

# New Peace Corps recruitment office opens

By Sharon Gies  
Staff Reporter

Hoping to achieve stronger representation from Nebraska, the Peace Corps has established its first recruiting office at UNL since 1973.

Recruiter Ruth Thompson said there are few corps participants from Nebraska. Corps statistics show that as of November, Nebraska based 23 volunteers, compared with 122 in Iowa and 94 from Kansas.

"Nebraska has good people," she said. "I'd like to make them more aware of the opportunities in the corps."

Demand is greater than supply for those with agricultural backgrounds, she said. Farmers who have been furnished could put their skills and knowledge to use in developing countries, she said, and do something elsewhere that matters.

Thompson's work with the corps began after she graduated from UNL in 1979.

Armed with a "year for adventure" and a few weeks of training, she was sent to the Philippines. There, she worked with rural youth, growing vegetables, raising small animals and helping water leadership skills.

Adapting to the local diet of rice, fruit and seafood was easy, she said. The corps is not nearly as primitive as people would believe, she said. But she admitted every country is different and each experience is

unique.

Volunteers are taught the language and customs of their host country and learn routines of everyday life, so they can tackle a variety of situations, Thompson said.

The corps is valuable, she said, because it helps dispel the "stereotypical images" many people have of America. The corps also provides experience with an "awareness of international relations" and teaches people "how to do for themselves."

Essentially, the people of developing countries are used to accepting the situation, Thompson said. "They don't realize that they can change. They've never had the education or experience to follow through on projects."

But Thompson said, she doesn't mislead people. Although she has seen her work with a feeling of accomplishment, she said, "The first month this is a real high, and the rest of the year is a real low."

Thompson said she did not understand the "real" life until she returned to the U.S.

The corps offers a living allowance plus 16 weeks of training, complete basic post travel expenses and a readjustment allowance — \$175 for every month of service.

Volunteers must be a U.S. citizen with a college education or they must have some special experience



Thompson in the Peace Corps recruitment office, Nebraska Union 345.

to qualify, she said.

Thompson said she is encouraged about recruitment. Since she returned to the corps as a recruiter in

January, 12 or 13 people have shown interest.

She encourages anyone who is interested to visit the office in the

Nebraska Union, room 345 or call 473-3264. The office is open noon to 2 p.m. Monday, noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday and noon to 2 p.m. Friday.

## 'Peace Pals' program promotes cultural contact

By James M. Lillis  
Staff Reporter

One-to-one contact through letters between people in different countries is the purpose of a new Lincoln-based organization, "Peace Pals."

Founder Doug Kasperek is setting up a staff and promoting the nine-day-old correspondence corps.

Although this is not a new idea, Kasperek said he hopes to go beyond typical pen pals programs.

"We want this to be for all people of all ages," Kasperek said. "We want everyone to have contact through letters, phone calls, travel or other cultural exchange."

A voluntary \$5 monthly fee per member will be the main source of funding, Kasperek said. However, all members will be treated equally whether they contribute or not.

"The money we receive will go towards printing materials, promotion, contacting members and matching them for correspondence and later, hopefully, a newsletter and salaries for the staff," Kasperek said.

More than 300 potential members have been contacted worldwide, Kasperek said. He said he wasn't sure how large the organization could become, but no matter how big it gets, the human contact will be worthwhile.

"We hope to expand through exposure to local and eventually national media coverage," Kasperek said. "Without media it will be hard to let people know what we're doing."

Kasperek said starting the organization was easy, but keeping it going will be a challenge until it is firmly established.

"I suppose one of the major problems I am having right now is just trying to keep my rent paid and my refrigerator full," Kasperek said.

Either way, he will follow through with the organization because he believes it will work, he said.

"Peace Pals is an easy way to bring people together," Kasperek said. "It takes very little time and it has enormous potential to change the way we view the world."

Anyone interested in or having further questions about Peace Pals can phone Kasperek at 475-2176.

## Digest

### Exam rescheduling

Friday is the last day students can notify instructors concerning three or more final examinations in a single day. The policy, passed by the UNL Faculty Senate last year, gives students the following options:

- Take all examinations as scheduled.
- Consult with instructors and/or departments giving the examinations to determine if any make-up examination is or can be scheduled within the final exam week.

- If no make-up examination is available, the students must give notice to the instructor(s) or department(s) of the third and subsequent final exams, scheduled within a single day. Such notification must be made before the end of the seventh week of classes.

- The instructor of the third and subsequent examination are then obligated to provide an alternate examination period within the exam week.

- Mini-courses should continued to be examined on the last meeting day of the course.

## CONTACT LENSES



### THEY'RE MORE THAN MEET THE EYE.

So, the lowest price may not prove to be a bargain. At Family Contact Lens Center, the health of your eyes comes first. That's why we provide thorough, professional care, to assure healthy eyes while wearing contact lenses. And we do it at a price you can afford. In addition to a wide selection of lens designs and materials, we offer free consultation and an exclusive 60-day trial period.

For more information call. 483-4000/483-5757



"Where the health of your eyes comes first."



6909 East "O"  
Financing Available



## Fame is the name of the game

COHEN from Page 4

When the former published a special section on airports, Liddy was just one of the famous it turned to: O.J. Simpson loathes O'Hare. Ann Landers likes it because it means she's home. That's the way Nancy Kissinger feels about New York's John F. Kennedy. And Dr. Benjamin Spock has a soft spot in what Liddy would say is his bleeding heart for the airport in Kansas City. Each and every one of these people is given a title: sportscaster, columnist, pediatrician, "wife of Henry Kissinger," and, for Liddy, author. Yes, author.

Long ago someone observed that U.S. life is turning into a parody of a television talk show — a chat with a nuclear physicist, an actress, a volunteer at a hospice and a Nazi war criminal. Each gets a mug of coffee and each gets to call one another by his or her first name — "What a nice suit, Fritz." They are all equally famous and fame, after all, is what counts. It hardly matters anymore how you got there.

Gordon Liddy is the personification of that ethic — a barometer of the nation's hypocrisy. Mothers rail against obscenity in rock lyrics, but don't even think about Liddy appearing on "Miami Vice." The president's guardian of morality, Edwin Meese, deputizes a posse to investigate the effects of pornography on everything from children to green plants, but doesn't ask the same kids what lesson they draw from the life and times of Gordon Liddy. (The only thing sillier than Meese's mission is the press asking a president who once played opposite a monkey what he thinks of his son appearing on televi-

sion in his underwear.)

If Liddy had stolen cash he would never have been heard of again. We do not forgive crimes against property. But crimes against the U.S. Constitution are a different matter. That is politics and politics, we obviously think, is some sort of joke. The real joke, though, is that Liddy himself knew better. For his politics, he was willing to steal, to burglarize, to plant recording devices and, according to witnesses, to kill or be killed — although that may have been nothing but talk. At any rate, Liddy's politics was to rob you of yours.

A nation needs its scoundrels if only to remind it that it stands for something. Scoundrels personify a society's values, what is permissible, what is not and what line cannot be crossed. Liddy, who crossed many of them, would be the perfect scoundrel — the lawyer with contempt for the law, the public official who betrays the public trust, the man who, in his own little way, made the world worse for being in it.

But the demand for celebrities trivializes both the good and the bad — the baby doctor and the crook from Watergate. O.J. Simpson hates O'Hare and Tony Randall says he can't tell one airport from another. Singer Dionne Warwick thinks "New Edition" may win a Grammy. Author Gordon Liddy has two crime books to recommend and Idi Amin, we may presume, has an unlisted number. He could be an author, too.

© 1986, Washington Post Writers Group  
Cohen writes an editorial column for the Washington Post.