

A&M Coed Enjoys Peace Corps Work

Sharon Hodges, a Texas A&M student turned Peace Corps volunteer, is happy on her own little island in the South Pacific.

Actually, Miss Hodges shares the island of Uihua with several hundred residents of the Kingdom of Tonga, but she is the only one of the area's 78 Peace Corps volunteers working independently.

Miss Hodges' main job, she notes in a letter to A&M Peace Corps advisor Curtis L. Godfrey, is to teach young Tongans oral English. She also teaches Tongan teachers how to teach science, a course soon to be added in the country's primary schools.

In addition to teaching, the first Maggie (Aggie coed) assigned to overseas PC duty also is learning a few things. One of the things she's learned is usage of the abacus, an ancient "adding machine" operated by sliding heads back and forth on wire attached to a rectangular frame. The attractive A&M graduate

history student from Rockdale learned abacus at the royal knee of King Taufau'ahua Tupon IV. A "staunch believer" in the mathematical technique, the king personally spent four afternoons explaining the abacus to all the PCV's teaching in the Tonga schools.

"He has asked us to initiate the teaching of abacus in the first two grades," Miss Hodges writes. "So be it."

Miss Hodges treasures her formal reception by the king as one of her most thrilling experiences. "He is quite a figure to behold," she explains. All 300 pounds of him.

The opening of her letter to Dr. Godfrey sounds like an introduction for a travelogue.

"Well, here I sit looking out on a fantastically beautiful part of the world," she states. "The turquoise sea stretches out before me, the tradewind is blow-

ing, the palms wave majestically against a blue sky and the coconut juice is refreshing. This is the backdrop of my school . . ."

Miss Hodges is very proud of the fale (house) which the Tongans built for her. Her bed consists of a "mattress" of palm leaves with two mats of pandanus leaves and a piece of tapa cloth. She also has a "stove" comprised of two primus stones on the floor.

The Tongans are even building her a fence around the fale to prevent goats from eating her flowers.

A minor displeasure is a distinct lack of privacy.

"They (the Tongans) want to do everything for me," Miss Hodges relates. "I have difficulty explaining that a PCV is supposed to take care of himself or herself."

Isolation from so-called civilization also is something of a

problem, but it hasn't bothered the young Texan too much. Her island is only 11 miles from the capital of Ha'apai, Pangai, but it's a six-hour trip by sailboat—unless there's a good wind, in which case the journey can be reduced to approximately two and one-half hours.

One thing that has bugged her about life in the Pacific is a lack of knowledge about major world developments.

Take the item about the Aggies' Southwest Conference championship victory over the University of Texas, for example. She was training in Hawaii at the time, but it still took several days for the Honolulu paper to insert a one-sentence account.

Miss Hodges, who probably will return to Aggieland to finish her studies if she can bring herself to give up her island, thinks that's pretty light coverage for an event of such magnitude.



BEATING A PATH FOR HOME
Dr. Philip Blaiberg smiles up at heart surgeon Dr. Christian Barnard after Blaiberg was released from Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. The retired dentist, 58, is the only person to survive a heart transplant operation. It was performed 74 days before his release from hospital. (AP Wirephoto by cable from Capetown)

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OFFICIAL NOTICE
Official notices must arrive in the Office of Student Publications before deadline of 1 p. m. of the day preceding publication.

ECONOMICS MAJORS
The English Qualifying Examination is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26 from 3 to 5 p. m. in Room 108 Nagle. This exam must be taken by all majors not later than the Spring Semester of the Junior year. Please notify secretary in Room 115, Nagle, if you intend to take this examination. 5541f

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree Name: Obordo, Romeo A.
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Plant and Soil Science
Dissertation: The Influence of Some Properties of Flooded Soils and The Reduction of Iron and Manganese on the Growth and Yield of Rice.
Time: Tuesday, March 26, 1968 at 2:00 p. m.
Place: Room 303, Plant Sciences Building, Wayne C. Hall
Dean of Graduate Studies 5534f

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION
The English Proficiency Examination required of all junior students majoring in Education or in Psychology will be offered on April 24, (Wednesday) from 4:00 to 4:00 p. m. in Academic 401. It will be offered again the same day from 4:00 to 6:00 p. m. in Academic 505. Students may take the examination either time by reporting to the appointed place at the indicated time. Examinees should bring pen, pencil, dictionary, and composition paper. 5531f

Those undergraduate students who have 95 semester hours of credit may purchase the A&M ring. The hours passed at the time of the Preliminary Grade Report, April 1, 1968, may be used in satisfying the 95 hour requirement. The students qualifying under this regulation may leave their name with the Ring Clerk in the Registrar's Office in order that she may check the records to determine their eligibility to order the ring. Orders for the rings will be taken between April 16, and May 31, 1968. All rings will be returned to this office on or about July 10 for further delivery. The Ring Clerk is on duty from 8:00 to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday. 549b34

Students wishing to place a 1967 AGGIE-LAND in their high school may pick them up in the office of Student Publications, Services Building. 548fn

"SPRING AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS"
Application forms for Spring Award Scholarships may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 303, YMCA Building during the period February 12th - March 31, 1968. All applications must be filed with the Student Financial Aid Office by not later than 5:00 p. m. April 1, 1968. Late applications will not be accepted.
Pre-veterinary Medicine Students
All students who expect to register in pre-veterinary medicine for the Spring Semester 1968 must have their courses approved by their Academic Advisor. A form signed by the Academic Advisor and listing approved courses must be presented at registration. 521fn

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SPECIAL NOTICE
Attend our class "An Introduction to Oil Painting" to be held at Chapman's Paint Store, 811 Texas Ave. on Tuesday, March 26. See how art instructor, Mrs. Ruth Mogford, performs different techniques in oil painting. Learn to paint for pleasure and profit. Nothing to buy. Call at once for reservations. Limited seating. Admission \$1.00. 5551f

Sealed proposals for the sale and removal of one wooden frame building will be received at the office of the Director of Physical Plant, 600 University Drive (P.M. 60), Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, until 2:00 p. m. Friday, March 29, 1968, and then publicly opened and read aloud. The building is located west of the railroad tracks near the Veterinary Science Building, Texas A&M University. The building is approximately 1,800 square feet in size. Instructions to bidders and proposal forms may be obtained from the Director of Physical Plant, Telephone 846-4200. The University reserves the right to waive any technicalities and reject any and all bids. 5551f

"FOR PETE'S SAKE" — See it. Campus Theatre — March 31 - April 6. 5538f

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Student Clubs, Organizations Total Near 500, Says Stark

Texas A&M has student clubs for all seasons—and almost all reasons.

Last count revealed 315 university-sanctioned groups operating on campus. Include the military and dormitory organizations and the total approaches 500.

"We have a club for practically every hobby, academic or scientific activity," noted J. Wayne Stark, Memorial Student Center director, whose office serves as the clearing house for financial aspects of the various groups.

"If we don't have a club for a particular interest," he added, "we'll form one."

THE MSC director discounted certain theories that many students come to A&M because "there's nothing to do but study."

"If you're not careful, you can end up with no time for scholarly pursuits," he countered.

In addition to the clubs, the MSC sponsors numerous entertainment, educational, cultural and recreational activities.

The current list of campus organizations runs the gamut from the Aggie Players to the A&M Russian Club, Fish and Game Club, Design Student Society and the Cepheid Variables Science Fiction Club.

Stark explained the organizations are divided into nine general groups: Departmental and professional, hometown and international, honor societies, Memorial Student Center committees, sports, service, military, civilian government and student body government.

NAME A hobby-type sport and the chances are excellent that A&M has a club to match. The roster includes clubs for archery, badminton, gymnastics, handball,

judo, karate, parachuting, soccer and wrestling.

One of the oldest, largest and most active organizations on campus is the Saddle and Sirolo Club sponsored by the Animal Science Department.

Stark said the Saddle and Sirolo has approximately 125 members, some of whom have fathers and grandfathers who once belonged.

The club has an annual operating budget of approximately \$14,000, much of which is used to finance trips by the university's livestock judging teams.

EACH OF the clubs, Stark related, is required to deposit its funds at the MSC Student Finance Center.

"We don't control the clubs," he pointed out, "but we do insure that proper financial procedures are followed."

The finance center normally has more than \$100,000 on deposit, about half of which is invested in savings accounts with the interest being plowed back into student activities.

Several of the clubs and organizations also share in profits derived from operation of the university's Exchange Store.

Each of the clubs has its own student officers and a faculty-staff advisor.

Former Marine Commandant Says U.S. Can't Win In South

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Marine Commandant David M. Shoup declared today that a real U.S. military victory "cannot come to pass" in South Vietnam.

This assessment by the retired four-star general came as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee resumed its appraisal of the Vietnam situation.

Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., committee chairman, asked Shoup, who has been critical of the war policies, whether sending additional troops to Southeast Asia would insure success.

"We can increase the number of troops in South Vietnam but we are quite certain North Vietnam can match us man for man," Shoup replied.

"IF WE WANT to win—that is, defeat the North Vietnamese forces—we can't do it in South Vietnam because they don't have to send the bulk of their forces down there."

Shoup said the United States can try to force the North Vietnamese units out of South Vietnam but "the record will show we haven't been too successful."

Several times he reiterated his view that North Vietnam cannot be beaten in the South because "their big army is not there."

AT ONE POINT, Fulbright, referring to administration statements that the United States is combating aggression in South Vietnam, asked Shoup who is the aggressor.

The former Marine leader said that if aggression is defined in terms of one country waging war within the borders of another, then "North Vietnam is the aggressor and the United States is the aggressor."

Shoup contended that even if the United States achieves a favorable settlement in Vietnam it has no assurance this will stop similar Communist outbreaks elsewhere.

HE QUESTIONED whether the United States can take care of all the potential military emergencies that could arise under various treaty agreements.

"Are we going to commit ourselves every time to this extent?" Shoup asked.

"Somewhere up the line it's going to be too much for us."

Appreciation Fete Tickets Available

Seniors who plan to attend the Appreciation Banquet honoring A&M's championship football team may still buy the \$3.50 tickets in the Student Programs Office in the Memorial Student Center.

The steak dinner, sponsored by the Senior Council, will honor Coach Gene Stallings, his staff and the varsity football team at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the main ballroom of the Ramada Inn.

Dress to the banquet will be suit and tie, with class A summer uniforms with boots optional to Corps members.

"When Air Force contract checks come in today, there should be quite a rush for the rest of the tickets," Mike Baggett, banquet committee chairman, commented.

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