

HEY YOU!

“ເຫດຜູ້”

Published by and for US Peace Corps Volunteers in Thailand

JULY, 1976 VOLUME ONE, NUMBER SIX

STAFF, PCVS MEET AT SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

by mimi gray

June 19 the first in a series of regional Peace Corps meetings was held at the Samila Hotel in Songkla. Twenty-three PCVs, all from the southern region, plus Mick Zenick, Ann Kellaran, Khun Nikorn, Ajaan Surat and Van Nelson of the Peace Corps staff, Khun Pisamai of DTEC and American Consul at Songkla Richard Castrodale attended the day-long meet.

Purposes of the meeting were to improve staff support for volunteer job performance, review and discuss common volunteer issues, Share information on working and living experiences, obtain feedback on staff support, introduce new and old volunteers in the area and to have some fun.

The meeting started at 9:30 Saturday morning with individual sector meetings for one hour. TEFL, DOLA and Wildlife, and Health and Individual Placements met as groups.

At the TEFL meeting summer projects were a major topic. One product of this summer's projects is "26 Steps," one copy of which will be sent by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to the English Dept. head of every TTC in Thailand. It will be up to each department to reproduce their own booklets. Ed Geibel said interested TTC PCVs should check with their department heads about this.

Another fine new product is "Activities for Oral English" by Peggy Whitman, Ed Jilek and Henry Pelifian. Copies are available in the TEFL office. An array of worksheets for the MS 2 reader, "Stories for Everyone" (part of the new comprehensive KMP program) is available for the asking from Nancy Cooke, Satri Phuket School, Phuket.

The suggestion was made to better coordinate the PC and other volunteer groups in summer projects. Making the requirements equal for time to be spent on summer projects was urged.

Silent Way teaching demonstrations also were asked for, preferably in a language other than Thai or English.

L.G. Alexander, of Longman's fame, will be in Thailand in November. PCVs may be interested in meeting him and inviting him to their schools.

The proposal was made that the TEFL office start a "stencil bank" at the Bangkok office. The main object would be to save PCVs a lot of time cutting their own stencils (especially when they are copying materials already printed by the PC office).

The Health and IP volunteers discussed the level of work done by their counterparts and how it affects their jobs. Salary levels (continued on page 6)

ADVISORY COUNCIL
ELECTIONS NEAR
The Advisory Council Thailand (ACT) is a group of PCVs elected by PCVs for the purpose of improving inter-volunteer and staff-volunteer communication (see constitution, page 2).

ACT recently mailed each PCV a letter and postcard. If you are interested in running for an ACT post, mail in the postcard, or write a letter c/o PC Bangkok. (Editorial, page 4).

ACT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Advisory Council, Thailand, hereinafter called ACT.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The ACT will keep US Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and Trainees (PCTs) informed on PC/Thailand staff, PC/Washington and other US and Thai government agency and legislative proposals or decisions which affect PCVs and PCTs.

ACT will publish a newsletter at least once a month which will be distributed free to all PCVs, PCTs and PC/Thailand staff.

ACT will act as a liaison and troubleshooting agency between PCVs, PCTs and the PC/Thailand administration. PCVs and PCTs with problems affecting other PCVs and PCTs may bring the problem to the attention of ACT. PC/Thailand staff may use ACT to bring problems to light which PCV and PCT cooperation with staff might solve.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

PCVs and PCTs elected as members of ACT are hereinafter called members.

There will be 15 PCVs and PCTs who are voting members. All PCVs and PCTs will be eligible to vote. All PCVs and PCTs will be eligible to run for election.

The director of PC/Thailand or his representative will be a non-voting (ex-officio) member.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Ten members will be elected by region, five members elected at-large. The members of ACT will determine the districts and their constituents prior to each election so as to keep the membership as representative of PCVs and PCTs in-country as possible.

Elections will be held annually. A candidate may run no matter when his Close of Service date (COS) is. Upon termination, the PCV or PCT loses his membership, and a special election will be held to replace that member. All elections will be by majority vote of those voting in the election.

Any PCV or PCT may run for membership in ACT. Candidates may announce their candidacy themselves. ACT will inform all PCVs and PCTs of the upcoming election through its newsletter, at least a month before the deadline for nominations. The exact date of the election will be determined by the ACT at its first meeting of every calendar year.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

ACT shall meet at least four times every year, at a place to be determined by ACT.

Subject to approval of the PC/Thailand director, all elected ACT members or their proxies will receive round trip travel expenses from their work site to the meeting site, plus one day's per diem. Since the only available funding is from Peace Corps, ACT is dependent on PC for such expenses. This should NOT imply censorship authority on the part of the Peace Corps. This also does not preclude the possibility of ACT obtaining such funds from other legitimate sources, such as sale of advertising in the newsletter.

All PCVs, PCTs, staff members and Thai government representatives are welcome to attend all meetings. Executive sessions are diametrically opposed to the purposes of ACT, and shall not be held. If the officers of ACT wish to meet for official business, their meeting will be open to all who can attend a regular ACT meeting, and voting members will

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(ACT CONSTITUTION, continued from page 2)

be allowed to vote on any issues raised at such a meeting.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

ACT members shall elect their own Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Staff-ACT Liaison and Newsletter Editor. The composition of officers may be varied at the discretion of the membership, and posts may be combined, or added, or deleted by majority vote of the ACT.

ARTICLE VII. NEWSLETTER

The newsletter shall be published once a month and distributed free to all PCVs, PCTs and PC/Thailand staff. It will also be available to anyone else requesting a copy. An exchange between other PC countries and Thailand volunteer organizations with a newsletter shall be started.

THERE SHALL BE NO CENSORSHIP OF THE NEWSLETTER. All contents will be at the discretion of the editor. The editor will be answerable to the ACT only. The editor shall adhere to the laws of the Kingdom of Thailand as pertains to publications.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by 2/3 vote of the ACT. Constituents who wish to propose an amendment may do so in writing through either their district representative or any at-large member, or the constituent may propose the amendment at any regular ACT meeting.

Submitted 22 May 1976 by Howard Stateman, Chm., Volunteer Organization. Amended and approved in the above form 22 May 1976 by Volunteer Organization membership.

CALENDAR

The Peace Corps office will be closed the following days:

Mon. 5 July: Independence Day
Mon. 12 July: Buddhist Lent
Thur. 12 August: HM Queen's B'day

Note: There are no holiday closures between 12 August and 23 October.

JOKE CORNER

Bicentennial jokes

George Washington left a tooth under his pillow. The Tooth Fairy left him a wooden nickel.

George Washington once threw his timepiece across the Potomac to see how time flies.

Was the minuteman's favorite drink really musket-tell?

Funny joke

Stalin's grave is a Communist plot.

UNCLASSIFIEDS

I was recently ripped off and am consequently looking to buy a cassette tape player, preferably with radio, and an SLR Pentax camera (or possibly other good brand.)

Please write to :

Joe Ball
Yala Teachers Coll.
Yala

(I will be in Bangkok the first week in August and can exchange money for goods then.

Peanut Butter Machine, ₦600
Converter (separate), ₦240
Panasonic cassette 'corder, ₦800
Nikkormat FTn 1.4 with Vivitar zoom lens, Nikon handbook, Kodak guide to tropical photography, tripod, 2x teleconverter: ₦6400

Contact:

Bob Davis
Bang Pa In Hospital
Bang Pa In, Auytthaya

1972 HONDA, 325cc C.B., newly overhauled, new pistons, new rings, valves newly sealed, cycle in good condition. Asking ₦8000

Contact:

Greg Floyd
Lampang Ag. School
Amphur Muang, Lampang
Box 19

EDITORIAL

We have been all over Thailand, and have visited volunteers in almost every program, both at their work sites and at their homes, and there's one thing we can count on happening when two or more PCVs get together: They'll bitch a lot.

They'll bitch about their job, their counterparts, their house, the transportation problem, the living allowance, the housing allowance, the readjustment allowance, the Peace Corps staff-- you name it.

A lot of it doesn't mean a thing. A lot of it is because, when you haven't known a person too long, and you know you won't see him again after your two years is through, there isn't much else to talk about.

But behind some of that bitching there are things to be done. Problems to be solved.

The reason ACT is calling for people to nominate themselves as candidates for election is we are interested in having a group of PCVs who are interesting in giving their fellow PCVs less to bitch about.

The volunteers' organization, now called ACT, hasn't been very representative. Nevertheless, when we bitched, the Peace Corps staff perked up its ears. After a year in existence, the Bangkok staff has come to recognize us as the PCVs who are interested in improving things for PCVs. The rapport is already there. The doors are already open.

Now we need a representative group which can improve on what the original group has done.

At first, there was such a devastating lack of interest in a PCV's organization that the group voted to be a service organization and not an advisory council. Out of 15 members, about half attended the quarterly meetings. A couple were too far away to come to Bangkok, but most just didn't see what the group could do for them.

But after our first meetings, with Mick and the staff taking part, we found ourselves being listened to as if we were a representative group.

So now we're holding elections. But instead of asking your friends to nominate you, we're asking you to step forward and say you are interested. We're asking you to put your bitching where it will do the most good.

And supposing you don't get elected? That doesn't mean you can't write in your complaints to the Council. Okay, so you don't need the anonymity of filtering your ideas through a committee. You can still write direct to the staff.

ACT isn't a Union. There are no dues. No one is going to tell you how to run your life. PCVs are pretty independent people. We don't need that. But for problems which are more than just individual ones, we should also be mature enough to recognize that one voice in the wilderness isn't going to be as effective as a chorus.

If you're interested in DOING something, run for ACT. If you don't have time for that, at least vote, and when the council is elected, use it. Use this newsletter, too. Anything submitted in English, short of porno and lese majeste (Thai laws won't let us print these) will be printed.

Communication between PCVs is the primary goal of this newsletter. But neither it, nor ACT can work without your help.

WHERE YOU GOby T.O. BoyA TRAIN TRIP

Well, it's durian season again. Most of you know what durian smells like. For those of you that don't, one of the fastest ways to find out is to take a train trip, third class. Almost anywhere you go in Thailand, you will find people from somewhere else buying durian to take home. For some reason, everyone seems to think that The Best durian comes from somewhere other than home. And to get it home, they either put it on top of the bus, or under their train seat.

To say the least, durian has a strong odor. It is a fruit which looks like an oversized green medieval weapon. You know, the one with the spikes sticking out all the way around it. If the odor doesn't get you, the spikes will.

People who carry durian on the train often also carry ngaw--that sweet fruit that looks like a hairy red egg, and is sometimes called rambutan. I've found that the person next to me will often offer me some ngaw, but never his durian. Trying to eat ngaw while smelling durian is an interesting experiment.

Trains South

Trains going south from Bangkok start out by going due west. My maps show train tracks from Bangkok to Amphawa, just north of Samut Songkram, but they don't seem to connect with Phetchaburi, only a few kms farther south. So right now, the trains leave Bangkok, go west to Nakorn Pathom, and then southeast to Ratchaburi and Petchaburi. So if you are going south from Bangkok or Points North or Northeast, take a bus from Bangkok to Petchaburi, then get on the train. Saves between two to six hours, depending on the train (and the bus).

Trains North

Topburi, Pitsanuloke, Lampang, and Chiang Mai are the major pit stops, with Nakorn Sawan a sometime favorite. One thing about all the trains is, know where you are going and what major cities you will be passing through BEFORE you buy your ticket. Often it is faster to take a local train to, say, Pitsanuloke, then wait an hour and catch the Pits-Chiang Mai shuttle than to take a straight through train. And it's usually faster to get off the train in Nakorn Sawan and take a bus the rest

of the way to Chiang Mai. An interesting stop is the one just north of Nakorn Sawan-- here lots of old steam engines are in mothballs. On a nice day you can get off here and take a boat across the river-- just above where it becomes the Chao Phraya-- to Nakorn Sawan.

GOING NORTHEAST

One of the most beautiful trips on a Thai train is the express from Bangkok to Khon Kaen. Take the one which bypasses Korat and goes through Chai Badan, Bamnet Naron and rejoins the main spur at Bua Yai. This trip takes the train onto a mountainside, giving the traveler a spectacular view of the flatlands of Changwats Chayaphum and Korat.

The Nong Khai train used to go through into Laos, and might again some day soon. The train to Ubon doesn't reach the border, but the one to Aranyaprathet does, and may take passengers to Cambodia soon, now that relations are getting more friendly.

We were planning on listing prices but the SRT announced it is coming out with a new fare schedule. So keep an eye on your local papers for new (lower!!!) rates.

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SAWASDI, TOM

Tom Frisbie, a PCV who has been a veritable fixture in the TEFL office, is leaving Thailand.

Kathy Judd has taken his place.

Tom served in Trang for 3 years before becoming a Volunteer in the TEFL office at PC/Bangkok. He helped train incoming TEFL volunteers, made site checks, and acted generally as a Tom-of-all-trades.

...southern conference (from pg. 1)

of volunteers as opposed to that of their counterparts also was discussed. It seems that while some IPs and health volunteers are paid at or above the level of their Thai counterparts, sometimes a PCV finds himself at a very high-paid institute where it is hard for him to cope with the social life his Thai counterparts expect him to join in on.

The fact that Thais are very good at doing jobs which have to be done over and over again (such as routine lab tests) and that sometimes the PCV's urge to innovate isn't needed was also noted.

The suggestion was made that PCVs not be assigned to large hospitals or institutes where the Thais already have the skills needed.

One volunteer suggested there is a vicious circle involved with placing volunteers. The large, rich, powerful institutions seem to get the PCVs as window dressing, while the places which cannot afford to pay for good Thai or farang help also haven't the pull to get a PCV.

After the group meetings, Howard Stateman led a discussion on ACT, the volunteer council. He outlined the constitution and the upcoming elections. Out of 23 PCVs, about 6 said they thought they might run for places on the council.

Mick arrived and addressed some of his remarks to his own question: "What are we doing here?" at the regional meeting.

The main goal was improved communication. As for the effect of the regional meetings on ACT, Mick said the regional meetings arose in part out of the ACT's effectiveness as a communications line, and the regional meetings should help ACT keep in touch with the people it represents by virtue of getting them in the same place at the same time.

Mick listed some changes in PC/Thailand during his 'regime.'

-Changes in Training: During training there is now more discussion on what PC means, particularly stressing it is more important than just a job. Family live-in is being made a higher priority. There is no longer the philosophy of "if you can survive training, you can survive anything."

--Changes in PC/T: People aren't showing up here or at staging expecting a "cushy" time (hamburgers and American beer at the Chao Phraya) in Thailand. In-country, there has been a re-organization of staff responsibility and a tougher policy on reimbursements. Expenses and Per Diem are now paid only for medical and legitimate PC business. There also now is an American staffer on duty every Saturday, on a rotating schedule. The TEFL office has some Saturdays closed. Check before you plan a trip there. Appointments are good to make no matter who you plan to see in the office.

--Changes in programs: Attempts have been made to eliminate ineffective programs and placements and to check sites rather than working only through Bangkok officials. More emphasis in the health field is being placed on rural programs. In teaching placements, more concern is being shown in seeking the most effective positions.

After lunch the outgoing (gone already) US Consul to Songkla, Richard Castrodale, spoke. He listed some of the services he can perform, which include notary public services, validating birth certificates for children born here (for purposes of US citizenship), performing marriages, voting guide material, registration forms for absentee ballots and visa services. The consulate in Songkla also is the USIS office, where books may be checked out, films and videotapes too. There is also a small paperback swap library there.

The consulates in Chiang Mai and Udon perform similar services.

After a short break, Howard Stateman presented a slide-tape show on Thailand and Peace Corps which he put together during the summer. It will be shown at staging for future Peace Corps groups. Group 57 is expected in August.

Mick, during his talk, answered many PCV questions. On motorcycle policy he said training was not meant to encourage the use of motorcycles. No, volunteers who do not own cycles cannot get free helmets. Nothing new on the GTR issue. Likewise the raise in readjustment.

Peace Corps provided a hotel room for 2 nights, plus one meal (dinner Saturday night). Round-trip fare was reimbursed at the meeting. Similar meetings are planned this year for all regions and will continue as long as funds and interest hold out.

more UNCLASSIFIEDS

About 15 assorted tapes from America. \$40, 45 and 50 each. Arlene Schwalben, Srinakarinwirot U., Bang Kaen, Bangkok.

Tuesday, July 6, 8 pm, Niel Mulder author of the book "Monks, Merit and Motivation in Thailand," will give a talk on Thai Buddhism: Modernization and Religious Development at the Siam Society, Soi Asoke (Soi 21 Sukumvit Rd.) Bangkok.

HONDA 300cc (CB77) for sale. Good

times Bangkok-Chiangmai), engine in good condition. \$8000. Call Mike Miles, Bangkok, home: 2525324 work: 2820763.

HELP! Anyone who knows where I can get some tapes of squaredance music AND instructions (a book, maybe?) on how to square dance, please let me know.

Jenni Upton, Suansri Wittaya School Amphur Langsuan, Chumphon.

Mimi Gray, Joanie O'Donnell and Jenni Upton are trying to individualize their classrooms. A big workload is writing up individual grammar packets. We have them for MS 3-5. Mike's work last year. Is anyone interested in doing this for MS 1 and 2? Dividing the work of writing individualized grammar sheets. Any ideas for group work--special things--activities in the classroom, please send so we can share. Jenni Upton, Suansri Wittaya School, Amphur Langsuan, Chumphon.

Unclassifieds deadline for August issue is July 24. Mail to Hey You c/o US Peace Corps, Bangkok.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: BROWNIES

Brownies can be baked at 300°, 325°, 350° or even 425°. The thing to be careful about is to avoid over-baking. Brownies should be moist and chewy.

Grease your pan well with solid margarine. Use an 8x8 or 9x9 or round pan. Put in a double boiler top or a saucepan large enough to use as a mixing bowl:

2 oz. unsweetened Baker's chocolate* (not a candy bar)

1/2 cup butter or margarine

Stir over hot water or LOW heat until melted. Remove from heat.

Stir in:

1 cup sugar

2 unbeaten eggs

1/8 teas. salt (Thai salt is weak-tasting, so you can use more)

1/2 cup flour

1 teas. vanilla

1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Spread in the pan. Bake until dry on top and almost firm to the touch. (30-35 min). Cool. Cut in squares. Or any shape, really. Trapazoids?

* If unsweetened chocolate isn't available, try this:

1 square of chocolate (1 oz.) =

3 tablespoons cocoa powder +

1 tablespoon margarine or

shortening. Use the unsweetened cocoa powder, not instant cocoa.

submitted by Mimi Gray from a famous American recipe

JOKE CORONER

*How is a PCV like a Railroad crate?

both are terminal cases

*Why was the gravedigger upset? he just couldn't get into his work

Thought for the month: Nothing is foolproof.

Fools are too ingenious

Staff Notes

Readjustment Allowance Raise!

After months of rumors and speculation the increase of the Readjustment Allowance to \$125 per month has been approved by the President. The increase is retroactive to April 1, 1976 and affects all PCVs serving after March 31, 1976. Congratulations!

Mick Zenick and family left Bangkok for home leave on July 8. Combining leave with Peace Corps Washington consultation and a Country Directors' Conference, Mick expects to return around August 29.

Tom Frisbie's Replacement

Kathy Judd, Thai 47, is Tom Frisbie's replacement in the TEFL office. Like Tom, she is assigned to the MOE's General Education Department to give technical assistance to the Secondary School TEFL PCVs. Consequently, when she visits schools she is as much a representative of the MOE as she is a fellow PCV.

Kathy's parents were missionaries in Thailand for many years, working mainly in agricultural development. Although she was born in Bangkok, her first 15 years were spent in Nan, Lampang, and Chiengmai, with infrequent trips back to the States. She wore a little red-and-white uniform to a Thai kindergarten and first grade, then switched to a boarding school in Chiengmai, and eventually attended the same high school (Woodstock) in India that David Bunce and Dudley Younkin did. After college in the States Kathy returned to Thailand, where she "field-enrolled" in Peace Corps and served two years as a TEFL PCV in a secondary school in Fang.

This year the Judd family is somewhat reunited in Asia. Dr. Judd is on sabbatical in Chiengmai, and Mrs. Judd is a dorm supervisor/house parent at Woodstock, where Kathy's younger brother Steven is going to school.

PCVs terminating in June:

Thomas A. Frisbie (G. 30), TEFL/Sec
Kristine Moeller (G. 56), TEFL/TC
Nancy Napravnik (G. 51), TEFL/H.Ed
Mark Pollard (G. 43), TEFL/H.Ed
Theodore Slade (G. 34), TEFL/H.Ed
Chris Stillman (G. 49), TEFL/Voc Ed
Vivian Woodyard (G. 51), TEFL/H.Ed

August Training Program

Thai 57 will soon be arriving in Thailand. Trainees are expected for the DOLA, DLD, AG/Teachers'College, Forestry, TEFL/TC, and Med. Tech. programs. The trainees will stage in San Francisco and arrive in Bangkok at 12:15 on August 10th. The first phase of training will be in Amphoe Muang, Changwat Singburi. Former PCV Rob Flair will be Project Director. Any PCVs with input suggestion for the training program are encouraged to contact Van Nelson, Training Officer, PC/Bangkok.
