I'd like you to join me in congratulating Lisa Anderson, who has been selected for Ed/Tech PST/06. Lisa will work with Bahena to train our new batch of PCTs this summer in Kaedi.

Vacation and Exams Update

Final Exams: Monday, June 8 to Friday, June 15

Summer Vacation: Friday, June 23 to Monday, October 2



We should have about 18 education trainees this year. This higher number is explained by the need to sustain expansion of the GMC management assignment while adding a new volunteer assignment at the regional directorate (DREN) to help with teacher training and pedagogical animation.

Prospect GMCs

I am glad to announce the strong potential for GMCs to open in the following sites: Lexeiba, M'bagne, and Tawaz.

In Lexeiba, Laura has worked with professionals in her community, school administration, teachers and the mayor's office to set up the second rural-area GMC in the Gorgol. She has secured a large, well-designed room at the mayor's office, where there are only minor security upgrades that need to be done.

Virginia has gained the support of community leaders and school administration to open a GMC in M'bagne soon: The high school director is willing to host the GMC at the lycee. Virginia is finalizing a rationale report that will be submitted soon.

Tawaz is another potential rural site that could open a GMC in the coming months. The school administration is highly supportive of the project and offered use of

continued on page 7

Mohamedou Aw, APCD/AgFo

Hello all! I would like to take this opportunity as an APCD programmer and as a Mauritanian to express to all of the second year volunteers (and to all volunteers, for that matter) our appreciation of the great work they have done and continue to do to help the Mauritanian people that they have worked and shared many things with throughout their service, in their quest for sustainable development and better life for them and the future generations of this country. Thank you for fostering PC ideals and goals. Good luck with your future endeavors.

EE Program Review

As you all know by now, we are planning the review of the EE pilot project. The field review will begin May 18 and end between June 1 and 6 (depending on the flight schedule). The project will be conducted by Jamie Shambaugh, an evaluation and project review specialist at the Peace Corps headquarters, and Racey Bingham (Mauritania 00-03). Racey served as a volunteer coordinator for the EE pilot project in 2002-2003 and led the EE PST in 2002 and 2003. If the project is continued, a stakeholders workshop will be held June 21 and 22 in Nouakchott. We have invited the PC Sub-Regional Programming and Training Coordinator to lead the stakeholders' workshop, which will evaluate the results of the field review and create a project plan with new goals and objectives and a description of volunteers' tasks.

In the near future we will be sending out a questionnaire for your counterparts at the school and community levels, your school directors, your inspectors and your DREN. The questionnaire should



be filled out and sent back to us before the review team goes out in the field. Even if the questionnaires are not returned, it will at least give your counterparts an idea of what kind of information the team will be looking for. I will let you know when they are coming to your sites as soon as we complete a detailed travel plan.

Clean-up/ Marathon

Keith organized a trash clean up and a marathon race in Atar April 8 and 9. From the impressions that I gathered from Keith and some of the participants, it was a great success. The mayor was there all day making sure that things were going well. It seems like the whole town is appreciative of this effort.

Earth Day Celebration

As you all know, April 22 is the Earth Day. I hope that you have planned some activities with your school and with your communities to celebrate this important holiday. Valerie is planning a big clean-up day with her two schools, their communities and their PTAs. They will organize an evening celebration with poems, skits etc. about the earth and the environment. Many officials have been invited by the PTA to attend the celebration.

Tree Seed Bank Project

I would like to let you know that I have the following tree seeds here at the Peace Corps office: *Moringa*, *Acacia senegal*, *Acacia albida*, *Leucaena*, *Neem*, *Piliostigma reticulatum*, *Parkinsonia*, *Acacia melifera*, *Ziziphus mauritania*. If anybody needs them, please contact me.

To build a seed bank for our own use I would like to collect as many seeds as possible. Many of the *Acacia sp* are at the last phase of producing ripe seeds now. Please send any extra seeds that you might have, labeling them with the name of species, when and where it was collected. If you don't know the species, collect the seeds anyway and try to send flowers, fruits, twigs, leaves, etc. with them to help us identify the species.

For more information on *Moringa*, the books "The Miracle Tree" or "Arbre de la Vie" (English and French versions) are available. Thanks a lot.

Kane Oumar, AgFo PTA

continued on page 8

Brian Zoeller, APCD/SED

It appears that someone stole the semi-marathon title away from ICT PCV Jarad Longsdon, who claimed a very respectable second place finish. Apparently, every kilometer, each runner was supposed to have picked up and disposed of a small bag of trash. Apparently, the proclaimed winner of the race, Keith Gaddis, left his own rubbish somewhere on the last kilometer. This load-lightening gave him unfair advantage which eventually led to a shameful victory. Congrats goes out also to fourth place booby prize finisher, SED PCV Sam Bryar. Very well done, gentlemen. You've represented your sectors well! If not for your vertical advantages and GPS utilization, you might still be searching.

SED/ICT Continue to Groove

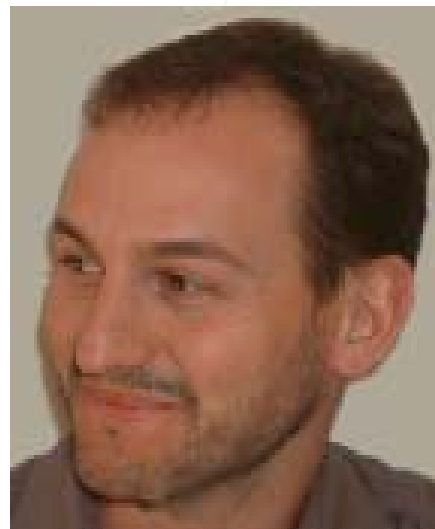
On a less serious note, the SED and ICT sectors have been groovin'. In this past quarter, we experienced ETR/IST for the new folks and the COS conference for the second year PCVs. At IST, the '05 stage shared their site knowledge and experiences with each other through short presentations. They also heard from a Rural Radio speaker and the owner of Tiviski Dairy, Nancy Abeiderrahmane. Nancy took the spotlight at the conference by speaking candidly about Mauritania. More specifically, she elaborated on how business is done here and what PCVs could focus their activities on. The COS group had a nice time at Keur Macene and began thinking about what's next. They also gave me some valuable feedback of how to do a better job with programming and training. One comment made was to ensure that our counterparts are better educated on what Peace Corps is and does. Point taken. Staff and I will be working on that issue.

Women's Business Trainings

The second- and third-year PCVs are full throttle with a variety of projects as their time in country begins to wrap up (sadly, too many to mention). Last quarter, I spoke of a women's business training in 11 regions. By all accounts, this has been unfolding very well. We've been to eight of 11 regional capitals already, training 20-25 women at each site in basic business skills over a three-day period. Even charging women 500 UM instead of paying per diem, we are still seeing that women young and old are motivated for this type of training. Kudos to Jen Justus, Ann Min, Chris Fletcher, Jessica Daniel and our Mauritanian counterparts, Aminata and Cheikna.

CéréAmine Project Collaboration

The CéréAmine project is moving forward. We decided to have our conference in NKT in late May with assistance from CéréAmine's creator Diagana Yacouba and his ONG Action. They are producing 80 kilos of CéréAmine a day at their NKT "factory" and we are trying to tie in what we have done in the field with



what they do here in NKT. We are looking at this project to merge health and business opportunities for three groupings: Entrepreneurs and Coops, Feeding Centers and people living with HIV/AIDS. Thanks to the many SED, health, ED and AgFo/EE PCVs who are testing its validity as a viable, healthy product offering.

The '05 stage is doing exceptionally well. Again, I'm impressed with their language skills, their knowledge of their sites, their contacts in the communities and their overall comfort in being here. The IT guys are all busy at their jobs: formulating and presenting IT classes, and consulting with NGO and RIM government clients on topics related to networking, database management, and software usage. SED PCVs are assisting tremendously at GMCs, with cross-sector projects like CéréAmine, EPA improved cook stoves, and in areas such as tourism, business training, and micro-finance education. It has been a good quarter.

PST Coordinators

Before I end, I wanted to introduce our new PST co-coordinators. Jordana Spadacini beat out the long list of applicants to secure the position. She is joined by Soumaré Diabé. He's well-educated and versed in coops, micro-finance, entrepreneurship and works between NKT and Kaedi/Belinabé/Djéol. He and Jordana should complement each other well. Be aware that we'll be tapping your expertise for the upcoming stage!

And lastly, congratulations to those who contributed **continued on page 10**

Chalk Chat Corner

Approche Par Competence in Secondary Schools

Bahena Ould Moustapha, Ed PTA

Hello all! I hope you are all doing well and wish you success with your assignments. Actually, everyone here knows you are all busy doing work that will be of great value to your communities. People might not be able to see how much what you are doing is valuable until after you have left.

My recommendation is that we should continue to work and try and involve as many people as we can. And let's always remember our main goal, which is helping people, bearing in mind the aspect of sustainability. So, please try and train them to be able to take over when you leave!

As teachers, I thought we might all want to know: "How far did the Inspection Générale de l'Education Nationale (IGEN) go, as far as rewriting syllabi is concerned?"

With the goal of giving meaning to material taught at school by linking it to real life, the IGEN has been rewriting junior high school syllabuses since 2002. The new Competency-Based Approach answers two major questions: What do students have to achieve by the end of a cycle or year? and What are the real life situations students will be able to solve?

The 'APC', then:

- focuses on the learner,

- shows the usefulness of the classroom activities

- evaluates the student's ability to solve given problems rather than their ability to gather general knowledge that they are not going to use.

The APC syllabus is presented as follows: OTI (Objectif Terminal d'Integration), Competences de Base, and Ressources.

The OTI, or global objective, could be for a year or a whole cycle. In order to reach the OTI, there are usually three competencies, (CB1, CB2, and CB3), that are gone through, and resources—the functions and language items to be taught—cater to those competencies.

The new syllabuses are written, tried out and generalized after the teachers are trained on how to use them in a regular seminar organized by region. The teachers targeted are only those concerned with that level. This allows almost everyone to be trained on the approach. The trainers are inspectors and teachers who have undergone another formation.

The first and second year syllabi have been generalized. The third year syllabus is being tried out and will be generalized in September. A fourth year syllabus completed by the team this year will be tried out next year. IGEN has targeted the end of April 2006 as submission deadline for all.

The IGEN is planning a five-day seminar beginning April 13 to validate monitoring documents. For now, 61 inspectors are involved. Directors of studies, IDENs, and DRENs will be involved later.

Copies of the syllabuses are available at DRENs and schools, but still I would recommend you keep your own and share it with your HCN colleagues. Samples of the syllabuses can also be found with Bagga.

Bagga from page 4

the middle school library. Alexis is now finalizing data collection for the GMC opening.

Teacher Training Conference

Jess and Mary have been working over the past three months to organize an ASPA-funded training for English teachers in Mauritania. The event, which is scheduled for the summer, will benefit PCVs and some 100 HCN teachers from all 13 regions. The workshop proposes to help HCN teachers with language proficiency; to prepare and exchange lessons on teaching grammar, songs, and vocabulary; and to become more aware of cultural nuances in the target

language. At the same time, it will give teachers a chance to make connections with each other and with PCVs. Some teacher trainees will be called on to participate, also. The *Grandes Vacances* Teacher's Conference will take place at the Ecole Normale Supérieure.

Chalk Chat Corner

This addition to Education Notes will regularly tackle technical issues that you think are pertinent. In this issue, check out Bahena's contribution to making the APC (*approche par competence*, or competency-based training) more accessible.

That's all from ED for now!

Rosso conference to promote stove

Alternative coal making methods to be presented

Trarza volunteers led by PCV Amy Helmick completed a number of traveling animation and sales tours this quarter to market the energy-efficient and clean-cooking Masse-Coono stove. The tours increased the market base while providing an opportunity to educate the community on improved cooking technology, nutrition, and environmental conservation. The first round of promotion exceeded all expectations: dates for more animations were postponed until blacksmiths could make more stoves.

An upcoming conference in Rosso will promote Masse-Coono stoves and the use of leftover biomass and obnoxious weeds as an alternative method of making charcoal. Many villages in the Trarza are expected to participate, along with officials from the Ministry of

Health and the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment.

For more information on how to introduce or promote these technologies please contact Amy or Aw.



Aw from page 5

Tree Nursery Prep

As a reminder, this is the time of year to start planning for tree nurseries if one is interested in planting trees during the rainy season, whether for an arbor week celebration or just a regular tree planting activity (windbreak, live fence, dune fixation etc.). Kane still has tree nursery sacks and a number of seeds available.

Tree Manual

Please submit your contribution to Caleb for the tree manual. The result will be a very concise book about the different species found in your areas and their different uses. It will be a good complement to the literature that you have received, as it is Mauritania-specific.

Seed Program Reports

If you have not submitted reports about the vegetable seeds sent by Davidson North Carolina Elementary School, please do so. I would like to give the school and

the organization behind this program feedback. I have sent a reporting template for you to use. The report should have been sent with your March quarterly report. Please send the reports as soon as possible.

EE Lesson Plans Manual

For those of you who have developed lesson plans with your counterparts, please send them to me now, noting the source and author. To improve the manual it needs to be updated regularly. Thanks, Mary, for sending yours.

Nutrition Animations

With help from their local counterparts and NGOs, PCVs Alicia Liebel, Nina, and Jordy have organized nutrition animation and Moringa promotion activities for many cooperatives and delegation and health personnel at their respective sites. The many attendees received quality information. Upcoming animations in the Gorgol will be led by Rachel Zuback

Daouda from page 3

Rosso. From meetings with local authorities, there appears to be a desire to organize sustainable trash collection systems and educate communities on the issue.

Other projects

Health volunteers are also working on projects as varied as filtration dams, fish ponds, silkscreen printing, and basketball courts to promote girls involvement in sports activities.

Mira is working with four women from the "Henna Collective" to build a potential sustainable small business. In theory it would act as a financial backbone for a women's workshop center where classes can be held and educational resources can be shared. So far, they have sold 30 bags for a profit of 30,000 UM.

Mira also worked on beautiful drawings representing series of illustrations for the CereAmine flipbook. Those drawings are available in my office for those who would like to see them.

PC Mauritania welcomes two new additions to the NKT bureau. A brief introduction...

Name: Nourou Baro

Position: Secretary

Hometown:

Serendougou, Brakna

Background:

Worked in Columbus, Ohio for eight years at an alternative high school for dropouts. She was there with her husband who was studying education and IT.

She found out about the position at Peace Corps through friends at the embassy.



Name: Oumar Bouya Ba

Position: PST Language Coordinator

Hometown:

Garack, Trarza

Background:

Worked every summer for PST from 1996-2000 in many roles: facilitator, assistant cross-cultural coordinator, homestay coordinator. From 2000 he worked with a Japanese NGO as an interpreter and secretary. He kept in contact with PC over the years and applied for the position when it became open.



Obie from page 2

April 23 to May 8. Many of you may remember him from his last visit back in September 2005. At that time he was here meeting with PC staff on the first phase of a two-phase project looking at best practices throughout the Peace Corps world. Four countries from each of the three regions PC serves (Africa, Inter-America and Pacific, and Eastern Europe & Middle East) have been selected to participate in this study. During this visit, Jim will be meeting with as many PCVs as possible. Tentative plans have him traveling out to North Brakna, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi, Tagant, and the Adrar. While in Nouakchott he will also be meeting with PCVs based here and those traveling through. The OIG study will help PC countries worldwide by providing management case studies and best practice suggestions.

New Dakar SRPTC

I am also pleased to announce that a new Sub-Regional Programming & Training Coordinator (SRPTC) has been appointed to the Sahel Sub-Region. Her name is Andrea Wojnar Diagne. Andrea will be visiting Mauritania in mid-May to work with Aw, Jamie, and Racey on the EE Project Review. Andrea will also be in Nouakchott July 6 to 10 serving as Acting CD while both the AO and I are out of country. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Andrea to the PC Mauritania team and working with her in the coming year!

PCSSO Travel to Mauritania

Our Regional Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer (PCSSO pronounced Picasso), Michael "Fitz" Fitzgerald, will be visiting Mauritania, May 10 - 21. This is an annual visit and we are looking forward to Fitz getting out and visiting a few PCV sites as well as helping with the design and build-out of our new office space.

CD Travel

I am still planning on getting out to sites this quarter. There is a possibility that I will travel with either Jim or Fitz. My apologies to the Gudimakha for missing my trip out your way. I will be out of country May 21 to 26 at the annual CD Conference to be held in Dakar. I will also be on home leave/work leave to the U.S. June 16 to July 10.

Surveys! Surveys! Surveys!

I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Wow, I sincerely appreciate all of the time you have devoted to filling out PC surveys these past few weeks! The Bi-Annual PC Volunteer Survey, the COS Survey, the OIG Survey, and soon to be coming the Volunteer Living Allowance Survey.

These are all very important and I assure you that your comments really do make a difference. In my five years as a PC staff member I can attest to the fact that not only has PC Mauritania addressed certain items to reflect what PCVs were telling us, but I have also witnessed PC Washington reacting to the worldwide survey by changing procedures and following up on issues directly related to the region and specific posts. Your input does make a difference. As for the "Cost of Living Survey," this is probably the one that will most immediately impact you and your fellow PCVs here at post. This is the annual survey that we are required to conduct in order to make any change to your living allowance stipends.

The Admin Unit will be sending out the survey in late April.

We know that costs are going up in the field and we very much want to help you in maintaining a reasonable standard of living, so please fill the survey out as accurately as possible and get it back to us in a timely manner. A minimum 80 percent return rate is required in order to move forward with any changes.

GLAD to be GAD

Jessica Dunsmore, PCV GAD Coordinator

Hey all! The GAD program has had a lot of exciting events and projects take place this past quarter, most notably the team of graduate students from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) that came to Mauritania (twice!) to evaluate girls' education in the RIM and Peace Corps' and UNICEF's involvement in and programs on girls' education. Two members of the team came for a couple of weeks in January, and their trip was followed-up by two action packed weeks in March during which the whole team of seven members came.

We had a group of PCVs who worked as "Volunteer Assistants" on the project, and I would like to extend them a huge and special thank you for all of the hard work that they did: Jordy Spadacini, Andi Gittleman, Adam Cummings, Alicia Liebel, Scott Eidson, Jenny Slinkard, Cailin McGough and Amanda Moody all worked super hard on the project, and various GMC managers and other PCVs in Atar, Aioun, Kaedi and Boghe helped a lot with the team's trips to the interior. Selibaby, Nouadhibou and Maghta Lahjar also contributed with help on the questionnaires. Thanks to everyone! The results of the team's study in Mauritania should be published by early June, and I will make sure to get a copy out to anyone who is interested.

There were also three Mentors' Workshops that took place in Kiffa, Boghe and Atar this quarter. All of the PCVs worked very hard to make this happen on short notice. However, all of the reports are in, and it looks as if holding the workshops in the interior, as opposed to in Nouakchott, worked well this year. Our efforts to recruit retain and train mentors are integral to the overall success and sustainability of the GMCs, and we have a couple of model mentors this year who are leading the way. And, speaking of mentors and sustainability, the Nouakchott GAD office is looking for a female Mauritanian to work alongside of the GAD coordinator. So, if you know anyone who would be great for the job, please let me know!

In other news, it looks as if the Annual Girls' Education Conference will not be happening in June, as originally scheduled. Rather, it will take place closer to the end of the summer vacation, sometime in mid to late August. I am working closely with Bagga to set the date, and once it is finalized, we will let you all know.

That's it for now. Du courage – it's getting hot!



Training Update

Ahmed ould Sidna

The 2006 Pre-service training swiftly approaches, and there is a lot of work to be completed in order to be ready before the arrival of the new trainees. So far, the sector coordinators and assistant coordinators have been chosen, and the language facilitator training of trainers program has been completed.

TOT Workshops

A Training Of Trainers workshop was held in Nouakchott April 3 through 7 for 13 new language facilitator candidates. Four language trainers (one trainer for each local language) helped with this workshop, which was very successful. New facilitators will be selected depending on the language needs for the upcoming PST.

PST Key Dates

Homestay coordinators on board May 15

Logisticians on board May 30

Coordinators on board June 8

Staff support on board June 9

Language facilitators on board June 13

PST staff leaving to Kaédi training center June 13

Brian from page 6

to another WAIST title through cheering or athletic support. You should by now see a doubling of your salary* in your accounts thanks to "Pay Day" Solomon. Until the next quarter, note that when you reach for the stars, you begin to leave the ground below. In business, it is called risk and it is what we're all doing simply by being here.

*I'm lying through my teeth

In Atar, PCVs pick up trash, run: Mauritani-ans puzzled

Clean-up/half-marathon project called “The best event to ever happen... ever.”

By Keith Gaddis

After months of preparation and thirty-eight gallons of Mylanta, the First Annual Atar Trash Clean-Up/ Half Marathon has come to an end.

People across the globe have unanimously stated that it was the “best event to ever happen... ever.”

Thirty-five PCVs participated in the two-day event. For the Trash Clean-Up, PCVs and more than 40 Mauritanian volunteers divided into groups to collect trash in three quarters.

Together the groups collected over ten truckloads of garbage, which was transported to the waste dump outside of town.

Several community members expressed gratitude for the project.

“Women kept coming out and giving us cold water to drink. Many sent their children off to help us. Although I suspect they were looking for temporary babysitters, the gesture was appreciated,” observed PCV Michael Donovan

More than 20 volunteers participated in the half-marathon on the second day of the event. The course wound through spectacular palm groves, canyons and oases.

To the surprise of many, nearly all of the participants finished the race. The race winner, however, was not surprising.

With gazelle-like speed and grace, PCV Keith Gaddis took first place position having barely secreted a drop of sweat.

To the shock and awe of all onlookers, Gaddis was followed closely behind by PCV Jarad Logsdon. Many remarked on the

exhausted and sluggish nature with which Logsdon crossed the finish line. Race-timekeeper PCV Tyler Cummings-Bond observed, “His face

was filled with utter disappointment and disbelief. I heard him uttering under his breath ‘It’s not possible. His speed, it can’t be real.’”

Protocol tips from a cynical event organizer

For anyone trying to organize a similar event in his or her site, I cannot stress enough the importance of doing protocol in the proper order and correctly. In the past few months I have wasted weeks on end waiting in the offices of government officials only to be turned away because I had forgotten some small step. Aw asked me to come up with a list of tips I learned from all this:

- Try to make a friend in every official office. Even if it is a low-level person, they can be your guide for contacting the right people and knowing what to do next.

- Work from the top down. If the Wali approves something then he can force everyone else to do it. Even if your project only directly affects the mayor, the Wali has the power to get the project underway and you will get in trouble for having skipped him.

- No one will take you seriously unless they have received an official letter inviting them to assist you in the project and clearly outlining what you want to do. When you drop off the letter make sure that it gets stamped as being received and is given to the correct person. There is generally someone in the office in charge of receiving letters. About a week or two after it has been given to the proper office you can begin trying to contact officials there about the project.

- Begin months in advance, but don’t expect anything to happen until the day before the event. Let people know what you want to do early, but you will have to come back once a week until the activity actually occurs. Even then, the day before, people you’ve been talking to about the event for half a year will say “Why did you wait till the last minute to tell me it was this weekend?”

- Think of everything and ask for more than you need. What they promise you the first day is about twice as much as you will actually get.

- You can never check enough times to make sure everything is going okay because it probably isn’t.

Keith “I Won My Own Half-Marathon” Gaddis

Take me to Le Candy Shop

Kathleen “Kathy” Shannon (Khadi Diop, to Mauritians) is the honey-tongued proprietress of Le Candy Shop, a new boutique chock full of American confections. She has been, at various times, an agriculture volunteer in M’Bagne, an employee of PC headquarters, and a worker for the African Development Foundation. She was also, as third-year volunteers remember, the bureau’s AO before that post was filled by the effervescent¹ David Solomon.

Molly McCollom: How did you decide to start Le Candy Shop?

Kathy Shannon: I decided that I had enough of government work for the moment. Some friends and I had talked for 15 years about doing a business in Mauritania, so when I went back to the States in 2004, I started organizing to come back and start a business. So, voila.

MM: So, why candy? Because it seems like quite a shift from vegetable gardening and good nutrition to candy.

KS: Because there is no candy store here. We are the first.

MM: What are some of the items that you sell here at Le Candy Shop?

KS: Mostly, we sell bulk candy items, with some individual “kiddie” kinds of candy. The most popular items we sell are the Bubble Tape, which is six feet of bubblegum [for you, not them – ed.], and Tart Sour Spray. [We also have] Sour Patch Kids, Mike-n-Ikes, Swedish fish.

MM: How about the most unpopular?

KS: Most unpopular? Well, you know, that is the weird thing because what happens is something will not sell and you’ll think, “Oh gosh, nobody likes it” right? No. Because five weeks later, suddenly everyone is buying it.

MM: Who are your customers?

KS: Everybody, actually, but thankfully there are tons of Mauritians that come in, mostly kids of course, but there are some adults.

MM: What has been your biggest surprise working here at Le Candy Shop?

KS: (getting more and more perturbed) It’s astonishing how I put the prices everywhere and yet, every single time, people will ask me, What is the price? It’s right there, in front of their faces, so that just astonishes me. (Her voice becomes high-pitched and near-hysterical.) I can’t get over that, that the price is RIGHT THERE but they’re asking me “How much is this?”

MM: What is your favorite candy?

KS: That is difficult, because I am a candy lover, but I would guess the Sour Patch Kids.



Le Candy Shop is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm. It is located close to Pizza Nana, but closer to the stade.

MM: Which candy would you recommend as the perfect dessert for goat head and couscous?

KS: The goat head and couscous, definitely on the greasy side, so you need something to cut that grease, so I would recommend some Starlight mints. That way, you’ve not only taken care of the grease, but also the after-dinner breath problem.

MM: Who can make a sunrise and sprinkle it with dew, cover it in chocolate and a miracle or two? Who can make a rainbow, wrap it in a sigh, soak it in the sun and make a strawberry lemon pie?

KS: (in a tone that suggests “well, duh.”) The Candyman can.

MM: Do you feel that part of your business philosophy here at Le Candy Shop is to mix it with love and make the world taste good?

KS: Of course.

MM: Do you have any advice for PCVs with all of your experience in Mauritania?

KS: Make the most of your experience, because you’ll never have another one exactly like it.

MM: This brings me to a very puzzling question. The Lonely Planet writes of Mauritania: “Life in this harsh land is affected by overwhelming poverty, lack of resources, and ethnic conflicts... we would just about suggest that Mauritania was THE place to avoid.” Why are you still here?

KS: Because I don’t think people who write for Lonely Planet actually spend a lot of time in the country. Every country has issues, it doesn’t matter what country it is, but you can either work with it and try and help, or you can say “avoid the place.”

MM: Thank you, Kathy Shannon. Now, can I get 300g of jelly beans?

¹Effervesce: intrans. verb **1** : to bubble, hiss, and foam as gas escapes **2** : to show liveliness or exhilaration

NKT Notes Reveals Bureau Move Scandal

By Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

NOUAKCHOTT — After months of investigation, Nouakchott Notes has uncovered a top-secret plan by The Man to move items in the bureau, piece by piece, so that no volunteers will realize it until everything is gone.

The office has been located in the T e v r a g h - Z e i n a neighborhood since late in the Permian Era. Sources who wish to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation from The Man have indicated the office will be relocated to the top floors of a new ten-story building, topped with a metal bra-type structure conspicuously similar to pointy Madonna “Express Yourself”-era boobies.

“Apparently, the bureau in T e v r a g h Z e i n a did not sufficiently display the impossible wealth of America,” speculated EU Economic Advisor Alexis Aguilera. “Plus, from up there, all the guys in boubous look like wee little cotton balls.”

Speculation about the move began after a volunteer allegedly overheard Country Director Obie Shaw comment that his office simply did not offer the view that should come with such a high-ranking post.

The rectangular shape of the new construction downtown

appeals to Shaw, the source says, “because he really likes corner offices.”

APCDs Brian Zoeller, Bagga and GAD coordinator Jessica Dunsmore are reportedly feeding the boss bribes of DVDs and dog toys in an effort to secure the other three corner spots.

Sources suggest that the move could take place anytime between June and the next fifty years.

A l t h o u g h Dunsmore will be completing her service before the move takes place, “She just doesn’t want anyone else to have it,” explains the source.

The move may result in reduced responsibilities for some staff members.

Instead of standing up, unlocking the door, locking the door and sitting down, guards will now mainly sit down. The gardener, meanwhile, will be shaping only small, office-appropriate shrubberies.

Volunteers we have spoken to express excitement at the prospect of pushing elevator buttons. “What sort of music will they play in a Mauritanian elevator? Malouma remixes? A mellow version of the Election Song?” mused future Nouakchott volunteer Saman Wijesooriya.

Sources, who again are terrified of the Man, suggest that the move could take place anytime between June and the next fifty years.

‘Mama Africa’ no longer ‘in’ name



(PSA from Thomas)

For your information, the Thiebougen Restaurant formerly referred to as “Mama Africa” has a REAL name: “Chez N’dé” or just “N’dé’s.” It is no longer considered the “in” thing to call it by its former faux name.

Andrew Medley still available

Jazzfest will be held in St. Louis, Senegal, May 31 through June 3, 2006. Andrew Medley is organizing a booth at the festival to sell Mauritanian goods to tourists and arranging lodging on the beach.

Volunteers who work the booth will save on vacation days: double check with your APCD. Andrew will also be operating a mobile kissing booth. If you are interested, contact him at 647-3355 or andrewmedley@gmail.com.



new PC
office
building

WAIST: B Team wins game

from page 1 at over 90 mph. Her batting average was 1.25, and she hit 38 out-the-park homeruns. During the last inning of the championship match she played first base, left field and pitched, all while giving Todd a back massage.

This year's B team, The Swashbucklers, set a new record for any second Mauritanian team: they actually won a game. This stunning win was mostly attributed to the spectacular coaching skills of PCV Caleb Judy.

"Our team needed the right amount of pre-game practice, sideline motivation, and internal lubrication," Judy explained. "All of this was achieved with my stunning good looks and a little help from Le Vieux."

Sadly the Swashbucklers lost their first game out of the Round Robin, placing them into the losers bracket. They were finally eliminated from the competition by The Pirates.

"They were just too good for us. Everything they did worked: the hitting, the throwing, the catching and the coaching, My God, the coaching!" gasped Assistant Swashbuckler Coach Ben Burgen.

After being completely slaughtered, the Swashbucklers dragged themselves to the sidelines to cheer for their conquerors.

As in years past, the RIM team participated in numerous ridiculous acts of buffoonery and horseplay, winning the title of rowdiest team present. Unlike past year, however, this year's team brought a certain level of class and dignity to our debauchery thus securing us a place in future WAIST events and increasing prospects for homestay families for future volunteers. We proved it is possible to have a ridiculously good time and not personally offend over 500 people.

WAIST Awards

Best Impersonation of a Naked White Moor Woman on Speed – Virginia
Mac Daddy Award – Zack
Sexiest Person in a Wig – Cheikh Gueye



Most Surprising Hookup – Cailin and Mike T.
Least Surprising Hookup – Suzanne and Tarn
Batting for the Other Team

Award – Molly McCollom
Rock Star Awards – Jess and Virginia
Most Embarrassing Photo – Ben
Jackass Justin Lawrence Memorial Award – Tarn



Spirit Award – Jenny
Anger Management Award – Todd
Best Pickup Line – Andrew

(to Amanda): "So, I hear you have really nice boobs..."

It's Not WAIST Without a Security Incident Award – Crista



Decoration Appreciation Award – Suzanne, Mira, Heidi
Illegal Entry Award – Molly
By the Book Award – Daryn
Libation Appreciation Award – Crista
International Relations Award – Andrew
Potato Salad Shenanigans Award – Todd

Public Intoxication Award – Loic and Zack
Best Mohawk – Sam
Best Mustache – Matt
Best Molester Costume – Jarad



Premature Ejaculation Awards (for going home before the tournament climaxed) – Beth and Tyler
Were You Even There? Awards – Ann, Stephanie, Zakia, Andy, and Alexis
Blue Balls Award – Adriana

Special Appreciation to everyone who streaked the Marine party, participated in the pants-less kick line, and wore a Mohawk or braids in their hair.



And to the Triumvirate – Brock, Keith, and Caleb – who piloted our ship through rough waters to reach our rightful booty.

WAIST 2006



bringing home the booty...

Jake Break

Over the past six months I have been surprised by the amount of similarities between development projects here and in the United States. You know, someone wants everyone else to do all the work or less than half of the people who are supposed to come to a meeting bother to show up. I wasn't surprised when this happened in a meeting for an organization in my village. My mind went back to the time when, as part of my Public Office duties, I was forced to attend Sanitation Department and Fire Department meetings and events, and less than half of those who were supposed to attend did.

I must say I did enjoy attending the Cemetery Department meetings and listening to the groundskeeper say, "I love my job. I am important... I have 500 people under me." Well, old Butch did a good job, especially with what little he had to work with. The Cemetery Commission gave him as little money as possible. They were tighter than the girdle on a Baptist minister's wife at an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. But things looked neat, and nobody complained. So neither did I.

I also remembered working with one of our state legislative leader's campaigns. I usually was able to sit around with him while I talked to him about how to get, and use, dirt on his opponent. Yes, nobody likes dirty politics, but everyone seems to buy it. His election

in 2004 was close though. I still remember he was as jumpy as a virgin at a prison rodeo.

Apart from these problems, I have found my village to be

very motivated. They want to do a number of good projects, and we are all excited. I enjoy living in my village, and I have found routine. My day begins around 4 in the morning when I get up to listen to evening talk radio coming from the United States. At 7 a.m. we have breakfast, and then it is off to work. The afternoon brings lunch and a nap, and the day's activities are resumed and wrapped up by a little after 7 p.m. when afternoon talk radio can be heard on short-wave again. At 10 p.m. sharp I hit the hay.

I find that everyday is a new beginning and a new experience to be discovered. I am learning much more than I have bargained for. The good times and the bad times are just a part of life. Here in Mauritania I just take a few deep breaths every now and then, and it's all good. I figure as long as I am able to text Aw every Monday that "I'm alive, well, and out of jail," I have little to worry about.

And you can't ask for more than that.



It's Tupper Time... again



Hidy-ho there, Obie. Just wanted to check in and chat a little 'bout the last few months. First and foremost I wanted to express my deepest apologies for missing the Safety and Security meeting. As you know I was on my yearly month-long vacation with my host family, camping in our khayma out in the dunes north of Nema. I'll tell

you what, that sure is a beautiful time - camel milk flows out there in the desert like from Eve's own bosom. I know some of the other volunteers might find it a bit strange, but I've seen just about enough of this world, and I prefer to use my vacation days to help foster a stronger bond between my family and I.

I received the briefing you sent with the lorry driver just last week. I couldn't agree with you more: complacency is eroding the very soil of volunteer security on which we stand. These new volunteers coming in with their DV Movies and Music 3 players just don't seem to understand that their techno toys are undermining their own safety here. When I got

here, geez, almost 5 years ago now, my group came in with two shirts, two pairs of pants, and work boots. I've heard stories of those new volunteers having computers and all kinds of other gadgets. How are you supposed to fully understand the culture, immerse yourself in your work, and give the United States Government 110% if you've got all these distractions?

I have been doing a few things to help fight the terrorism out here that I thought might be worth sharing with the rest of the group. First, in my English classes I teach targeted vocabulary, such as "Good Guys" and "Bad Guys." I explain that bad guys are the kind of guys that will get you pregnant and never call you again, or that do terrorism. I explain how the good guys are everyone that doesn't do terrorism. In an effort to make the lesson stick I have them play a game called "Good Guys and Bad Guys" kind of like "Cowboys and Indians." I have them go around town and find all the "bad guys," and then I send that list to my APCD and let him choose what to do with it. It ain't a lot, but until those liberal whiners in Congress let us carry guns, it's about the only thing I can think of doing to help.

Till next time,
Tupper, PCV Nema

A Midsummer Night in Keur Macene

KSAs, fairies, and what Jarad will be doing for the rest of his life back in Oklahoma

By Caleb Judy

KEUR MACENE — A mere twenty-two months after landing on the dusty tarmac, the class of 2004 stepped out together for the last time in the cool grass of the Keur Macene resort for their Close of Service (COS) Conference.

“Thank goodness I will never have to see these people again,” remarked Training Director Ahmed o/Sidna.

Ellie LeBaron, an RPCV from Turkey, facilitated the four-day conference designed to provide second-year volunteers with tools to end their service in Mauritania, readjust to life in America, and find a career path.

“The way that Ellie facilitated all of the sessions, this should be called the ‘Completely Out of Sight’ Conference!” gleamed documented brown-noser PCV Matt Britton, who is currently looking for a job in the Foreign Service.

The sessions focused on career planning strategies, resume writing, and skills assessment. Volunteers were sensibilized on how sensibilized isn’t really a word and how to ease the transition back to American culture.

“The conference reinforced my belief that it will be perfectly acceptable for me to live in my parents’ sunroom for the rest of my life. Just until I figure things out. They have a sweet big screen TV that will be essential in helping me find a life direction,” stated PCV Jarad Logsdon.

Social activities for the weekend included unsubstantiated speculation on other peoples’ life goals, indiscriminate tickling, and a “Midsummer Night’s Dream” themed party in the Donkey Punch Discothèque.

PCV Keith Gaddis, dressed as a little fairy boy, won the Puck-Off Contest at the party, a gauntlet of impossible challenges that only two years in a developing African country can prepare one for.

“I knew I could take the title. Especially the push-up contest,” boasted Gaddis.

After faltering with the liquid-intake device contest, Gaddis clenched the crown with his interpretive dance, entitled, “I’m So Excited.”

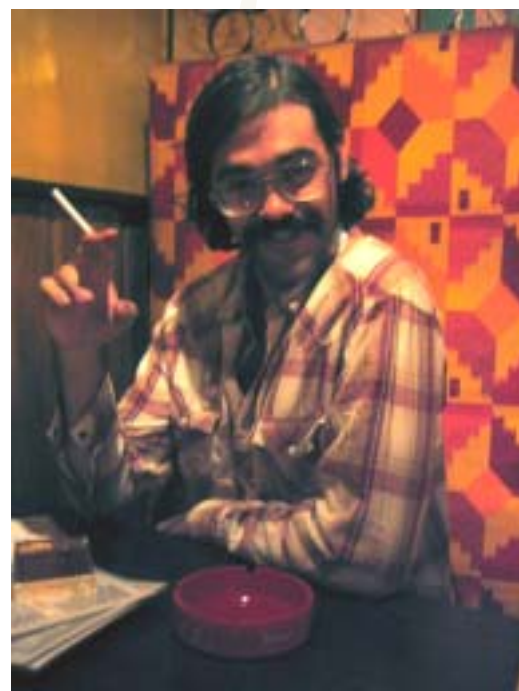
“There’s something about dancing that arouses my soul. The music just makes me rise up to the sky!” he said.

The conference brings to close a relatively quiet period for Peace Corps Mauritania.

“The last few classes were faced with several obstacles like war, drought, and floods and they overcame them,” observed Country Director Obie Shaw.

“The class of 2004 was presented with an open road, and they went about as fast as a donkey cart with a flat tire carrying all of my unrealized expectations for them up Chinguetti Pass.”

“I wish them the best of luck in all of their obviously doomed future endeavors.”



The Deuce wants to know if you have a younger sister.

Nouakchott Notes Staff:

Cailin McGough
Editor-At-Large

Caleb Judy
Class President

Matt Britton
Diplomatic Liasion

Keith Gaddis
Humorist

Molly McCollom
Food Critic

COS Most Likely To...

Hold political office: Caleb Judy
Practice polygamy: Tarn Mower
Have four spouses (not at the same time): Adriana Publico
Move to Mauritania permanently: Nina Elisseou
Be the head chef at a restaurant: Andrew Medley
Coordinate the next coup/incite revolts: Thomas Nordlum
Be an exotic dancer: Jordana Spadacini
Adopt Mauritanian children: Molly Bayer
Have Mauritanian children: Jess Daniel
Scare little children: Todd Bruce, Jarad Logsdon
Live off chub-chub: Brock Emerson
Have PC Mauritania as the high point of their life:
Andrew Medley, Kyle Marker
Have 15 minutes of shame on national TV:
Suzanne Carroll
Complete 5 tours of PC and become a country director:
Matt Britton
Use their PC experience to get a date: Julian Hadas
Write a novel: Alison Mickey
Live with their parents for the rest of their lives:
Jarad Logsdon
Establish world peace: Andi Gittleman
Be a bitchy suburban soccer mom: Jenny Slinkard
Star in a musical: Keith Gaddis
Wear Mauritanian clothes in the USA: Nancy Pile
Not be heard from ever again: Jeff Fields
Plan our 5-year reunion: Alicia Liebel
Run a multi-national corporation: Julie Anderson
Contract amoebas in the USA:
Alicia Wittmer, Suzanne Carroll
Have a hot ass at age 60: Saman Wijesooriya
Be arrested/kicked out between now and COS:
Todd Bruce
Never live in the USA again: Alexis Aguilera
Be the first person to have kids: Saman Wijesooriya
Be the new couple before we COS: Caleb Judy + anyone
Break into a research science lab and free animals from lab testing: Laura Monahan
Hook up with any future Gouraye volunteers:
Cailin McGough

FYI for COS-ing PCVs from your PC-RIM AO



Before becoming RPCVs, all PCVs need to submit their FSRs and DOS to their APCDs and CD, SVP. BTW, we will not be doing any EFTs for FY06, so all checks will be sent to your HOR, which needs to be updated in the VIDA system ASAP. Also, all PCVs need to close out any current PCPPs and SPAs, and make sure that they are down with OPP. If you have any questions, please contact RVS in PC-DC.

TTFN and BFF,

David

P.S. If you have any REM CDs that you're not leaving with HCNs, I'd like them. CUL8R, DS

Readjustment Vocab List

Returning to America after being away for two years is exciting, and people back home are sure to be interested in hearing stories about your adventures in Mauritania. But no one likes to hear those stories filled with words from strange African languages that they can't understand. The *NN* staff has prepared a list of words that you might have trouble remembering and their proper English translations to aid you in your transition to speaking with English-only audiences once more...

Word you're used to:	How we used to say it in English:	Example of proper usage:
disquette	slut	"Look at those sluts at the bar!"
patron	boss, or rich guy	"I'm not rich, you can't charge me that for a taxi!"
chub-chub	bribe, bribe money	"What do you mean, 'He asked for a bribe?'"
		Where does he think we are? Africa?"
mushkila	problem, fuck-up, pain in the ass	"Those kids are a real pain in the ass."
hawlie	things Arabs wrap around their heads	"Them terrorists look all alike with them cloths wrapped around their heads."
boubou/ mulafa	weird African clothes	"No, Mom, I never wore weird African clothes."
ish!/ chi!/ kis!	get out of here, goddammit!	(Hopefully, you won't ever have to shoo chickens or goats out of your house in America)
Rose/Celia/Gloria	milk	"I like milk with my cereal."
aouia	alright	"Alright, who wants tea?"
gendarme	police	"Don't give your passport to the police, just tell them you're a Peace Corps volunteer."
interdit	not allowed	"I can see your knees! That's not allowed!"
brousse wine	moonshine, homebrew	"Well, he was drunk on moonshine when he fell off the roof."
charette	donkey cart	"I'm thinking about trading my old donkey cart in for a newer model soon."
robinet	running water	"Does the studio apartment have running water, or will someone deliver it to the house?"
bureau	office	"Why <i>can't</i> I wear flip-flops to the office?"
goudron	paved road	"It's easy to find my apartment – just turn at the paved road and ask where the PCV lives."
affectedated	posted, assigned	"He was assigned to the NY office last week."
reseau	network, reception	"Dammit, there's no reception on Verizon!"
devis	estimate	"Did you include bribe money in the work estimate for the project?"
sensibilization	training	"Hey, you want to go to the hand-washing training at the YMCA this weekend?"
animation	presentation	"My buddy is doing a presentation on the fecal-oral cycle for his church tomorrow."
facture	bill	"I haven't received an electric bill in four months. I hope they don't cut my electricity."
Alhumdillah	Praise be to God!	"Well, that's another day done at the office, praise be to God!"
Inshallah	Lord willin'	"Alright, I'll see you tomorrow, Lord willin'."
gasa-amerak	fuck you	"Fuck you! Give me my money back!"
taxi brousse	public transport	"Man, I'm not looking forward to that public transport ride to DC this weekend."
douche	bathroom/shower	"Is there a bucket I could use for a shower?"
compound	yard	"Shit! Goats got in my yard and ate everything!"
bye-bye	See you later!	(Don't ever say bye-bye in America)
sy-sy	pervert	"That pervert is staring at my ankles!"
bandit	asshole, rascal	"That guy is a total asshole."
mal-ak?	What's your problem, buddy?	(This is rude and likely to start a fight. Bad idea)
cous cous	shitty food	"Well, we ate shitty food just about every night over there."

*Clicking, throat clearing and grunting should always be avoided unless you are attending a monster truck rally or Nascar event. This means you, Julian.

2006 COS CONFERENCE



Second-year
PCVs practice
networking
skills at the
conference.

