

HEY YOU

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HEY YOU is a monthly (erratic) publication of the Advisory Council Thailand (ACT), U.S. Peace Corps. The views expressed herein in no way reflect the policy of the Peace Corps Bangkok staff nor do they adequately express the views of the majority of the volunteers in Thailand. But we try.

Due to the poor quality of the stencils used for the last issue of HEY YOU, many of the articles were unreadable. Therefore, bowing to public furor, some of these articles are re-printed this month. Upon perusal of this copy of HEY YOU, the discerning reader will note at once the lack of scintillating material. HEY YOU is meant to be a vehicle for open communication among volunteers, without in-put, it falls flat. Ideas and articles for the next issue can be sent to Mary Claire Peceny, Satri Nonthaburi School, Nonthaburi. This month's procrastinating editor accepts her full share of the blame as well. Mea culpa and Merry Christmas.

— A PASSAGE FOR HOWARD —

Due to Howard Stateman's brilliant acquisition and employment of resources, the ballot news letter was arranged, typed and mailed from his site in Hat Yai. His services were paramount to getting the ballots and newsletters out when they did. Had it not been for him, this election, and perhaps even the council might now be defunct. Now that he has stepped down as Chairman, his memory and stencils remain. Howard has kept a constant fire burning in the main engine of this council. Had it not been for his unyielding perseverance and determination, the Peace Corps Advisory Council Thailand would not be what it is.

For 5 consecutive months, he assumed the task of compiling the newsletter and mailing it out, amazingly, on schedule. In addition to this, he maintained a broad spectrum of correspondence with various Peace Corps organizations concerning the problems we face and answers we seek. He also pioneered the idea of an Inter-volunteer Co-ordinating Committee, which has recently materialized.

Dedication of this kind can not go unnoticed. brother Howard be aware, we recognize, we appreciate we thank you.

David Jackson
Chairman of ACT

Doonesbury - Gary Trudeau

Governor -
We all think
you've done
a marvelous
job coping
with the
latest natural
disasters

Well, it's been no
picnic. You have
no idea what
the emergency
relief bureaucracy
is like!

Nancy Cooke

I must have spent
a week pleading with
those morons in
Washington before
they'd send me as
much as a barmaid!
Every last agency
in town's all tied up
with local disasters!

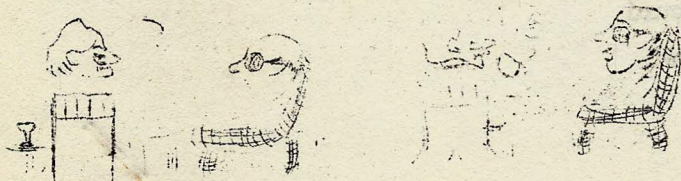


Did you
try the
Peace Corps?

Sure. I
cabled them
several
times.

And?

They sent
me a
dozen
math
teachers.



-2-

The Inter-Volunteer Co-ordinating Committee

One of the products of the recent Volunteer Seminar in Chainat was the formation of an Inter-Volunteer co-ordinating Committee. This has been a desire of ACT for some time now and we're glad to see it finally materialize. The Committee consists of 4 foreign and 4 Thai volunteers. The foreign contingent is composed of one representative from Peace Corps, CUSO, VSO and GVS. The Thais represent the various programs of their center.

The purpose of the committee is (1) to serve as a body for co-ordinating joint volunteer group projects where possible (2) to collect, distribute and increase information between volunteer organizations and volunteers in general and (3) to serve as a forum for possibly assisting volunteers with problems that mutually or non-mutually affect our organizations and ourselves.

The first meeting was held on Oct. 5, 1976 after the conclusion of the Chainat seminar. In this meeting we decided to arrange an all-volunteer directory listing names, programs and job sites of all volunteers in Thailand, Thai and foreign. In addition to this, we agreed to have an organizational meeting on December 18-19 (or thereabouts) in Chainat at the Thai Rural Reconstruction Center. The agenda will cover: the arranging of a suitable format to promote and maintain inter-organization communication such as, newsletter exchanges, joint projects, activities, thiaws etc., a schedule for the coming year and delegation of duties and tasks.

Needless to say, we all know the recent revolution at Thammasat University has considerably altered the domestic policy of this country. Undoubtedly this will also have an effect on the university and it's programs. The Thai Graduate Volunteer Program, I assume, is no exception. To this date there has been no follow up from the Thammasat volunteers and I don't expect any until the campus re-opens. Should the change in policy be so comprehensive as to terminate the Thai volunteer program, the IVCC will continue without them. However, they will be admitted if their program resumes.

We are maintaining correspondence with all organizations involved, to promote the IVCC idea. It is possible the December 18-19 meeting will be postponed. Any comments suggestions or proposals that you would like considered please feel free to write.

IVCC members

Peace Corps	David Jackson	Tak
CUSO	Greg McConnell	Bangkok
VSO	Andrew Young	Nakhon Sawan
GVS	Harry Nordmann	Sakhon-nakhon
TVGC	Nimitr Satyataam	Tak
	Deck Ratchawong	Chainat
	Nipon Kulaan	Ratchburi
	Charin Boonmathaya	Bangkok

David Jackson
Land Development Center
Amphur Muang
Tak

*****REPRINT*****

29 October 1976

AIT TEFL Conference

Dear HEY YOU:

Patti's "yin and yang" comments of last month were interesting. I remember well the letter by Mr. Storti. And, I suspect anyone who more than glanced over it will remember. Why? Perhaps it struck a little too close to home for comfort. Everyone has thought of "conditional volunteerism" as described by Mr. Storti at one time or another. It is these feelings which Storti's letter played on. The letter still has a little edge left to it, it was very cleverly written. Criticism of a group which a person belongs to will naturally raise a little color.

Storti's letter points a finger at every PCV (and I wonder if not at the staff too). He asks if the volunteers are in PC for what they can get out of it, or for what they have to offer. He is indirectly asking if each PCV is living up to his responsibilities, to his commitment. Remember the oath we all made? There is actually no question of whether volunteers today are less dedicated, if job descriptions are outdated, or if anyone is listening. Storti asks if you are doing your job.

Respectfully,

Doyle Damman

PCV

Khao Soi Daow Wildlife Center

Apples

Anne, Belinda, Celia and Deborah went to pick up the apples which had fallen from the tree. One girl found six, one found four, one found three and one girl found only one apple. "If I give Celia one apple, we will both have the same number," said Belinda. "Anne and I didn't find as many as you did," said Deborah. "You can have my apples," said Anne. "I don't like them." HOW MANY APPLES DID EACH GIRL FIND?

-John Higgins
The British Council

The first national inter-volunteer TEFL seminar was held in the luxurious surroundings of the Asian Institute of Technology from November 25 to November 27. Over one hundred participants joined the meetings representing Peace Corps (the sponsoring agency) CUSO, VSO, Christian Volunteers and many Thai secondary and university level teachers. Meetings were scheduled so as to provide discussion sessions for each academic level. Ideas were thrown out and debated both in the technical realm (TEFL) as well as the area of cross-cultural relations. A personal highlight was a witty expose of the Silent Way teaching methodology by Chris McArthur, PCV, Mae Hon Son. A random sampling of the attendees indicated that the zenith of the conference was a series of lectures given on Thai art, architecture and religion by two National Museum Volunteers, Marie Helen Claudot and Ann Kramer. The kitchen staff at AIT served up (many thanks PC!) an Epicurean's delight under the guise of a Thanksgiving dinner, which was fully enjoyed by all. Also fully deserving their due, thanks to Ann Kellerman, Kathy Judd and Khun Nikorn, for efforts expended.

Hopefully next month's issue will tally the results of the questionnaires about the conference.

NJC

TESTING SCHEDULE

TRAVEL FOLDER

given registration
closes

GRE	January 8	November 24
	April 23	March 9
	June 11	April 27

LSAT	April 16	February 28
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National Teachers Examination	February 19	-
	July 16	-

TOEFL	February 26	January 17
	May 21	April 11

Inquiries may be addressed to

Mr. Pfennig

Director of Testing

International School Bangkok

It is sometimes possible to pay an extra \$10 (US) and take one of these tests on a 'walk in' basis. This, of course is contingent on the number of extra tests available on any given testing date.

Re: Peace Corps Cashier's Operating Hours

Effective January 1, 1977, the Peace Corps Cashier will operate his cashier service for the payment of vouchers and other payments on the following basis except on official holidays.

Monday - Friday

0900 - 1200 hours
1400 - 1600 hours

Saturday

0900 - 1200 hours

The establishment of Peace Corps Cashier's operating hours is made in order to permit the Cashier enough time to discharge other duties assigned to him as well as to reconcile his imprest fund records on a day-to-day basis. In addition, this would meet the criteria recommended by the auditors from ACTION/Washington.

Please make the utmost effort to observe the above-mentioned cashier hours. Thank you.

Jim Buschoff has asked ACT to facilitate

a composite travel folder concerning information gathered during term breaks and vacations. Anyone with data and advice to share is asked to fill out the form on page 5 and send it to HEY YOU c/o Mary Claire Peceny, Satri Nonthaburi School, Nonthaburi. Should there be interest and or demand for a file could also be compiled listing information about in-country travel prospects.

TRAVEL INFORMATION FORM

WAT SUKHOVONG

Country:

Cities Visited:

Length of Stay in Country:

Date of visit:

Season:

Accommodations Recommended:

Restaurants recommended:

Transportation Recommended:

Side Trips recommended:

Shopping Tips:

Comments:

Most people interested in Buddhism and/or meditation in Thailand have heard of Wat Sukhovong. There are some facts to help people decide if the trip to Chaive is worth it for them.

Location: About six kilometers along dirt roads from the small town of Chaive which is about 38 kilometers from Bangkok.

Transportation: As the roads in the area are not in good shape best to take the train even if you are already in Bangkok. During daylight "not some shade" leave from the front of the Chaive train station as they fill up, taking you to the temple for three days. After dark motorcycles for twenty baht are the only means of transportation from town to the temple.

Accommodations: Men are put up in a large wooden building with two floors, each floor consisting of one open room for an extended period and blankets. For men staying for an extended period of time it is possible to live alone in a "guti" (monk's hut) by talking to the assistant abbot, Asian for women can stay with the nuns whose quarters are adjacent to the temple grounds.

Side Trips: I have heard of a local man being invited to monks, sharing their food, and of water that was with the nuns (but helped supply the food). Most visitors eat at one of the three shops on the road across from the temple grounds. One shop, Kuan Huan (Lemon) is the 34 year old woman who owns the shop, offers vegetarian food. All the shops are inexpensive but offer little variety.

The Abbot: Ajan Phutthath (translated "Buddhadasa" which means "servant of the Buddha") is a well-known and highly controversial figure in Thai Buddhism. A young man in his early seventies, he has attempted to make modern Theravada Buddhism more relevant and meaningful for Buddhists by creating a "spiritual theater" which teaches dharma through pictures by having the monks at Wat Sukhovong chant in Thai by presenting frequently about the dharma, and by writing numerous articles and books on Buddhism many of which have been translated into English. It is not so much for these activities that Ajan Phutthath is controversial as for his interpretation of the Pali scriptures. His brand of Buddhism is highly eclectic and he holds certain unusual ideas such as that the Buddha did not teach rebirth from one life to the next.

WAT SUANMOKE

Most people interested in Buddhism and/or meditation in Thailand have heard of Wat Suanmoke. Here are some facts to help people decide if the trip to Chaiya is worth it for them.

Location: About six kilometers along dirt roads from the small, quiet town of Chaiya which is about 38 kilometers north of amphur muang Surathani.

Transportation: As the roads in the area are not in good shape it is best to take the train even if you are already in Surathani. During daylight "rot song thaews" leave from the front of the Chaiya train station as they fill up, taking you to the temple for three baht. After dark motorcycles for twenty baht are the only means of transportation from town to the temple.

Accommodations: Men are put up in a large wooden building with two floors, each floor consisting of one open room with straw mats and blankets. For men staying for an extended period of time it is possible to live alone in a "guti" (monk's hut) by talking to the assistant abbot, Ajaan Po. Women can stay with the nuns whose quarters are separate but convenient to the rest of the temple grounds.

Eating: I have heard of foreign men being invited to eat with the monks, sharing their food, and of women that ate with the nuns (but helped supply the food). Most visitors eat at one of the three shops on the road across from the entrance to the temple grounds. One shop, Raan Lamon (Lamon is the 34 year old woman who owns the shop), offers vegetarian food. All the shops are inexpensive but offer little variety.

The Abbot: Ajaan Phutathat (transliterated "Buddhadasa" which means "servant of the Buddha") is a well-known and highly controversial figure in Thai Buddhism. A rotund man in his early seventies, he has attempted to make modern Theravada Buddhism more relevant and meaningful for Buddhists by creating a "spiritual theater" which teaches dhamma through pictures, by having the monks at Wat Suanmoke chant in Thai, by preaching frequently about the dhamma, and by writing numerous articles and books on Buddhism, many of which have been translated into English. It is not so much for these activities that Ajaan Phutathat is controversial as for his interpretations of the Pali scriptures. His brand of Buddhism is highly eclectic and he holds certain unusual ideas such as that the Buddha did not teach rebirth from one life to the next.

The abbot may be approached through the novice that serves him, or directly at times when he comes out to sit in front of his house. When he is not busy he is happy to answer questions and if you are lucky perhaps you will arrive at a time when he is teaching classes in dhamma and meditation. (His English is not fluent but it is sufficient for teaching as his vocabulary related to dhamma is extensive.)

Description of the temple grounds:

As soon as you start up the dirt road that leads to the abbot's house and other temple buildings you are in the forest. In fact the entire temple grounds (some 150 acres I was told) are covered with lush vegetation. There are paths leading to secluded gullies in the woods and one path ultimately leads up a small mountain whose peak offers a vista over flat rice fields that reach to the sea, some 10-15 kilometers to the East. The forests abound with wildlife although I never saw anything larger than wild monkeys and a giant squirrel.

Points of Interest:

1. The spiritual Theater where dhamma is taught through pictures.
2. The art studio--You will have to ask how to get there as it is more or less hidden in the forest. There are, however, signs of it everywhere in the form of statues and bas-reliefs.
3. "Bot Thammachaat" or Natural Sanctuary. A peaceful place, perfect for meditation, where the monks at Suanmoke are ordained. Again, you will probably have to ask where it is.
4. "Rong Dhamma" or Dharma House where a few old men who act as grounds keepers live. It houses a small but fascinating collection of temple bells (one is rung every morning at 4:00 a.m.), pictures, paintings, statues, and a couple of skeletons.
5. A gently flowing stream that has been dammed to make it easy for showering and washing clothes. (Bring your own bowl.)

Most of what Suanmoke has to offer is best discovered by exploring. When you are first exploring the forest or trying to find the path that leads to the mountain it might be helpful to ask one of Lamons's seven children down at the restaurant to act as guide.

There is nothing exciting to do at Wat Suanmoke; it should not be boring though for people into meditation, nature, lots of reading, writing or painting.

Joe Ball
Yala TTC

Staff Notes

Termination in December

Greg Cuzner, Group 50, Close of Service
Joe Flear, Group 46, Close of Service
Bob Mullin, Group 45, Close of Service
Mike Zeglarski, Group 47, Close of Service
Jeff Shogan, Group 54, Early Termination

Baggage Allowance

There have been some inquiries about procedures for shipping effects home upon completion of service (COS). You are authorized to bring a total of 80 pounds of accompanied baggage back to the U.S. Of this amount, 44 lbs is permitted on any air ticket. With respect to the balance of 36 lbs, you have the option of receiving

1. A Government Excess Baggage Allowance (GEBA) for 36 pounds of excess baggage to accompany you, or
2. A cost payment, in baht, for the equivalent of 36 lbs excess baggage, from Bangkok to your Home of Record.

The amount of the allowance you will receive can be judged by the following illustrations - San Francisco \$200.75; Chicago \$232.31; New York \$243.11 - all in baht.

Checks are available about 2 weeks before the COS date. Shipments are handled by volunteers personally and neither Peace Corps nor Peace Corps staff is involved in any way and assumes no responsibility. Personal arrangements with individual staff members to ship items is not permitted inasmuch as volunteers have suffered loss due to misunderstandings. The mail room, however has paper, tape and twine, which you are free to use. Mailroom staff will do no wrapping or addressing.

Baggage insurance is available if you wish to purchase it. Withdrawals may be made from the Readjustment Allowance to cover its cost.

Early terminees receive a GEBA for 36 lbs excess baggage and do not have option 2.

Termination Packet

Termination packets are being sent out in the next few days to those volunteers who have COS dates in March and April 1977. The packets will also go to those who have requested extensions who are requested to fill out certain portions as well. If you have not received your kit by January 15, please advise Khun Vanpen.
