

# DISGUSTED READER CALLS PEACE CORPS GUINEA'S VOLUNTEER JOURNAL 'LA PAGAILLE'

In a letter that has been interpreted as a suggestion for new name, an apparently disgruntled subscriber lashed out at the publication formerly known as The Lame Duck. "It was a merciless tirade of verbal abuse, and a pretty cool idea for a catchy title," said a spokesperson for the publisher Jeremy Eggleton, to whom the letter was addressed. Reached for comment on his luxury yacht, the media mogul stated, "the magazine is the crown jewel of my Peace Corps Volunteer Zine empire. Where better to find a name than in a heartfelt reaction from a reader?" According to the letter, the review is "la pagaille totale, quoi" (definition, p.30). Questioned as to whether it is in his best interest to choose a name with somewhat negative overtones, the publisher said cryptically, "What's an overtone?" Less senior employees of the publication have reacted immediately to the rechristening, scrambling to give an appearance of professionalism, investigative rigor and stricter adherence to basic journalistic ethics.

## 1 9 9 8 YEAR END TEST OF CULTURAL ALPHABETIZATION

Do you worry that your sense of American popular culture is being skewed by life here? Does the prospect of reentering the American stream make you want to salmon backward up this two year tributary? Do you write crappy metaphors? Do you hate long strings of yes no questions? Do you really want to hurt me? Do you care? Do you like yogurt? Do you just want to get on with it already? Do you? Do you remember? Do it. [See Page 3]

## I N G R E D I E N T S

Fan Mail .....	1
Errata .....	2
Quiz .....	3
Confession .....	4
The Top "N" Lists .....	5
Calling All American Teenagers .....	6
Gossip Monger .....	7
Horoscopes .....	8,9
Crossword .....	10-11
Tough Love .....	12
Calvin & Hobbes .....	8,9,15,18
Lame Duck Travel Guide .....	Pullout 1
GFYC Pose of the Month .....	Pullout 2
Obituary .....	15
Book Reviews .....	22
Pause For Thought .....	23
Obscene&Overheard .....	24
Mailbag .....	26
Editorial Page .....	30
Personals .....	31
Cadeau .....	31

Dear Editors,

As former French debutantes, we were shocked by the blatant disregard for our constant struggle to improve our French conversational ability. After reading the recent *Lame Duck*, a large number of PCV's were delighted to be introduced to a much-needed vocabulary word. To our embarrassment, we then discovered that 'gusher' was not the correct term to describe those unfortunate Skol occurrences. Innocent PCV's have suffered uncomfortable scenes at Novotel, Le Loft, The Baobab, Class Bar, and Tatas due to your inconsiderate reporting. We advise you think twice about including such misleading French "instruction" in future additions.

**Outraged Skol Drinkers**

**Gentle Drinkers,**

We are agog with contrition; prostrate in supplication of your forgiveness, and generally incredulous that this escaped the attention of our team of expert sensitivity checkers. It won't happen again. By the way do you mean future 'editions'?

**The Editors**

2



- Editor in Chief: Theodore Ricci
- Publisher: Johannes Gutenberg
- Foreign Affairs Correspondent: Duane Duke
- Monarch: King Caudill TheThird
- Stylist: Super Cobra Kid
- Sponsor: Cool Bike
- Delinquent: Josh Johnson
- Traded: Justin Weiss, Diane Dering
- Little Shaver: Doug Ryden
- Really Cool: Your new site mate
- Tall Women: Haute Guinée
- Keeper of the Tightly Whities: Jamie Folsom
- More Music By: Rage against the machine
- Long Distance Dedication: Start Me Up
- MIA: Jennifer Jurlando, Plus Petit
- Key Grip: Underhand
- Key Beastie: Adrock
- Keymaster: Rick Moranis
- KeyLime Pie: Yes Please
- Wrong Time Wrong Place For a Sieste: Nils Vuong
- Footnote Czar: Ravi Goud
- zizi: boy
- quéquette: girl
- Best Rebounder in NBA history: Wilt Chamberlin
- Sound Track by: The Modern Lovers
- ReRepo Man: Mike McGovern
- Second Best Rebounder in NBA history: Bill Russell
- Thinks he's so great: Dennis Rodman
- Not a significant source of information in the form of news, humor, commentary, or opinion. Consult a mental health professional after reading. You may not want credit for your submissions, but we really want to give it to you, so tell us who you are.

M  
N  
U  
T

## 1998 Year end Test of Cultural Alphabetisation

1. You first heard the name Suharto :
  - a. in your high school world cultures class.
  - b. when you joined Peace Corps
  - c. Suhar-Who?
2. Gerri Halliwell is:
  - a. Princess Di's Former Secretary
  - b. That health volunteer you haven't met yet.
  - c. The artist formerly known as Ginger Spice
3. The secret group bent on world domination that scares you most is:
  - a. Shining Path
  - b. The IRA
  - c. The NRM
4. 1998's biggest romantic disappointment was:
  - a. Bruce and Demi Breaking up
  - b. Cindy Crawford Remarrying
  - c. Brian McKenna Leaving Guinea
  - d. Jeremy Eggleton Leaving Guinea
5. You are taking this quiz because:
  - a. you miss Cosmo
  - b. you are killing time
6. The song you're sickest of from '98 is:
  - a. Tub-Thumping
  - b. OnJarama
  - c. The Barbie Song
7. Your primary source of political, cultural and sports news is:
  - a. The New York Times
  - b. Spider-Man Comics
  - c. Newsweek International
8. The Last Time You used a VCR, ejecting the cassette involved a plastic fork.
  - a. True
  - b. False
9. How many books have you read in the last month?
  - a. 1-3
  - b. 4-8
  - c. 9+
10. Austin Powers Was
  - a. A Funny Mike Myers Movie
  - b. A Dumb Mike Myers Movie
  - c. The Cinematic Zenith of the 1990's
  - d. The Former Education APCD for Peace Corps Guinea

### SCORE YOURSELF

1. a=+5; b=+10; c=0
2. a=0; b=0; c=+5
3. a=0; b=0; c=+10
4. a=0; b=0; c=+10; d=-13
5. a=0; b=+5; c=are you paying attention?
6. a=+5; b=+10; c=0
7. a=+5(too smart); b=0; c=+10
8. a=0; b=+5
9. a=0; b=+5; c=+10(unless you're going straight to grad school, then +0)
10. a=0; b=0; c=+10; d=-12

### TOTALS

- 0-30= Who are you trying to kid?
- 31-55= You're "normal". Go celebrate your mediocrity with a beer.
- 55-70= Don't panic, but try to get a copy of People or Si tout de suite.
- 71-90= Start for the Marine House ASAP
- 91+=How's the TEFL Going?

3

# CONFESSIONS OF A PSYCHOVAC

Yeah, I don't know, they sent me to D.C., right, to talk to this doctor guy. He had me in his nice little *fonctionnaire* office, cushy seats and all (no picture of The President, though, I noted with disdain). He looked at me kindly, cocked his head like a little bird, and asked me how things were going.

"I don't know, doc, I just don't know. I just wasn't feeling à l'aise, you know? Everywhere I went, people were looking at me. Like, I felt like I was the most important person in town, and everywhere I went I head people calling, shouting, or whispering my name. And when they didn't want to use my name, they were always using this code word to refer to me.... I would hear people use this word, even through a string of Pulaar or Susu, and I *knew* they were talking about me. I'd ask them, but they'd just say "ah, ça ne fait rien." But I knew, doc, I knew. They were all talking about me. Everything I did, they were looking, talking, gossiping..."

The doctor frowned and scribbled something in his little notebook. "So, you felt that you were being watched? That others were constantly talking about you? And then this 'code word'..."

"Yeah, doc, you've been there?! It was like one big conspiracy. Even my mail was opened — I would get it and it would be taped closed, and a chocolate bar would be missing. Gave me the chills. Just about as bad as those glittery-eyed two-dimensional wall spiders."

"Glittery-eyed..."

"Oh yeah, you shoulda seen 'em. I'd be ready to go to bed and my flashlight would pick up this glint — I knew one was there, suctioned up against the wall, waiting... Oh,

those eyes... those terrible eyes!" <break down sobbing, face in hands>

"There, there..."

<Pulling myself together> "I always tucked in my mosquito net fastidiously at night, certain some creature would sneak in during the night to suck my face off, or give me strange skin lesions."

"Mmm-hmmm"

"And then there's the Kazynsky guy."!

"The Unabomber?"

"Yeah. Now there's a feller than knows where it's at. I feel a certain...kinship with him, you know? I mean, I hate government officials, *he* hates government. officials Plus, he lived in that tiny two-room house with no running water or electricity, no speaking English for days at a time. I can relate. They tried to pin an insanity rap on him, you know, but he was just another PCV brother. And hey, man, if he'd have been in Guinea, we'd be all set! Darned postal workers would dare open up our mail then Hah!" [See Next Page]

*PsychoVac*

"So, you feel a close bond with Ted Kazynski. Do you have any other friends where you live?"

"Friends?"

"Yeah, friends. You know, someone you go out with, talk to, laugh with, share yourself with..."

"Oh, 'friends'. Heh, no, none of that going on."

"No, I didn't mean..."

"Yeah, I konw, *ça ne fait rien, quoi..* I know what you mean, it's ok."

"Ok, well, I'm going to be giving you a prescription for Prozac. Any questions?"

"Can I drink Skol with that?"

## THE TOP "N" LISTS

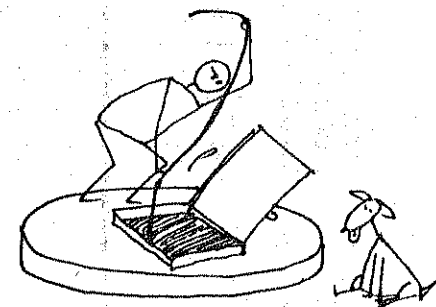
### Top 10 Reasons not to E.T.

10. Austin Powers and Harrison Ford drink Skol, too.
9. Mathematical thesis on the geometry of "Two-dimensional wall spiders" will be unparalleled academic achievement.
8. Cute little kids in Idaho don't want to write letters with adorably silly questions to unemployed twenty-somethings living off their parents in Wisconsin.
7. Elections in the U.S. simply don't get your blood pumping in the same way
6. You know how you've slowly gotten used to pretending that you don't notice that everyone on the street is looking at you, and pretending that you don't care? Guess what. You go home. They're not.

5. Attaye
4. No overseas subscriptions to La Paille.
3. That "noble suffering" feeling is addictive, and hard to achieve in Jersey.
2. You'd get way behind on your reading.
1. In Guinea, you're unfettered by the temptation of all that unhealthy food, like pizza, hamburgers, twinkies, potato-chips, tv dinners, pancakes with maple syrup and butter, small cakes layered with whipped cream and chocolate, cheesecake with strawberries, fudge, french onion soup...

### Eric's top one thing to do at the beach.

1. Cut yourself so that people will say, "Hey, man, you know the salt water well be really good for that."



# Calling All American Teenagers: Cruise the Open Roads of Hip-and- Happenin' Guinea, West Africa!

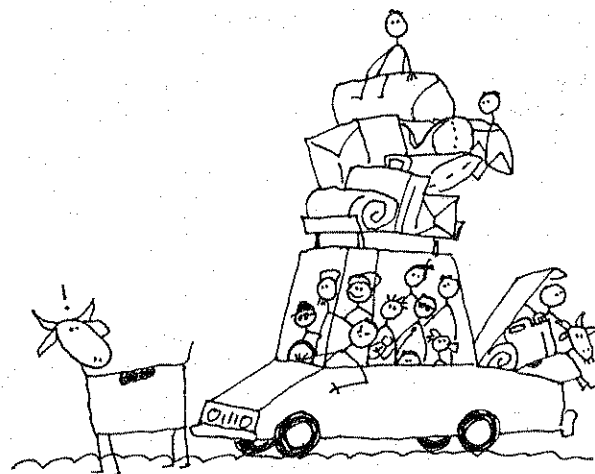
PCV JANE PEUGEOT, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION EXTENTIONIST

Last month, it was reported by the BBC that the AAA intends to crack down on teen-aged driving. A spokeswoman for the organization was quoted as saying, "They cram six or seven passengers in the car, there may not be enough seat belts for all of them, and then they proceed to drive too fast under existing road conditions!"

Friends, I am not making this up and what's more, I have all first year health volunteers and Julie Cardwell to back me up.

So, on behalf of those sympathetic to the next generation of American Cruisers who are being deprived of what we so easily and so readily took for granted, allow me to invite these oppressed youth, they who are squirming out from underneath the thumb of "The Man" and don't mind being under-the-thumb of the Duanes and Gendarmes, to our Home Sweet Home, La Guinée:

American Youth, viens ici! Bring a couple hundred dollars to buy your car (neither insurance nor a license appear to be necessities as long as you have important-looking papers with ink stamps all over them, stuffed into your glove compartment or visor -wherever you don't store your cassettes), some duct tape, and start up your own taxi service. You can play YOUR music as loud as you'd like and there's no limit to the number of times you choose to repeat your favorite song over and over again. You may be as obnoxious as you want to your passengers - "cram" them and their stuff in without reservation. Plus, you can drive at any speed you please and see as much of Guinea as befits your fancy. Ah...you'll be living the life as well as gaining experiences and adventures that most sixteen-year-olds never even dream of. It's just that simple. Fellow volunteers, I encourage you to extend this invitation to younger brothers and sisters, cousins, etc...I have a feeling there may be several advantages for us as well...



STILL LIFE WITH COW

## I DON'T LIKE TO GOSSIP BUT...

TWO LANDO, FOUTA BLOODHOUND

Well, Darlings, rebound over I can finally catch you up on all the news that's new today and will be old by the time you get this paper. What can one gal do, anyway?

Shall we start at the very beginning? That's right, the much-awaited swearing-in ceremony. Taking of oaths, teary eyes, and oh yes, TOGAS - or the dropping thereof. All regions were well-represented by some of PC Guinea's finest men - Siguiri, Pela, Friguabe, and Koubia, (The Fouta's crush of the month...)- all stripping down to various states of nothing. This, of course, is nothing new for the Duke, having blessed so many of us Swearing-In Eve with quite a show. Thong underwear may never look the same again!

And speaking of scary, Halloween found the Haute crowd fulfilling the second PC goal... scaring host country nationals. Food and yoga reigned supreme in the Fouta all weekend. Three words, baby-ROOT BEER FLOATS! Grease was the name of the game in the forest, and well, Thomas in Conakry was a condom. 'Nuff Said...

There are rumors of alien abductions in the North of Guinea and on the

coast. Of course, they tried to pick me up but were put off by my busy social schedule and lack of vacation days. Oh well! In any case, there's one more argument for the Emergency Bag of Essentials...

Life in the Logic-Free Zone found two undercover border officers in Labe, where they were brave enough to hiss at and then harrass two of the Fouta's finest filles. Said filles coolly referred the tough guys to their chef and are hoping that Suni Dawn will back them up, and oh, she will - having a strong resemblance to one of those gals...

Hey, I heard Peace Corps volunteers are struggling to find the funding for a new age mosque. Why a mosque? The building will be the future home of the Greater Yoga Fouta Club and have an observation deck for tourists willing to pay to peek. You can pray if you want to - Especially if you're in the toe pose, Who could help it?

Well, kids, I guess that's it for now. Don't forget to cast your votes for the Player of the Year. Everyone is eligible! Even your regional rep! Keep taking your mefloquin and remember what we say back where I come from...

**If you can't keep it in your pants, keep it in the Fouta.**

*Note: The Editorial Staff sadly announces the passing of our beloved Gossip Columnist. She has gone to the upper east side of the gossip capital in the sky. She can still be reached by the faithful through her medium at: 515 East 72nd Street Apt. 5p New York NY 10021*

## ARRIVAL IN GUINEA AFFECTATION



## H o r o s c o p e s

### AQUARIUS [JAN.20-FEB.18 CURIOUS, OUTGOING, INDEPENDENT]

Listen. Look at me. It's OK, it's OK. You're only going to make this worse for yourself. Just put the gun down. Just give it to me. It's not worth it.

### PISCES [FEB.19-MAR.20 ARTISTIC, EMOTIONAL, SENSITIVE]

Paint that picture, art boy! Start the novel book girl! But don't make too many plans for the future; Pisces tend to live hard and die young. You'll never achieve the financial security of wily Taurus but your unpredictable creative genius and tortured soul are bound to catapult you into fame or infamy

### ARIES [MAR.20-APR.19 BOLD, COURAGEOUS, ENERGETIC]

What are you really looking for here? Do you really believe those stars and planets can influence your life? Uh huh, riiight. And the earth is "round" And we get sick from "germs".

### TAURUS [APR.20-MAY 20 CONSERVATIVE, POSSESSIVE, LOYAL]

Mocking you? Why would they be mocking you? They don't even know you. What? Oh, now I'm mocking you? You know what? That's it. This is too much. I've had it up to here with you. You need help. I'm gonna go stay with my mother. And I'm taking the girls with me.

### GEMINIAN [MAY 21-JUNE 20 LIVELY, TALKATIVE, INTELLIGENT]

Expect great things. You'll take a trip in '99, one you've been meaning to take for some time now. Also, you'll reconnect with old friends, but don't forget your new acquaintances.

### CANCER [JUNE 21-JULY 22 EMOTIONAL, PATRIOTIC, HOME-LOVING]

Better stay away from tobacco, industrial solvents, electromagnetic fields, farm pesticides, x-rays, Chernobyl, and direct exposure to the sun, 'cause that would be just a little too, well, no, not ironic. But pretty freaking coincidental.

### LEO [JULY 23-AUG.22 CHEERFUL, PROUD, POWERFUL]

This month brings travel and it concomitant encounters with strangers. You could, for example, meet up a cheeky rabbit stuck in, say a briar patch. He's liable to ask you for help; he's not to be trusted. Avoid entanglement at all costs. Two oafish animals--a bear and a fox--are bound to show up eventually. Just hang back -- you're better off watching them get flummoxed by this funny bunny.

### VIRGO [AUG.23-SEPT.22 MODEST, PRACTICAL, TIDY]

Ha ha ha ha ha! Yeah, the "virgin". I don't think so. Your future's so hot it's gotta come in a brown paper wrapper!

### LIBRA [SEPT.23-OCT.22 COMPANIONABLE, DIPLOMATIC, PLEASANT]

Do you have any idea how hard it is to change money legally in this country? Be ready with passport, plane tickets, bank account number, blood type, serial number. Even so, I don't think you're going anywhere.

### SCORPIO [OCT.23-NOV.21 SECRETIVE, INTENSE, PASSIONATE]

That's "Mr. Scorpio" to you, tough guy.

### SAGITTARIUS [NOV.22-DEC.21 CHEERFUL, GENEROUS, RESTLESS]

Under no circumstances should you ever set foot in Kankan.

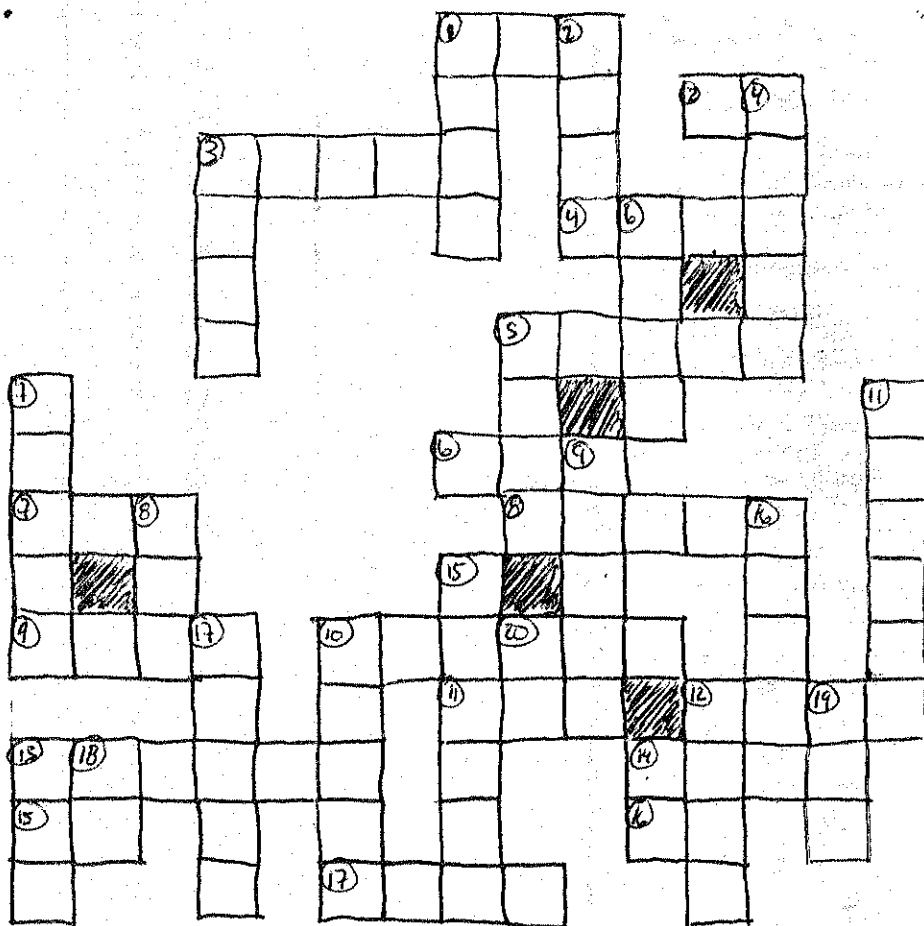
### CAPRICORN [DEC.22-JAN.19 AMBITIOUS, CAUTIOUS, PRACTICAL]

So I'm getting this haircut and when the chick -- ain't no guy ever gonna touch my head -- is finished, I'm all, "How much for the cut?" And she's all, "How much you got?" So I'm like, "No, I'm asking 'how much?'" And she starts slappin these big steel shears against the palm of her hand, going, "And I'm asking you, how much you got? 200 bucks. had! HAD."

### CALVIN ADAPTS TO THE LOCAL CLIMATE



# 100 LETTERS #1

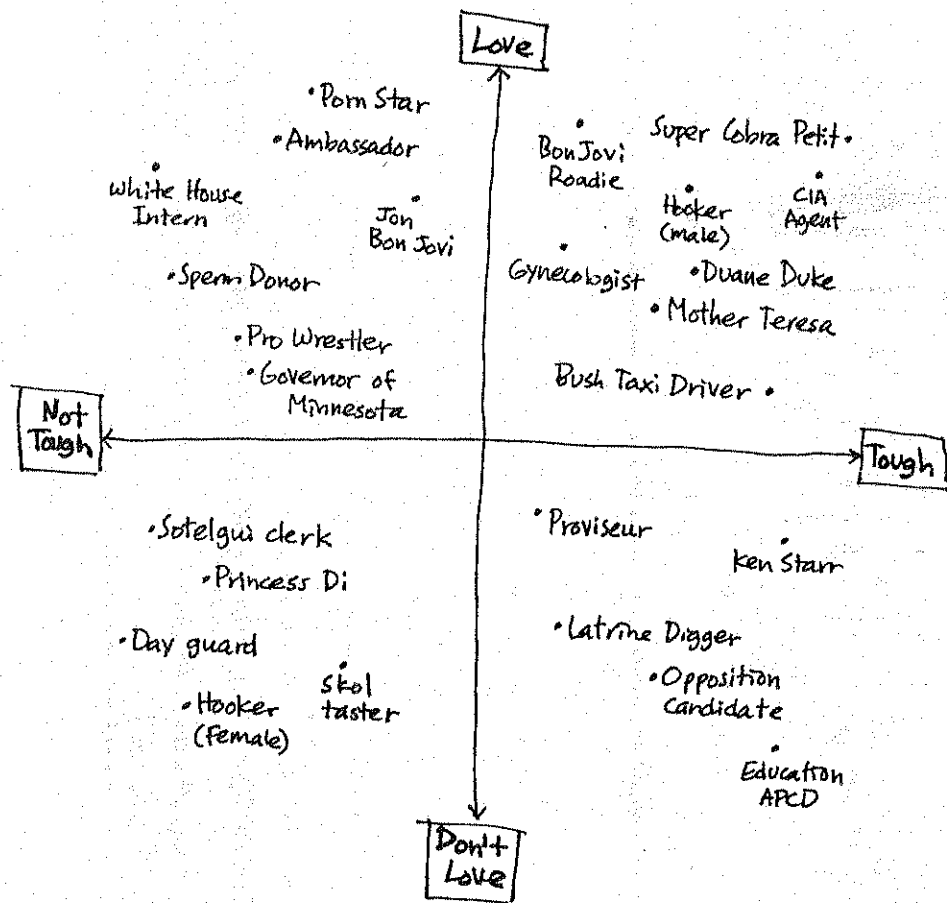


## A C R O S S

1. Welcome \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_ I were a rich man
3. Golf or Polo Word
4. Powder Ingredient
5. Homes Had Them
6. Run Slowly
7. Night and \_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_ and Waned
9. Unemployed
10. Football Player?
11. Essential African Ingredient
12. Death Instrumental
13. Drinks A Lot
14. Legend and \_\_\_\_
15. See 2 Across
16. And/\_\_\_\_
17. Abominable Snowman

## D O W N

1. Night Butterfly
2. Small Minded Individual; To Taunt or Tease
3. Dark and \_\_\_\_\_
4. Popular Peace Corps Topic
5. Black Bird
6. "Barbie Girl" Group
7. Rerecord
8. Sweet Potato
9. Judges Tool
10. Obnoxiously Self-Assertive
11. Leafy Vegetables
12. Ripped
13. Box, esp. for Grain
14. \_\_\_\_ and Behold!
15. Crown
16. Money in Yugoslavia
17. Fitted
18. \_\_\_\_ Mice and Men
19. Pirate's Leg
20. Musical Note



**TOUGH LOVE** Is Peace Corps really the toughest job you'll ever love? To help you put this question in context, we've plotted some representative occupations on the above graph. We invite you to cut out this label and place it where you think it belongs.

• Peace Corps Volunteer

## TRANSPORTATION CALVIN AND HOBBS



SITE: .....

REGION: .....

VOLUNTEER: .....

DISTANCE FROM CONAKRY: .....

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS: .....

.....

FOODS COMMONLY AVAILABLE: .....

.....

LANGUAGE(S) SPOKEN: .....

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN YOU RECEIVE OR ARRANGE LODGING FOR AT ONE TIME: .....

PHONE/RADIO? .....

RUNNING WATER? .....

ELECTRICITY? .....

BEST TIME OF YEAR TO VISIT: .....

DO YOU NEED ADVANCE NOTICE? .....

HOW CAN THAT BE ACHIEVED? .....

.....

WHAT SHOULD SOMEONE BRING WITH THEM WHEN THEY VISIT?

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COMMENTS: .....

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# 'Black Power' activist Kwame Ture dies at 57

*Man known in '60s as  
Stokely Carmichael  
died of prostate cancer*

By Debra Hale Shelton  
Associated Press

Kwame Ture, who as Stokely Carmichael made the phrase "black power" a rallying cry of the civil rights upheavals of the 1960s, died Sunday in Guinea, a member of Ture's All-African People's Revolutionary Party said. He was 57.

Sharon Sobukwe, a member of the organization in Philadelphia, said Ture died of prostate cancer. She learned of his death from Amadou Ly, an AAPRP member and one of Ture's closest friends, who was with him when he died.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he visited with Ture three times at his home in Guinea during a trip to Africa last week.

"In many ways he was at peace with himself," Jackson said in a telephone interview from Washington. "He wanted for his last days to be in Guinea and in West Africa. ... He wanted to be amongst the people of Africa."

"He was one of our generation who was determined to give his life to transforming America and Africa," Jackson added. "He was committed to ending racial apartheid in our country. He helped to bring those walls down."

Ture was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996. A self-described socialist, he was treated in Cuba and received financial help for his treatment from Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

As the young Carmichael, he was among the most fiery and visible leaders of black militancy in the United States in the 1960s, first

as head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and then as prime minister of the Black Panther Party.

He cut his ties with the American groups over the issue of allying with white radicals and moved to Guinea in West Africa in 1969. There, with a new name taken from the African leaders Kwame Nkrumah and Ahmed Sekou Toure, he organized the All-African People's Revolutionary Party.

For the rest of his life, both overseas and in appearances before largely black audiences at U.S. colleges, he continued preaching black power and championing socialism while condemning America, capitalism and Zionism.

Born in Trinidad on June 29, 1941, and raised there and in New York, Ture described himself as a pliant acceptor of white dominion while growing up.

In 1960, he enrolled at Howard, the predominantly black university in Washington, D.C., where he received a degree in philosophy and plunged into the civil rights revolution.

In a time when black college students were being beaten and arrested for daring to sit at whites-only Southern lunch counters, Carmichael joined the first freedom rides — bus trips aimed at deseg-

regating public transportation — and suffered the first of what was to be about three dozen jailings when he reached Mississippi.

As an SNCC field organizer there later, he led a perilous voter registration effort that raised black enrollment from 70 to 2,600 in Lowndes County, 300 more than the white registration.

In June 1966, three weeks before his 25th birthday, he was elected national chairman of the SNCC and shortly afterward raised the cry of "black power" as he led a freedom march in Mississippi.

He took an anti-America message to Cuba and North Vietnam and critics said his speeches at home, and those of his successor, H. Rap Brown, had effectively removed the word "nonviolent" from the SNCC's name.

In 1968, he left the SNCC for the Black Panthers, but broke with that urban-guerrilla movement the following year because it favored working with radical whites.

From Guinea, where he had moved with his then-wife, South African-born singer and political activist Miriam Makeba, he declared himself a Pan Africanist with a goal of forming "one cohesive force to wage an unrelenting armed struggle against the white Western empire for the liberation of our people."



## *The POSE of the MONTH*

☆ November ☆

(Brought to you by your friends at the Greater Fouta Yoga Club, Rep. of Guinée)



**GARURASANA**  
Eagle Pose

*The Greater Fouta Yoga Club Invites You to Join*



Operating in the Fouta Djallon region or Guinée for five months, our membership has more than quadrupled, and you can be the newest happy member!

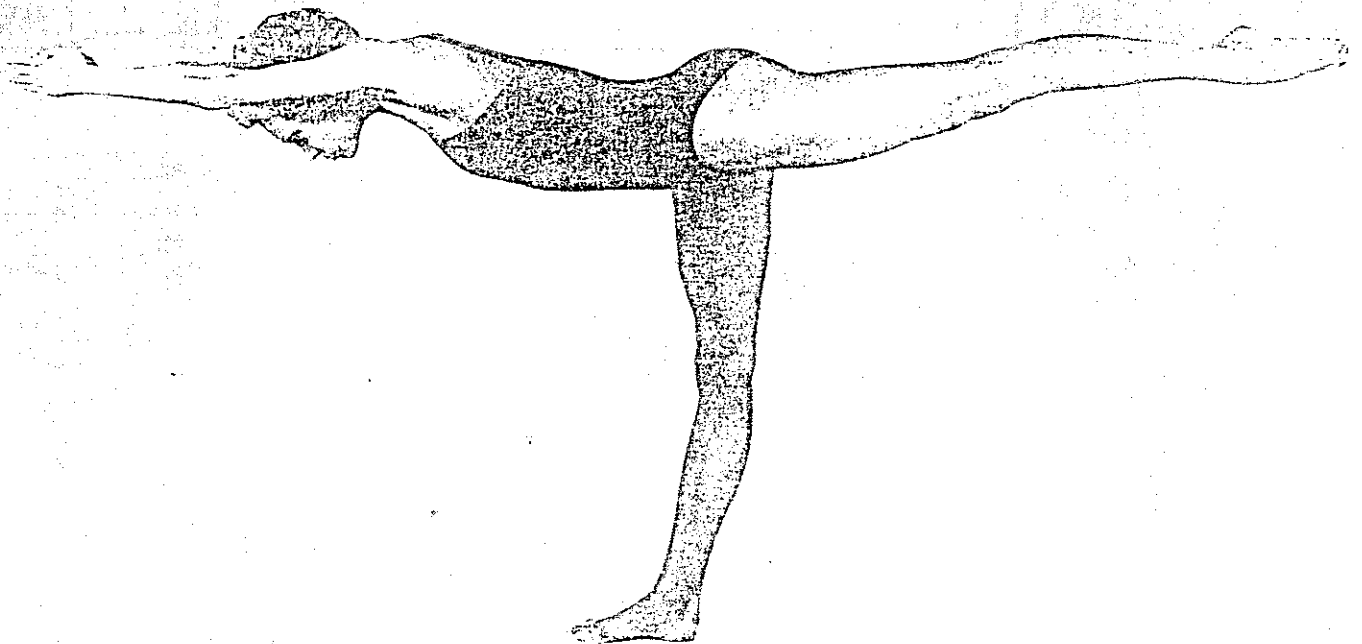
Start with two of our favorite poses, and when you are ready, just send in your application (c/o The Greater Fouta Yoga Club s/c The Fouta Reg. Rep.) requesting a copy of Birkram's Basics, for the rest of the life-extending, stress-relieving poses. Look for our T-shirt offer in the next edition of ...

The Pose of The Month®

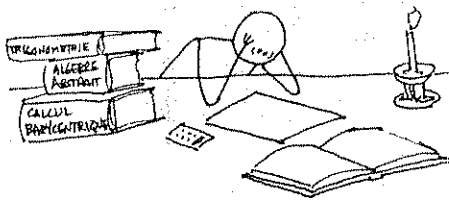
# *The Pose of the Month*

Ø December Ø

(Brought to you by your friends at the Greater Fouta Yoga Club, Rep. of Guinée)



**TILADANSANA**  
Balancing Stick Pose



## Book Reviews

*Mason & Dixon*

Thomas Pynchon

Skol rating: Don't drink, or you'll never finish it

Last sighted: Conakry house at Thanksgiving

REVIEWED BY: STEPHANIE CHASTEEN

From the author of *Gravity's Rainbow*, *the Crying of Lot 49*, and *V*, comes another book big enough to stun an ox. In 773 pages of 18th century style writing, complete with "thee" and Over Capitalized Sentences, is a roundabout, time-confused tale of the adventures of Mason & Dixon, including but not limited to their grand East-West line dividing Pennsylvania and Maryland. How could I describe the convoluted writing of Pynchon? If you have not read him, you should. Is *Mason & Dixon* good? Like *Gravity's Rainbow*, it only grabbed me about halfway through. That's a lot of meat to get through, but it's rewarding as Pynchon draws together the lines of tangled stories and the lives of his assorted closet of characters (character count: about 87). You, too, will travel. It's an epic, and an epic full of oddities such as Ben Franklin's electricity experiments, giant vegetables, a mechanical duck with a crush on a Frenchman, and self-ripping bodices. A ripping tale, worth the effort.

(See P. 29)

## Top 10 Reasons Why Palm Wine is better than Skol

PAINSTAKINGLY GATHERED BY:  
THE PALM WINE CONSUMER'S  
CONSORTIUM, HQ-- CHEZ ANDY A LA  
FORET

10. Palm Wine 5,000=10liters;Skol: 5,000=5 bottles
9. Palm Wine all Natural;Skol made with Formaldehyde
8. Palm Wine: Ça donne la Force; Skol Ça donne le Hangover
7. Drinking Palm Wine is a ritual;Drinking Skol is a Habit
6. Palm Wine is always Fresh;Skol contains more Preservatives than most lab specimens
5. Palm Wine is protein Enriched;Skol is Chemically Enhanced
4. Palm Wine is easy to get en brousse; Skol Available only while supplies last
3. Drinking Palm Wine supports the local economy;Drinking Skol supports a multinational corporation
2. Palm Wine affords its drinkers the fun of climbing 25 feet to the top of a tree;Skol requires only a boring search for an opener.

# PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

TODAY'S SPEAKER: KURT VONNEGUT JR.  
AFTERWORD FROM FREE TO BE YOU AND ME, THE BOOK.

I've often thought there ought to be a manual to hand to little kids, telling them what kind of planet they're on, why they don't fall off it, how much time they've probably got here, how to avoid poison ivy, and so on. I tried to write one once. It was called *Welcome to Earth*. But I got stuck on expaining why we don't fall off the planet. Gravity is just a word. It doesn't explain anything. If I could get past gravity, I'd tell them how we reproduce, how long we've been here, apparently, and a little about evolution. And one thing I would really like to tell them about is cultural relativity. I didn't learn until I was in college about all the other cultures, and I should have learned that in the first grade. A first grader should understand that his or her culture isn't a rational invention; that there are thousands of other cultures and they all work pretty well; that all cultures function on faith rather than truth; that there are lots of alternatives to our own society. Cutural relativity is defensible and attractive. It's also a source of hope. It means we don't have to continue this way if we don't like it.

**Disclaimer:** Plagiarism is the sincerest form of flattery. The editors of this publication would sincerely like to be selling the above person's ideas illegally for lots of money, but they aren't.  
**To Reader and Contributors:** Please contribute similarly pilfered ideas for next issue's 'Pause'

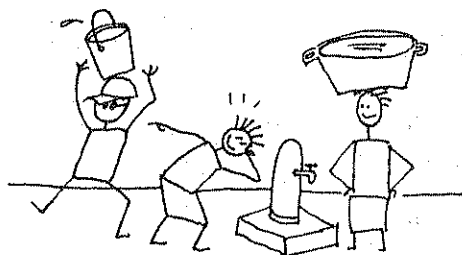
# ( O b ) s c e n e & ( O v e r ) h e a r d

"The world is our poubelle."

**Jennifer Jurlando**, Looking for a waste receptacle near the volunteer house in Conakry.

"I might be more comfortable with just grunting."

**Denise McCabe** on her role in a welcome-to-the-forest ceremony



"I got one that could really suck! There's different sucking power."

**Shanda Steimer**, under unknown circumstances.

«Vraiment, on vous remercie. Nous sommes content. J'ai augmenté ma connaissance. On a chassé les mauvais esprits.»

**M. Kabba**, volunteer landlord in Kankan and member of a Guinean quartet who braved the Kankan Haunted Regional House on Halloween.

"It's a liver. I don't know, it's a big muscle with tubes coming out of it and stuff. It could be a heart."

**Duane Duke**, who won't discuss his MCAT score, describing a just-purchased slab of cow tissue — which he later simulated pulling from Lia Ernst's chest in the haunted house Human Sacrifice Chamber.

"Maybe they'll teach you the difference in medical school."

**Jeanette Swenson**, in response to Dr. Duke.

"Green I guess...yeah, I mean, girls will be coming over."

**Jon P.** using pure, sensible logic while shopping during affectation for home furnishings.

"You know you've been here too long when you look at pictures of exotic endangered animals and think, 'I wonder if that would taste good'."

**Unidentified Pagaille Contributor**, in a submission which won't fit anywhere else.



JAMIE'S  
TIGHTY  
WHITIES

## MORE TOP "N" L I S T S

### Top 10 Reasons to come to he Fouta Djallon

0. Home Cookin' Italian Style: Lasagne, Eggplant Parmesan, Putanesca, Bruschetta and Pomodoro
- Fresh Strawberries
- Tatas is still the best pizza in Guinea
- Sesame Onion and Roasted Garlic Bagels
- Watch Nolan Make a Freezer out of Suni Dawn's Vibrator and Tin Foil.
- Homemade Chocolate Ice Cream
- Pumpkin Pie a la Mode
- Homemade vanilla Ice Cream in Root Beer Floats
- Chocolate Brownies Topped with Vanilla Ice Cream and Chocolate Mint Sauce
- Service is Compris (Although Jurlando may ask for a tip, and Western Union Doesn't Take FG).

### Top Ten Most Absurd ways or Lia Ernst to 'blow out her nee' in Guinea

1. While flossing
- While Listening to George Michael's 'Older' album
- While hunting scorpions in her case
- While cooking with Maggi
- While touring the Skol factory

5. While typing an article for La Pagaille.
4. While getting her heart removed à la Indiana Jones
3. While visiting her incarcerated Sous-Prefet in Siguiri's Slammer
2. While filling out a fiche d'absence form
1. While using 'JAMAIS!' in a sentence

*"Knowing Bintou's knees, all of the above are more than possible. And as much as some of the scenarios envisioned are comical, we should address the potential risks with the highest severity and professionalism. For example, should one of the above situations se réaliser let me know as soon as possible so that I can write to the New England Journal of Medicine and become rich and famous. As for aiding Bintou should she 'blow out a knee' don't sweat it - Bintou's tough. Blowing out knees is her 'bread and butter': it's her bag, baby!"*

- Dr. Amara Djubaté, *Pagaille*  
Health Editor

### 10 Dashboard Stickers We'd like to See

10. If You can read this Sticker... Felicitations.
9. This Car has Climbed Mount Nimba.
8. My other car is a Tomato Can on a string.
7. Tout de Suite is a State of Mind
6. I <heart> Cooter.
5. Newton Was Wrong.
4. I brake.
3. <-Left \_\_\_\_\_ Right->
2. Il y a quoi?
1. Mohammed is My Copilot.

# M a i l Some of it from H o m e

(Instructions from a fourth grader on how to eat a Worther's Original:)

**Dear Denise,**

That thing in the golden wrapper is a piece of candy. You can eat it. DO NOT SWALLOW! SUCK ON IT!

**Derek Byro**

**Dear Shirley,**

I live in Poughkeepsie which is a 2 hour commute to NYC. I wake up at 4 am, work 7:30-4:00pm, then take the train back home. The train schedule is so bad, I have to think about Guinea to make myself feel better.

**Love, Michele Wiegand, former PCV Guinea**

**Denise-**

I just visited Stephanie Chasteen's website -it's quite extensive and gives me all the more respect for your sacrifices to do this for two years. I gathered from my reading that the PC isn't an utopically organized machine of any sorts -you'd kind of expect a little more. You're now a second year eh? That's some kind of status symbol when you're in groups I

guess -first years look at you all bug-eyed and stuff huh? When exactly is your last day? Do they have a debriefing party or something or do they just chuck you back into the US and say, "Welcome Back!"?

**Taylor**

(A serious original describing, well you'll see:)

**Suni Dear,**

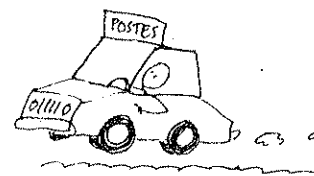
...Why then the grossly oversized, tacky, and postally unbecoming white envelope? I must tell you that coincidence had absolutely no bearing. I weigh all matters of post and freight grealy. When I thought of the fabulous distance my little card must travel carried by the hands and paper bins of the uncaring many - of course I chose the TYVEK® 11in x14 in envelope constructed of the best poltethylene containing 25% post-consumer recycled material, with the ubiquitous - easier to open - tamper evident release strip feature (US Patent No. 5,949,757). And you thought it was just an envelope! ... Although I have picked my nose just once while handling this, I shall expect that you will enjoy the combined effect, am I wrong?...  
**Love, Handy**

**Dear Scope:**

I noticed the flowers a bloomin' already - strange, see the EL NENO thing has been talked

about all around, but my theory about it has changed. See spring comes early, then a really long hot summer that makes another EL NINO and the whole world overheats and boils off its entire atmosphere and himidifies SPACE. And the moon gets clouds and starts to spin and we all move there and learn how to SLAM DUNK at 15 feet. Waddya think?

Now, speaking of snakes, did you know that, I swear to God, at one time in Sunday School we sorta went over the



A d a m and Eve story of the Bible, a n d after G O D gets all pissed off, he tells the snake he'll have to crawl on his belly, etc, etc. And, when I was a kid we, or someone said «And that's why women are afraid of snakes today.» Now, wow. How supple the child's mind is - eh? What does that say about Indiana Jones? What a wuss!

So, I highlighted LIS INCOCNITA on this map. I think that that is why it's hard for ne in this century. There is so much known - and so much unknown (how does e-mail work? why are fig newtons so smooth?)

Most unknown things are human made, or require a narrow research area like, how much does an electron weigh? Maybe I should pursue some big unknown. Well, we see. OK. I go snooze. See you in some time, yes?

**Love, Roberto**

**Dear Scope:**

The NEBRASKA state house is known as the Penis of the Plains. Nice people. Excellent steak. No vegetarian entrees. I'm now across the river in IOWA. Take it easy.

**Love, Roberto.**

**Oh Shirley!**

I am so happy to get those pictures of you and your sister. You both look wonderful. I was so happy to see that you look healthy and free of any obvious nutritional deficits or skin infections. I was a little worried ever since you told me about how Peace Corps informed you that you might not need tampons anyway because you become so emaciated/scurvius/infected etc. that your period stops entirely. Anyways you guys look REALLY good and the countryside and rhino also look awesome and beautiful and really good.

**Love, R**

**Dear Scope:**

I've tried to imagine a world without plastic. I've got a LIFE magazine that has the

100 most important people, things and events of the MILLENIUM. Well, plastic was actually invented in 1919. In 1988 some company offered \$20,000 to anyone who could make a substitute for the material used in pool balls (IVORY!!!) - Well, some cate cooked up a substance in 1919 called BAKELITE - and, well, try and imagine a MUNDO-MONDE without it. Wow. Those Romans.

I hope that all is cool. You aren't missing ANYTHING in the U.S. I promise.  
**Love, Roberto**

**Dear Scope:**

Had dinner with Brian Barth last night. He was trying to figure out how you got on this «Africa Thing». He recalled you had said something about paying money to sleep on a dung floor. I had NO IDEA what the hell he was talking about. Dung floor? Isn't that worm foot?

What to get you for X-Mas? Hmm....I assume you don't need any skis or winter clothing. How about some Egg Nog? Oh yes. Norwegian Fish. (Lutefisk), or was it Swedish fish? No, I'm sure you requested Norwegian Fish, so Lutefisk you will get. Okee dokee. I'll send this from Mom's home town.

**Love, Roberto**

**VICKRY**

Je viens très respectueusement auprès de votre auguste

personnalité pour vous présenter le jeune apprenti chauffeur (Aide et Action) du Bowal Fria. En bref: Le jeune qui vous donne sa biographie comme ça veut tout juste que vous soyiez des correspondants à tout moment et dans le futur. VICKRY cet jeune est âgé de 17 ans. Il aime le cinéma, la musique et surtout les promenades. Pour quoi et par quelle cause ce jeune a-t-il la nostalgie de VICKRY est-ce que par ce qu'elle est fille ou par ce qu'elle est riche? Non. Ce jeune a aimé tout simplement VICKRY pas par ce que elle est riche ni par ce qu'elle est fille. Tout just la nostalgie de VICKRY est pour moi comme un rêve quand je la vois à côté de moi. En un mot je ne peux pas déterminer, comme je me peut définir VICKRY qu'a son ainsu. Pour terminer cette respectueuse lettre je définis...L'amour comme étant l'affection de quelqu'un ou de quelque chose pensant dicté par la loi de la nature. Chère VICKRY veuillez agréer l'expression de mes sentiments les plus distingués.

**Stephanie,**  
Cher demoiselle....Avec le plus grand respect que j'ai pour vous, pouvez-vous m'aider quand votre contrat sera fini à partir avec vous en Amérique, le pays de l'oncle Sam? Je vous aime. Vous avez une beauté nature.  
**Mohammed Conte**

1. Palm Wine ne gushe pas!

## Top 11 Other Names For Viagra

11. Springkok (South Africa)
10. Vibrigado (Brazil)
9. Varinotti (Italy)
8. Via allegre (Puerto Rico)
7. Virgnu (India)
6. Rejkavoom (Iceland)
5. Vimgro (England)
4. Vighorra (Ireland)
3. Aufschwanz (Germany)
2. Voilara (France)
1. Inshallah (Guinea)

## Why Pit Latrines are better than Chaises Americaines

COMPILED BY SHAD AND KERRI BRAMSTED

10. No hard water stains
9. Interesting Wildlife
8. No Scrubbing the bowl
7. Can converse with neighbors
6. Time to work on tan
5. Can't forget to flush
4. Going out into nature to take the call of nature
3. Deep Knee Bends
2. Seat is always up (or down)
1. Human Powered Waterfall

## Top 10 Reasons to Know You've Been in Guinea Too Long

10. You call yourself Porto/Fote/Toubabu/Kwibob--adjust by region.

9. Your body size has adjusted to your tailor's vision of you.
8. Your dream car is a Peugeot 505.
7. Rice for Breakfast: Yum, yum!
6. You can "poop" directly into the MIF kit bottle.
5. You start complimenting people on the size of their coqs.
4. You are willing to run your fingers through Nolan's hair.
3. Warm Skol with that rice for

*Book Reviews, Cont'd*

*Tuesdays with Morrie*

Mitch Albom

Skol Rating: 5

Last Sighted:

Nonfiction. An elderly college professor chooses to live with Lou Gerhig's disease, rather than die from it. Narrated by one of his students. Good for those busy PCVs who find the time to ponder the meaning of life from their hammocks.

*Another Woman's Maribou: My Memoires*

ANON

Skol Rating: 5

Last Sighted: Widely available in Guinea

Nonfiction. A dramatic exposition of the life of a woman whose future is told in the hands of an aging Soothsayer. Her lover's attentions are turned to another through a mix of gris-gris and magic potions. Truly a heart wrenching story which can't help but win you over, and make you vow to seek revenge, no holds barred. I pity the other woman. A must read.

## LA PAGAILLE

Noun, Vulgar. Chaos, anarchy, a mess, as in: "c'était la pagaille a la gare voiture aujourd'hui, alors c'était difficile de trouver une voiture," --or-- "c'est la pagaille dans la maison des volontaires a Conakry avant IST".

## ADOPT AN EXPAT.

Imagine a life led in airconditioned 4x4s and walled compounds; imagine never going beyond Conakry, Dalaba, maybe a regional capital or two. If your heart goes out to the expat community, take a few minutes to pull out and complete the form in the center of this Pagaille and return it to us, and you'll not only be helping to give a home to a clever magazine title recently displaced by a more permanent moniker, you'll be giving expatriates and their families a chance to see Guinea, from a volunteer's-eye view. You'll be contributing to the *Lame Duck Guide to Guinea*. We will compile the submissions and give them, together with our collective thanks for his (and others') hospitality (pool, cafeteria, email, brownies, etc), to the ambassador, who will be leaving Guinea for good soon. It will circulate at the embassy, and be available to anyone there who's interested.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

Contribute to a special Valentine's Day Feature of the next issue: Love Letters from Near and Far. Send in your juiciest, most aromatic epistles for publication and ridicule, or craft a personal ad that epitomizes an admirer (see examples inside the last page). Cruel, yes, but necessary. Thanks to the readers who thought this up.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

While very grateful for all submissions, our brains, eyeballs and the carpal tunnels in our wrists will be even more grateful to our contributors for following a few guidelines. If at all possible, type your work. Those who don't may notice artistic licence taken by staff typists. Keep pictures within the size of a single page. Feel free to submit stuff that doesn't fit into any of the current 'departments'. We are going to attempt to adopt a quarterly schedule, as follows: **issues come out January 1; April 1; July 1; and October 1**, roughly corresponding to events in the year: The New Year, COS conference/ April Fool's Day, The Rainy Season/ Fourth of July, and Swearing-In, respectively. **Deadlines for submissions will be: one month in advance for stuff that doesn't require typing, two months in advance for stuff that does.** Submissions that don't make those dates will be used, just not in the next issue [i.e. get stuff in by 2/1 untyped; 3/1 typed for the April Issue]. Thanks in advance.

## RECYCLE!

There's a new eco-friendly self mailer on the last page. When you're done reading this Pagaille, stick a US stamp on it, address it to an RPCV, and send it down to Conakry.

MUST HAVE AC, MOSQUITO NET, AND MONEY TO BURN UNDER TWO DAYS TRAVEL TO KISSIDOUYOU

LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO CAN INDULGE MY LACK OF VACATION DAYS AND COME TO ME. BENEFITS NO WODE!

PCV ISO SEX SEND INQUIRIES TO BP 1927

SF ISO HCN WILLING TO RELOCATE TO ONE OF THE 52 US STATES. NO VISA, NO PROBLEM. WILL BE A THIRD WIFE.

SVF ISO ANY M MUST BE STD FREE WRITE TO BP 1927

HAVE READ ALL THE MANUALS LOOKING FOR A LAB PARTNERWRITE TO GLAND MASTER LOVE

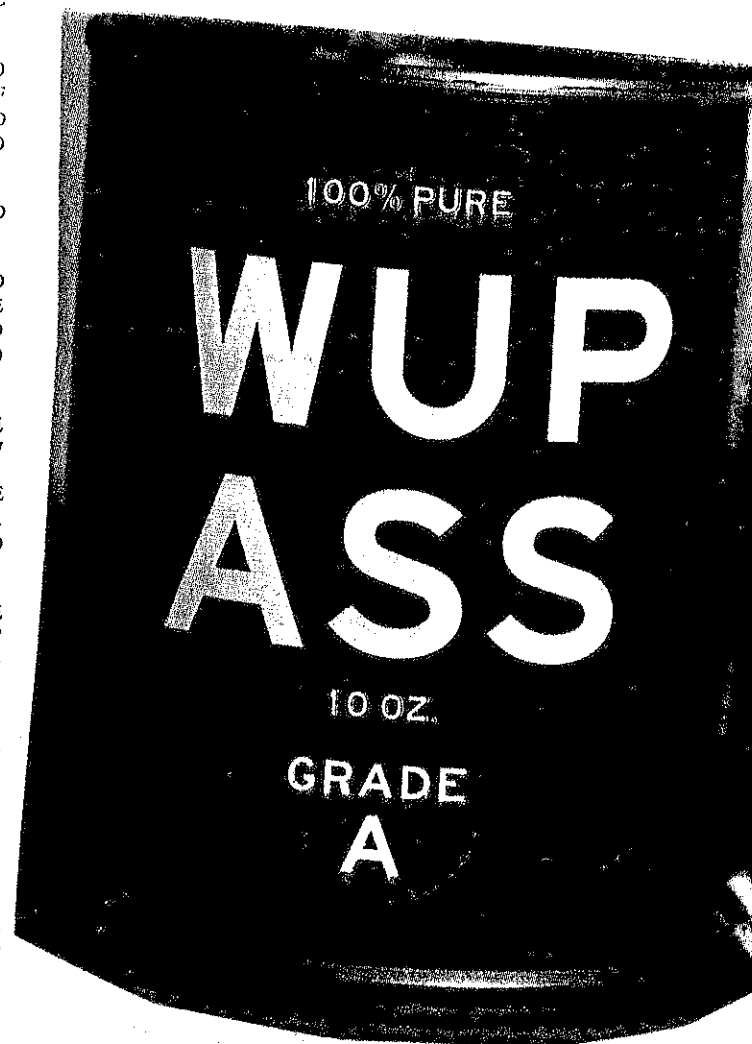
LEGS LEGS AND MORE LEGS! AND THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR RUNNING ANYMORE... SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY

HOTTY ISO AN OCCASIONAL SITEMATE. NO WEIRDOS!

PCV ISO UPHOLSTERY-CRAZED WILD MAN

ISO YOGA PARTNER MULTIPLES ACCEPTED WRITE GREATER FOUTA YOGA CLUB

with the first one hundred and fifty copies of La Pagaille.



S/C LA PAGAILLE  
B.P 1927  
C O N A K R Y  
G U I N E E  
A F R I Q U E  
D E L' O U E S T



...A BUNCH OF WORDS ALL IN NEXT LITTLE ROWS