Volunteer Beverly Fogg Heegaard, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, teaches art, English and home economics in Nepal. Here she fords a river with her bike on the way to school. As usual, she got her feet wet.

Scholarships Available, Too

Returned Volunteers Flooded With Offers

When the first wave of Peace Corps Volunteers was channeled into several developing countries in 1961, service in the Corps was a risky business.

There was no assurance that a two-year stint in the Peace Corps would be anything but a liability to one’s career. The organization was operating as a temporary agency under an executive order. Many Congressmen were skeptical about the program, thinking that it might become a haven for wild-eyed extremists and draft-dodgers.

Last year when the first Peace Corps Volunteers returned to the United States, their gamble paid off. Job offers as well as grant and fellowship opportunities poured in. Major industries made it clear that they want returning Peace Corps Volunteers to consider the business world before formulating plans for their life’s work.

Reaction to the Peace Corps was almost universally favorable. The administration was pleased, members of Congress pledged full support and educators shouted praise.

John Moreno, dean of Harvard College, said that “two years with the Peace Corps today can be as significant as a Rhodes Scholarship.”

The President of IBM said it was clear to him “that members of the Peace Corps will be particularly employable when they complete their tours of duty. They will have demonstrated their ability to take on tough jobs under extremely difficult circumstances and to follow them through to their completion. There are never enough people of this kind available in any enterprise.”

The response to Peace Corps Volunteers, according to Dr. Robert Calvert, director of the Career Information Services, “has been excellent. Colleges and business firms have been enthusiastic.”

Over 40 colleges have earmarked 200 scholarships and fellowships for returning Volunteers. Social welfare agencies, youth organizations and service projects have extended.

Corps Seeks June Grads
But Myths Still Persist

“We have 75 different programs scheduled to begin right after graduation,” he said. “The slots for the 3,000 Volunteers returning this year will have to be refilled in addition to the 3,000 new jobs being created. All we have to do is get people to apply.”

The biggest problem, according to Pagano, is dispelling some of the myths that have grown up about what the Corps looks for in Volunteers.

“We too many students think that all we need are people who know how to drive tractors, grow rice or prune grapes. This is false. Liberal arts graduates, no matter what their major, are constantly needed.

“It’s the liberal arts graduate,” he said, “who fills the bulk of teaching assignments and who will be needed to help fill the backlog of requests for educational assistance in Latin America and other areas. Many of our community development workers are graduates with liberal arts backgrounds.

“The weird part about it,” said Pagano, “is the fantastic opportunities being offered to some of the Volunteers overseas. Volunteers with only bachelors’ degrees are being assigned as university faculty members. The demand for anybody who can teach the English language is terrific. Where do you pick up a team of college teachers in a month which previously requested mostly community development workers?

Another misconception held by many college students is that an applicant must be proficient in a foreign language.

“Many overseas assignments require only a limited degree of fluency to Pagano. “In some countries, English is the official language and much of the teaching is done in English.”

If a foreign language is needed, the Volunteer will teach it to the Volunteer. “It is pretty ridiculous to expect the normal college student to learn a foreign language in a month,” Pagano said.

(Continued on page 2)

The Editors

This special Peace Corps college supplement—distributed by the nation’s college newspapers to nearly a million college students—was written and edited for the Peace Corps by four college editors.

The four who spent a week at the Peace Corps Washington headquarters preparing this supplement were:

Tom DeVries, editor emeritus of the Roosevelt Torch (Roosevelt University, Chicago); Everett Denn, editor of the Oregon Daily Emerald (University of Oregon); Tim Doogeas, editor of the U-M News (Boston University); and Dave McNeely, editor of the Daily Texan (University of Texas).

The supplement, a Peace Corps publication, is being distributed to college newspapers in cooperation with the newspapers, the U.S. Student Press Association and the Associated Collegiate Press.
Origins of the Peace Corps

Idea First Proposed To Michigan Students

It was just past midnight on a chilly October morning in 1960 when the young Senator from Massachusetts mounted the steps of the Michigan Union in Ann Arbor and asked a group of University of Michigan students if they were willing to go overseas to help their country.

"There was a hush," one observer said, "and the mood of the crowd seemed to change.

Senator Reuss's legislation — called the Peace Corps Act of 1960 — was introduced on December 15, 1959. Reuss said he got the idea in 1957 during an inspection of the United States foreign aid effort in Cambodia.

Where did the idea come from? Since the Peace Corps is now so successful, many people have claimed credit for originating the idea, and many can be given credit.

The first legislation in the area was introduced by Congressman Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.) in January, 1960. Reuss says he got the idea in 1957 during an inspection of the United States foreign aid effort in Cambodia.

Among those who influenced Senator Kennedy in the development of the Peace Corps program besides Ruess, Neuberger, Humphrey, and the Chase-Manhattan Bank is the University of Kansas are offering special grants and fellowships exclusively for returning Volunteers.

The Corps has provided Volunteers with intensive language training in more than 40 foreign tongues.

No Guarantee, But... Volunteers Unlikely Draft Candidates

"We can't guarantee anything," one Peace Corps recruiter said. "But when the corps is operating, it is true that the corps will have to start worrying about the draft."

The Peace Corps recruiting center at Hollywood, Florida, is now taking plans to serve...
Volunteers Encourage Cooperative Effort

The Peace Corps Volunteer is usually pictured with dirt under his fingernails, digging in the mud to help the lowly pecan plant his crop. Actually, a large percentage of the Volunteers are involved in initiating a cooperative effort between people in areas where working together was unheard of before.

Community development, as this process is called, takes place in both villages and urban areas. It involves three steps:

First, the Volunteer must get to know the people and be accepted by them. This is described by Vol-

teeers as one of their toughest problems because it is a relatively inactive period and they are unable to see any tangible effects from their efforts. They may get to know the people by talking to them in cafes, meeting with them on the street or helping them in small chores.

The second phase consists of organizing the community to hold meetings at which local problems are presented. This stage is also difficult. It may take many sessions before the Volunteer can get an orderly meeting.

In the third and final stage, the Volunteer starts mobilizing the community to work on its de-

fined problem. In many foreign countries, people are articulate and thorough planners, but sometimes become bored by the things they have to do. Peace Corps Director Bob Gale said, "Our greatest enemy is the elaborate plan." The idea becomes the task. The Volunteer, the task. What is really needed. We in the United States are a country of doers. The Peace Corps is designed for people who are able to do other things too—like planning and speaking and teaching and planting and growing crops. Actually, a large percentage of Peace Corpsmen are involved in small chores.

Students Assist Campus Liaisons

There are more than 500 student Peace Corps committees working with college liaison officers. Some of the largest Peace Corps committees are at the Universities of Cali-

fornia, Kansas, Purdue, Oregon, Minnesota and New Hampshire.

The University of California Peace Corps Committee keeps the office open throughout the day to handle applications from prospective Volunteers.

Bob Gale, director of Peace Corps recruiting, said, "The active work being done by the California committees, and the fact that they are able to keep the office open throughout the day is undoubtedly one of the major reasons for the large number of Volunteers that come from California."

Other committees are presenting Peace Corps programs to local clubs, showing Peace Corps films and coordinating trips from Peace Corps personnel to the campus.

Students who are interested in setting up Peace Corps committees on their campus should write Bob Gale, Peace Corps, Washington, D.C.

Cooperative Venture for Stability

Peace Corps Stays In spite of Trouble

From Panama City a worried Peace Corps field representative sent telegram to the 57 Volunteers in the country asking if they were all right. And from Santa Fe, 150 miles away, came the laconic reply: "I'm fine, thanks. And you?"

The answer is one detail in a story that is beginning to be stand-

ard in the Peace Corps: the Volunteer is rarely a victim of the daily diplomatic crisis; he can expect to continue his work virtually unhin-

dered.

In the Panama crisis, six Volunteers were away from their sites when trouble erupted: They were out on Peace Corps projects in other areas—60 in Lima alone. Signif-

icant number of Volunteers are also assigned to cities in Venezuela and Chile.

In Bolivia, there are Peace Corps Volunteers in villages, but a recent project sent Volunteers to a secondary school in a large town.

In the Dominican Republic, an army-sponsored coup overturned a democratic government and caused the suspension of diplomatic rela-

tions, but the Volunteers stayed on.

In the Panamanian Republic, an army-sponsored coup overturned a democratic government and caused the suspension of diplomatic rela-

tions, but the Volunteers stayed on. In many villages, Peace Corpsmen say, the Volunteer is the only American anyone has ever seen and the news of a break in diplo-

matic relations matters to them not at all.

In Indonesia, the story is less dramatic but as impressive. The 30 Volunteers there arrived in two groups six months apart. The first group was met by anti-American demonstrations and the second wel-

comed by government officials.

The Peace Corps field representative in Indonesia, David Burgess, has talked to students in several universities. There, the newspapers launched a vicious attack on the Peace Corps and three Vol-

unteer coaches.

While the editorial attacks con-

tinued—saying that Volunteers had been ejected from many countries and that they receive military and espionage training—the three coaches led the Medan city basket-

ball team to the national champion-

ship and the swimming team set an

Asian record.

Leove Sanchez, Peace Corps desk officer for Central America, explains why the Volunteer is such a successful diplomat. "He has been identified with the local com-

munity," he says. "To the people he is first a member of the community and a friend, and second an American."

He is the handsome American.

Peoples rape, Peruvians, there came the thought of a new approach to getting the people in the area to help farmers. The approach was to rent a bulldozer and start a cooperative vegetable-growing en-

terprise. In the project, the farmer owns his pigs and he gets a loan, and one was given to the cooperative.

In Spite of Trouble

In Bolivia, there are Peace Corps Volunteers in villages, but a recent project sent Volunteers to a secondary school in a large town. Some 30 Peace Corpsmen are teaching there in 1964 and another 25 Volunteers are work-

ing in Enugu, a city of 42,000 in Nigeria.

Five hundred miles away in Libera, 89 of the country's 300 Volunteers are working. This stage is also difficult. Nearly half of the Volunteers in Peru are in ur-

ban areas—60 in Lima alone. Signif-

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ing in Enugu, a city of 42,000 in Nigeria.
The Volunteer’s Motive-To Be A Do’er

No one who knew him at the University of California had any doubts about Bob Stillwell’s future. This blond Informal warned pretty well laid out. A degree in political science and a handful of applications to Ivy League schools seemed to chart a promising future. But that was a year ago. Today the tall, blond Bob is not reading law at Harvard or Yale—he’s teaching English to children in Nepal.

BobStillwellisacompositeofthousandsofyoungAmericanwhowantthe“real world” rather than remain detached observers. There is no real Bob Stillwell. He is a composite of the eight volunteers to Tanganyika last September and other volunteers with similar backgrounds and desires. He wants to help develop the countries where he will live. He wants to learn about the culture in depth. He wants to travel and to combine adventure with education. He wantsto broaden their Perspectives in a mature fashion. They want to challenge their strengths and ingenuity. And they were in the chorus that answered President Kennedy.

Other Countries Begin Peace Corps Program

The United States is not the only country to train and place volunteers in the social and economic development of countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The 13 nacionallvolunteer programs underway include Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States, and Great Britain.

New Call For Secretaries

The Peace Corps needs 100 experienced secretaries to serve as Volunteers in overseas Peace Corps projects, chief secretaries and office managers. A director and subordinate staff mark the headquarters of the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., and are responsible for planning, organizing and directing Peace Corps programs. In their assignments, the secretaries will have contact with high-ranking host government and U.S. officials.

For further information, complete this form and mail to:

PEACE CORPS,
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20525

Mr. Mrs. Miss. Date

Address

College or University

Level at present time (circle one): 1 2 3 4 Grad. Degree

Major

Major field of experience outside of school: (Jobs, Farm background, hobbies, etc.)

Date you could enter training.

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PEACE CORPS NEWS

SPRING, 1964

Over My Dead Body

Pacifying Parents Poses Recruiting Problem

"Over my dead body!" That was the reaction of one parent when his daughter expressed a desire to join the Peace Corps. Disturbing fears and misconceptions of parents such as this is providing a new communications challenge for the Peace Corps staff. The Peace Corps staff is giving increased attention to the need to keep parents informed of the Corps’ operations and objectives as well as providing them with an awareness of the specific conditions which their sons and daughters can expect in the field once they become Volunteers.

"Objections from parents cause some Volunteers considerable psychological strain and in some cases may even keep potentially good Volunteers out of the Corps," according to Dr. Joseph Colmen, Peace Corps research director.

"Many parents," Colmen says, "are not aware that the Peace Corps can be a positive factor in a person’s total development. In their minds, two years in the field is an unnecessary interruption of the student’s career."

Colmen believes that there is an element of anxiety about the unknown-some parents don’t quite understand why their son or daughter would want to spend two years of his or her life in a developing country. This kind of isolation provides an unhealthy environment, for both physical and mental health, some parents believe.

Many parents’ initial responses to the Peace Corps spring from a reservoir of misinformation which inevitably includes the mud hut image. As one Peace Corps official put it, "the parent sees his young daughter in some remote village, fighting exotic tropical diseases, isolated from civilization, hungry, tired and scared."

A special message to parents has been prepared to dispel many of the misconceptions about the Corps. The message makes it clear:

• That Volunteers are not placed in work sites where the health hazards are so great that real dangers are posed;
• That living conditions are modest, but adequate, and not often sub-standard at all times;
• That Volunteers are never alone; a member of the Corps is always close by;
• That Volunteers are not in any country where there is a record of instability poses an apparent danger, and that if the need should arise an emergency evacuation is available in every country;
• That the Corps offers low cost for a range of educational development advantages and is an asset, not a liability, to an individual’s career;
• That parents’ awareness in no way underrates recognition of the Volunteer as a mature and independent individual.

The message to parents is given to each potential Volunteer after he makes the initial application. It is up to the student whether he wants to give it to his parents—he may just as well answer questions and clear up doubts in his parents’ minds.

Men like Dr. Colmen and his colleagues at the Peace Corps believe that by providing full information to parents a new spirit of cooperation and understanding will result among those involved both directly and indirectly in the Peace Corps.