

# Peace Corps Successes Mean Work

By DAVID BUTLER  
Feature Editor

In a small town in Venezuela, twelve dark, somewhat-ragged kids who had never seen a football before were running pass patterns with an American football.

In Caracas, Venezuela, not very far away, fishermen families lived on fish and bananas in a slum near the edge of the city.

What connected these two different situations together was the involvement of the Peace Corps; to be exact, two Peace Corps members now visiting the University in a recruiting drive for Peace Corps Week, Jan. 16-21.

## Discipline Goal

In the small town the 12 ragged kids were playing football for one main reason: to establish discipline.

Discipline, says Steve Knaebel, former Peace Corps volunteer in Venezuela, is almost non-existent, especially among the young. Standing in line is almost unheard-of. So it was up to Knaebel to not only establish a YMCA in the town, but also to combat the poverty and suspiciousness of its inhabitants, particularly the young.

Knaebel arrived in Venezuela after training for service in the summer of 1963. He had just graduated from Stanford University as an English major. In training, he had been sent to a college in Massachusetts to be trained as a physical education teacher.

"But I quickly convinced them (the Peace Corps) I was a spastic; so they put me in a YMCA project," said Knaebel.

## In Caracas Only

When Knaebel arrived in Venezuela the YMCA had been established in Caracas for a little over 17 years. But that was all. Fourteen volunteers, the first to arrive in that country, had started five more centers in five other cities in June, 1962.

For a while he worked with

two of the original 14 volunteers, but later was sent to a neighboring town, Moron, about 15 miles away, to begin a new YMCA.

After several months of making contacts with local businessmen and organizations, Knaebel accumulated the grand total of two donated warehouses.

Unfortunately, anything that was or was not nailed down in the buildings was stolen within a week after he had secured the property. All the windows were broken. Entire bathrooms were literally uprooted.

## European Study To Be Explained

The European exchange program of the School of Business Administration will be explained to interested male students at a meeting at 4 p.m. Friday in 138 Commonwealth.

Opportunities offered to Oregon students and the exchange program itself will be discussed. Color slides will also be shown.

The program is open to all male students who will be in their junior year or beginning their senior year during the academic year 1966-67. Full credit transfer to the University for a junior year abroad is available for participating students.

An illustrated brochure may be obtained from advisors. W. Dwaine Richens, Don P. Remington or Mark R. Green, faculty members, may be contacted for further information.

## Lund to Show Slides

Ernest H. Lund, associate professor of geology, will show colored slides of Australia and New Zealand at 8 p.m. Friday in 150 Science.

Lund spent the academic year of 1964-65 on sabbatical leave, and was a Fulbright professor at the University of Peshawar, Pakistan. During the summer months he visited Australia and New Zealand.

## PL-3 Program

Thursday, Jan. 13

- 6:30—HUNTLEY - BRINKLEY REPORT
- 7:00—ARTS, USA: THE AMERICAN THEATER: Part 2.
- 7:30—HISTORY OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE: "Our Country, Too."
- 8:00—PRESIDENT'S MEN: An in-depth look at a member of the Johnson Cabinet.
- 8:30—KALEIDOSCOPE: The Arts in Oregon.
- 9:00—POET'S EYE: Kester Svendsen reads Gwendolyn Brooks.
- 9:30—OPEN MIND

When Knaebel finally entered Moron he had a volleyball in his hand and a lot of ideas that come from bareness, uncertainty, and necessity.

At first the youngsters were dumbfounded. "They laughed at me," he said, "because they had been let down so many times before. They had never had attention from an adult before."

Knaebel faced two major battles: he had to win the confidence and cooperation of the youngsters, and also he had to build an entire YMCA program starting with nothing.

It would take months for both. Slowly, however, Knaebel made progress. He organized baseball, basketball, volleyball, and soccer tournaments. He established a soapbox derby with the cars being built by the kids themselves in the YMCA carpentry program he started.

## Dug-up Tubing

He started weight lifting programs with some steel tubing that took months to dig up.

Baseball and soccer fields were built. A basketball court was built. Membership grew to 250.

## Campus Briefs

Announcements for Campus Briefs must be turned in by 3:30 p.m. the day before publication. Because of space limitations, no announcements will be run more than twice.

The medical admissions committee from the University Medical School will be on campus today and Friday to conduct interviews with students who have applied for admission next year to the Medical School.

There is a SU Recorded Classics meeting at 12:15 today for those members who didn't come last week.

The Angel Flight meeting is at noon today in 104 French, and will be followed by the Little Colonel Reception at 1 p.m.

Gamma Alpha Chi will hold a business meeting at 4 p.m. today in 307 Allen. All members please attend.

The SU forum committee will meet at 4 p.m. today in 315 SU.

There will be a Hawaiian Club meeting at 6 p.m. today in 214 Friendly. All those interested in helping with the luau in the spring are urged to attend.

The Baptist Student Union will have a vespers service at 6:15 p.m. today in the SU. All interested students are invited to attend.

There will be an important organizational meeting of all Fresh 200 members at 6:30 p.m. today in 150 Science. Members of the basketball team will be introduced. Bring mittens and please be prompt.

There will be an important jazz committee meeting at 6:45 p.m. today in 206 SU. All members and prospective members are urged to attend.

Young Republicans will hold their first meeting of winter term at 7 p.m. today in the SU. Representative Joe Richards will be the featured speaker. All members should attend and any interested students are also invited. Room number will be posted.

The model UN will meet at 7 p.m. today in 201 Villard.

The SU movie committee will meet at 7 p.m. today in 308 SU.

The OREGANA staff meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday has been moved to the same time today in the OREGANA offices, M-110 SU.

The Faculty-Student Committee to Stop the War in Vietnam will hold an organization meeting at 8 p.m. today in 138 Commonwealth. All who are interested in, and support, this committee are urged to attend. Family members of faculty and student supporters are as welcome as full participants.

College Life will meet at 9 p.m. today at the Alpha Tau Omega house. Bud Hinkson will speak.

WRA representatives please turn in your badminton sign-up lists to the WRA box in Gerlinger by Friday.

The Y steering committee on race relations will meet at 4 p.m. Friday in the SU. The room will be posted.

Interested in art? The SU arts committee can provide the opportunity to work with other students in the area of your interest. Applications available in Room 301 SU.

He built a library with books he bought himself—mostly classics.

The other battle, winning the confidence and cooperation of the youngsters involved, also progressed, slowly, but it was still steady progression.

"When I arrived, these kids had no discipline at all," Knaebel said, "but later, when I would leave the building, I could leave all the equipment in the open with one kid in charge and when I returned it would all be there—not even a ping pong ball missing."

## Accepting Blame

Furthermore, "The kids would accept the blame if something happened; before, they wouldn't do that."

To help insure that he got cooperation from the youngsters, Knaebel immediately established six basic rules, such as no throwing of equipment and no swearing, before any youngsters were allowed to use the facilities.

If a youngster didn't follow Knaebel's rules he was suspended from use of the facilities for two weeks.

"Essentially it was a center of justice," Knaebel commented, "it was a place where there was fairness. This was probably the first time where these kids could participate in the democratic process."

## Goal Found

When Knaebel left Moron and the YMCA, a sign was hanging on the wall in the basketball court:

## 1¢ Sale

Shake or Malt for  
Only 1c With Purchase  
of Deluxe Burger  
FRIDAY ONLY  
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"Our goal — courtesy, respect, sportsmanship."

For the fishermen in Caracas, the situation was different. They didn't need a YMCA, they needed a guaranteed year-around supply of food for their families when fishing was poor.

So former volunteer Chuck Butler, also at the University this week, convinced the fishermen in the slum to pool their fish and sell them to buy a refrigerator.

The fishermen did. Butler, in his efforts not only to show the slum dwellers how to keep an adequate food supply, also convinced them "to come as a group to solve a common problem. I was active more or less as a catalyst to bring them together."

Butler is now assistant deputy of recruiting in the West and also is instrumental in developing a Peace Corps athletic program with national collegiate coaches.

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## McFee to Talk On Arts, Society

"The Art in Society" will be Mrs. June McFee's topic during a public lecture at 4 p.m. Friday in 106 Lawrence. Mrs. McFee is directing a program in art education at the University's School of Architecture and Allied Arts.

Mrs. McFee joined the University faculty this fall. She has taught at Arizona State College, Yakima Junior College, Stanford University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Arizona.

She holds degrees from the University of Washington, Central Washington State College, and Stanford University.

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