

Peace Corps has changed, says campus rep

By KATHY CRAFT
Of the Emerald

The Peace Corps — does it still exist? According to Eric Stroud, a University mathematics graduate student who serves as a Peace Corps liaison on campus, the answer is definitely yes. "We're alive and well," he emphasized, although he admitted that most of the New Frontier fanfare that surrounded the agency at its birth is gone.

There's not so much media attention today. And those in charge of the program now simply aren't charismatic in the way that Kennedy and Shriver were," he said. "But the Peace Corps is still an important aspect of American foreign relations — a kind of grass-roots diplomacy. And we're still looking for men and women who want to join."

Stroud, who served as a Peace Corps representative for two years teaching high school mathematics in Zaire, Africa, said the agency's recruiting system changed drastically during the last two years. Previously, applicants filled out a "very general application form, with no idea where they'd be assigned. Now they apply for a specific position in a specific country," from a list that is updated three times a year, Stroud explained. "It's not the hit or miss procedure it was," he said. "Generally, an applicant knows what job he or she will be assigned to."

Stroud said the corps is particularly anxious for men and women with backgrounds in science and technical fields, such as chemistry, engineering, health, architecture, agriculture and forestry. But liberal arts majors who want to join shouldn't lose

hope, he added. "There is still a great demand for English teachers," he explained.

Stroud said a BA is required for most positions. But in certain skills-oriented positions, such as plumbing a degree often isn't necessary, he said.

Most Peace Corps positions, Stroud said, are in Africa, although certain countries in Latin America and Asia also participate in the program. He said a qualified person can expect to actually be working overseas approximately six months after applying, although occasionally the waiting period is reduced to as little as one month.

Those interested in learning more about the Peace Corps and available positions should contact Stroud at the mathematics department office in Deady Hall, or telephone him at 686-4706.



Eric Stroud

Concerts

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rock 'n roll," he says. "It came as a shock to me."

"And he's turned down the hottest new rock 'n roll around," he added.

Such as? Boston, Third World and Tower of Power are examples, promoters say.

Tappendorf denies the ban. He says he is working on several upcoming rock shows.

Several promoters claim the Cultural Forum makes decisions according to their taste, not students'.

"There's a cluster of people there who don't have to take a risk on concerts," says Kovac. Financial arrangements between the Cultural Forum and promoters provide that the student government puts up no money and receives 10 per cent of any profits. He adds that since promoters are the ones who stick their necks out, they know what will sell, and what won't.

"I don't know what methods he (Tappendorf) uses to find out what's selling," says Lee, "but it's forcing us to take shows to the Fairgrounds that we'd love to do at Mac Court."

If students really wanted to upgrade the music scene on campus there'd be some surveys of student opinion," says Jim Williams, former manager of the Community Center for the Performing Arts.

Actually, the Cultural Forum did run a survey last year in the Emerald to determine student

tastes. And another poll is planned. But only 150 people returned last year's questionnaire, Tappendorf said.

Waylon Jennings, the one Cultural Forum show at Mac Court, was financially successful. But out of advance ticket sales that made up the bulk of attendance, 4,047 general admission tickets were sold versus only 1,287 student-bought admissions.

"I don't feel bad about the Jennings concert at all," responds Tappendorf. Since it was Homecoming Week, many general admissions were alumni, he says.

How did Jesse Colin Young end up in Corvallis and not in Eugene? "I could have had him but I was looking at Stephen Stills for the weekend. But then that canceled and Young was already going to Corvallis."

Similarly the John Klemmer-George Benson show was headed for Eugene but a prior commitment let that get away.

When asked if student-run concert production was inefficient, Kovac of TDA says his people could set up a show in half the time students take. He mentioned one incident in which it took eight people to remove a basketball backboard. Kovac also complained about University rules. It costs him \$500 just for the University to collect tickets the nights of his shows, he says.

Tappendorf replies he'd rather see work-study students getting

the money than promoters. He claims student crews are more than competent.

"You know what you'd have if promoters got to do it all their way?" he says. "Look what Double Tee did at the Fairgrounds Wednesday." Half of a double bill canceled, so Double Tee scheduled an act they managed themselves.

"If that happened with us," he says, "I'd give students their money back."

"We're new at all this; we're learning," says Tappendorf. Right now the problem is the Athletic Department. They took a quarter of a million dollars out of the music market with the Presley shows, and they want to get in deeper, he says.

In some ways Tappendorf resembles a wave in shark waters. But by his own admission he has become accustomed to the beast's nature.

"I'm sure promoters have a lot of gripes against me," he says. "I've turned down five shows from this one promoter. I've probably cost him \$50,000, but I'm here to bring students a quality show. I want something that appeals to students and not just the pockets of promoters."

"Sure, promoters would love to go with their own people. We're selective. They'd rather deal with someone like the Athletic Department, which will charge \$10 a ticket and do anything that makes a lot of money."

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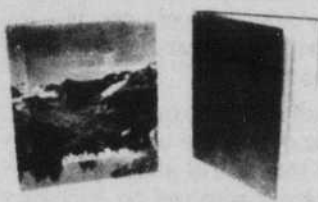
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