



staff photo by Irene Mees

Peace Corps volunteers, from left, Bette Straubinger, Mitch Auerbach, and Gregory L. Gregory.

Peace Corps agents develop new outlook

by Angel Stokes

Battalion Staff
After living and working overseas, returning to the United States can cause culture shock, U.S. Peace Corps representatives, Mitch Auerbach, Gregory L. Gregory and Bette Straubinger, said Tuesday.

"When I first came back, I saw the commercial for Atari games that asks, 'Have you played your Atari today?' and I didn't know what an Atari was," Auerbach said. He said that he now thinks in terms of "the rest of the world and then the U.S." because the United States is the one that's different.

he didn't want to settle down after graduating from college.

"I got a lot more than I gave because I learned lessons that will stick for a lifetime," he said. Auerbach also said that reading about events in the United States while in Guatemala was like reading fiction.

Gregory worked as an extension agent in Paraguay from 1979 to 1980. Although he had traveled and lived outside the United States, he said being a Peace Corps worker was a unique experience because he lived like the natives.

Paraguay is different from the United States because young adults are given responsibilities that are usually reserved for older people.

"I was a medium fish in a small pond there, but when I returned to the U.S., I became a

small fish in a very large pond," Gregory said.

Straubinger was in the Philippines from 1979 until 1981 working with dairy livestock.

She said living there was different because money is not as important to people as it is in the United States.

She joined the Peace Corps after she became interested in dairy animals while raising her three children. She said that she wanted to continue with her interest to benefit others.

Straubinger is recruiting for the Peace Corps while visiting Texas A&M.

Gregory, the Texas A&M Peace Corps representative, and Straubinger will be present to answer questions at the Peace Corps information table that will be in the Memorial Student Center on Feb. 23, 24 and 25.

Feb. 23 named 'Maroon Day'

by Patrice Koranek

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M Residence Hall Association has come up with a new way for students to show their spirit. February 23, was officially designated as Maroon Day by RHA at their meeting Tuesday night.

Maroon Day, when all students are invited to wear maroon, is just one of the activities planned for Traditions Awareness Week, February 21 to March 5, said Gene Hawkins, chairman of the RHA Traditions Awareness Committee. The two week period was set up to make A&M students more aware of Aggie tradition, he said.

"Students are not as exposed to traditions as they used to be,"

he said. "We are trying to fix that."

Buck Weirus, Class of '42, will start the activities with a speech on traditions February 21, Hawkins said.

Other activities planned by the committee are a field trip on February 28 to sites around campus that have to do with traditions and a competition between residence halls to see who puts on better programs promoting traditions, he said.

The Traditions Awareness Week is this year's counterpart to last year's Security Awareness Week, also sponsored by RHA, Hawkins said.

In other business, RHA accepted a resolution stating that a Hall of the Year Award be given to both a male and female dorm, instead of just one dorm.

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