



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Betty Britton, left, and Shirley Morock get into the Halloween spirit Wednesday at the East Campus Union Cafeteria.

Peace Corps jobs open

When Michael Kammerdiener graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1979, he felt he needed more than a degree in government. He wanted to see the world. He wanted to help others. He turned to the Peace Corps for help.

"I wanted to go overseas to see if some of the theories and philosophies I learned in school were true," Kammerdiener said. "I wanted to see some different ways of living. And I wanted to help other people less fortunate than myself."

Kammerdiener is one of 100,000 Americans who have served as volunteers in the Peace Corps program, which serves countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Kammerdiener and Susan Collins, another Peace Corps volunteer, are at UNL this week to interview people interested in the program. They are holding interviews today and Friday at the Career Planning and Placement Office in the Nebraska Union 225 and also at the East Campus Union.

Presently, 5,200 volunteers and trainees in more than 60 nations serve in the Peace Corps. They offer skills in many programs including: Maternal and child health, family nutrition, fresh water fisheries, agriculture extension, teacher training, math and science education, vocational training, small business consultation, civil engineering, natural resource development, forestry and conservation and energy.

First anniversary . . .

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Feb. 21, 1984 — United Banks of Colorado submitted an offer to operate a financial institution in place of Commonwealth. The agreement would only have returned about 10 cents on the dollar and violated Nebraska's interstate banking laws.

Feb. 29, 1984 — The state

Claims Board devised a plan to resurrect Commonwealth with a \$60 million state injection.

March 16, 1984 — Lancaster County District judges rejected the state Claims Board's plan.

April 3, 1984 — The Legislature defeated a bill that would have allowed a degree of interstate banking. The bill would have

cleared the way for the United Banks of Colorado plan, subject to depositor approval.

May 31, 1984 — The state Claims Board concluded that the state is legally liable for Commonwealth's debt and developed another bail-out plan which cost the state \$33 million. Depositors would get about 50 percent of

their money back.

July 16, 1984 — First Tier offered to buy some of Commonwealth's assets and initially return about 5 cents on the dollar to depositors. Depositors were not enthusiastic about the offer.

July 27, 1984 — District judges rejected the scaled-down state Claims Board plan. State senators doubted whether the Legislature would ever vote tax funds to pay depositors.

Aug. 16, 1984 — Legislature held special session, rekindled

interstate banking bill.

Aug. 27, 1984 — Legislature's Banking Committee killed the bill.

Sept. 7, 1984 — Depositors hired Tennessee consultant Irwin Deutscher to devise and lobby for a Commonwealth reorganization plan.

Oct. 29, 1984 — Depositors testified before the Legislature's Special Commonwealth Committee. Those who testified told stories of severe financial hardship and said the state is responsible for their losses.

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Foreign students...

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Judy Wendorff, IES foreign student adviser, said the loss is a subject most of the students don't want to be reminded of anymore. "It's kind of a shameful thing for some of the students," she said. "If it's over, it's over."

Wendorff said she thinks the students' attitude is justified — something they must do in order to get on with their lives.

Little is known now about the whereabouts of most of these students. Some have left the university to get married, transfer schools or go on to practical training, Wendorff said.

DeCoster said as far as he knows, "the means that we took were successful" in helping these students to remain in the United States.

Husen managed to stay in Lincoln with the help of 70-year-old Miles Johnson, who supplied her

with room and board as well as the funds needed to continue her education.

Johnson said he came to Wendorff last November after reading an article about these students.

"I told her I'd like to help out one of the students," he said.

Husen stayed with Johnson from November to June, when she left to get married.

Husen, who transferred to the Lincoln School of Commerce to get her degree in Computer Science, said she doesn't know how long she and her husband, who is Indonesian, will be able to stay in the United States. She has just written home to her brother and sister in Osaka, Japan, for more money. She said she has no hope of ever seeing the money she lost in Commonwealth. The couple hope to complete their education and get jobs in America, staying for several years before returning home, she said.

Couple doubtful...

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Orletha said Commonwealth officials told her to seek financial help at the state Department of Social Services. They turned her down.

"They told me the special van we use for Erwin's wheelchair-lift is worth too much," she said.

They told Orietha that the state Social Security Department would "surely" be able to help them.

"They told me because I hadn't worked for five of the last 10 years that I wasn't eligible," she said. "Even after I told them I had cancer they told me they couldn't help me."

Since then the Mantznerns said they know of no one else to turn to.

"Will it do any good to talk to anyone else?" Erwin asked.

Orletha said they are both looking at other ways of seeking help but said the task is difficult and

frustrating.

"If Erwin would go to a nursing home, Social Security would pay for his bills and I could get a job," she said. "But I can't leave Erwin."

Orletha said in emergencies they can turn to their nephew who lives in Lincoln and her brother who lives next door.

"But they have their lives to live, too," she said.

The financial load lightened slightly this month when Orietha became eligible for Social Security. "It's not much but it's something," she said.

The Mantznerns said they have "no idea" if they'll ever receive any of their \$83,000. They said they are disappointed with their state government.

"They called it a guarantee," Erwin said. "What is a guarantee I don't know. Why was there no money in a kitty to back it up? Is it false advertisement? I don't know."