



Notes from the Editor... *its NEW*

The Peace Corps Kazakhstan Vesti has changed hands. The hands it fell into are ours, and we want the Vesti to be these three things:

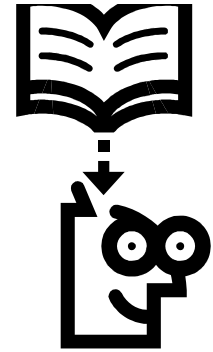
1. An exhibition of the writing of Peace Corps KZ volunteers,
2. A forum for the exchange of ideas and information about issues related to working and living in Kazakhstan, and
3. A point of distribution for administrative information that will help volunteers.

To these ends, this issue, we have an essay about wolves throwing light on a

cultural divide, a description of one volunteer's local AIDS program, a report from a university that participates in the Fellows program, a heartfelt ode to a grapefruit, and much more.

We think this is a pretty good start.

To keep this going, we need your contributions. We need them like students need to eat chalk and the train cashier needs your passport. We got a lot of writing and ideas for this issue, and it made us feel all warm and fuzzy inside, as well as made an issue that's far cooler than any one per-



son or group of people could make alone. Keep them coming, and doing so, keep this a volunteer-oriented newsletter.

Ryan and Bryan

HELLO FROM THE RESOURCE CENTER

Hope you all are doing well and feel warm in spite of this unusually cold winter.

I would like to draw once more your attention to the new address of the office. It is:

Peace Corps Kazakhstan
PO Box 257 Almaty

In Russian it is

Корпус Мира США в
Казахстане

А/я 257 Алматы
050022

The postal address, we

used before (PO Box 376), will be valid for some more time and your mail either to or from the States will reach its destination. Still, take care to inform your parents, relatives and friends overseas about our new postal address. Also, let them know about the change of the zip code of your site. You can find out your new zip code at your local post office. I am already using new codes for the office mail we send you weekly. If you are curious or would like to check go to

www.kazpost.kz .
Though it's in Russian, I believe, you can do it or your local friends can help you.

If you have any questions you are welcome to contact me.

Galina



CONTENTS

Administration

News

Volunteer writing

Language

Classifieds

All:

I'd like to thank Ryan Giordano, Bryan Seck (editors) and Jennifer Otten (graphics) agreeing to overhaul and produce this first issue of the new Vesti. If you have any ideas or submissions for future editions, please contact Ryan or Bryan. I am excited to have a PCV generated newsletter as I am sure you are more creative and attune to what you want in a newsletter than staff is.

I hope you are all filling out your living allowance survey. The living allowance in Kazakhstan has not been increased in a number of years (since well before my time here) and as you are all aware, prices continue to rise. We need a 70% response rate to make changes to the current scale so it is important that you fill out the survey, even if you feel your allowance is adequate. We would like to transition to a tiered system in which the living allowance varies from site to site depending on the cost of living at that site. We are also considering including the housing payment in the living allowance as the current system is not working for very well for urban PCVs from a staff or Volunteer perspective. In order to make these changes we need living allowance surveys as well a market basket surveys (in process) from various sites. I believe that if we get the survey response we need, we will be able to easily justify an increase for city PCVs and possibly for rural PCVs but we need the data so we can make this determination and justify a budget increase. Please fill out your survey from Feb. 15 to March 15 and send it to the office by the end of March.

We have made a number of significant changes to both the NGO and EDU PST. 25 Kaz 16s will arrive on March 7th and PST will be held a Kapchagai. We will do early site announcements and the Kaz 16s will do Practicum at their future site during Week 6 of PST. The site for summer PST is not known at this time, though it will not be Kapchagai as there are no surrounding villages. We will be expanding our training to include modules on environmental education, economics, and public health so that PCVs will have a basis to initiate clubs and secondary projects in these areas. PCVs may also choose to bring this content into their English classes. The summer PST will also include training on community needs assessment as well as project management and design.

We have not received the quantitative results of the Global Volunteer Survey yet, though we did get comments from those of you who agreed to share your comments with Post. They were interesting to read though other than 4 comments on the living allowance, there was little consistency to the recommendations – PC/KZ should only be in villages, PC/KZ should not be villages, PC/KZ should not teach English, PC/KZ should not work in NGOs, PC/KZ's staff is helpful and professional, PC/KZ's staff is unhelpful and unprofessional etc. I am anxious to see the survey results and will make them available to you when we get them. Thank you for your support in this effort – we had an 80% PCV response rate.

No doubt you have all heard that this is the coldest winter since... While this not unexpected in the North, the duration, intensity, and snowfall is unusual for the South. I suppose the good news is that there is no way next winter can be worse...

Stay warm!!!

Kris

BCC: All PCVs and Staff

This is a reminder that tomorrow begins the living allowance survey period.

Please track the money that you spend from tomorrow through March 15th. We need this data to be able to justify a change in living allowance. It is important that you fill out this form even if you are satisfied with your living allowance or if you are due to COS in June since we need to get a return rate of 70%. Hard copies of the surveys were sent to you early last week. Let Bob Gregory know if you would like a soft copy of this form or if you would like another hard copy sent to you. If you have not received your form yet, you should still write down what you spend money on so that you can fill in the form when it arrives.

Kris

LOST-BOOKS POLICIES FOR PCVS

In the course of the last two years Resource Center collection has grown considerably sometimes-borrowed Unfortunately, sometimes borrowed materials are not returned to the RC and therefore we are implementing a new lost book policy as follows:

- A PCV not returning a borrowed book, or a cassette accompanying the book, must replace the lost item with the same title.
- If a lost item can't be replaced with an item of the same title it may be replaced with an item of the same value and use to other PCVs.
- If a lost item cannot be replaced, PCVs must pay for the replacement cost of that item including shipping costs if applicable.
- If RC materials are stolen, a PCV may fill out a claim form for these items but a police report must be attached.

Over the past 2 years, a significant number of Katzner dictionaries have not been returned to the Resource Center. As these dictionaries are useful to PCTs/PCVs, we are interested in purchasing used Katzner dictionaries from PCVs who are COSing. If you brought a Katzner dictionary and do not wish to take it home, please contact Galina Petrova about selling it to the Resource Center.

Likewise, if you have other books you think might be of interest to PCVs, contact Galina Petrova to see if she is interested in purchasing them for the Resource Center.

Kris Besch, CD
Bob Gregory, AO
Galina Petrova, RCM

MID-SERVICE EXAM

The Mid-Service physical exam is a routine and required part of your PC service. This is the time of the year when the Medical Unit provides all our Volunteers with routine physical exams. This is our opportunity to evaluate, document, and treat any current medical problems; identify, where possible, any symptomatic health conditions you may have, and to reinforce preventive health education.

Mid-Service exams for Kaz-14 are scheduled for middle March - early April, 2005.

The main components of the Mid-Service Health Evaluation include:

1. Update the health history
2. Update weight, Blood Pressure and perform other exams as needed
3. Complete a comprehensive physical examination
4. Obtain screening laboratory and other tests (if necessary)
5. Arrange for further evaluation of any unresolved health problems.
6. Complete the Mid-Service dental exam

The appointment usually takes from 1 to 1 1/2 hours to complete. It is composed of a medical evaluation including a history review and full examination.

The purposes for updating the health history are to:

- Identify unresolved or recent health conditions
- Identify significant health risks or exposures
- Document in the health record all significant conditions that occurred during the first year of service, including their status at mid-service.



The **key things** to remember are:

- You will be asked to complete the Mid-Service Health evaluation form
- You will participate in the review of your health record together with the PCMO to clarify and elaborate on significant items.
- You will help the PCMO to identify any health risks that may have occurred during your service in Kazakhstan
- Be prepared to share with us any additional health concerns, which should be documented on the Mid-Service Health Evaluation form.

For your attention: TB PPD skin test is required only for Volunteers who have had contact with persons with infectious TB or who work in high-risk settings.

Female physical: the screening pelvic exams, including Pap smear, are indicated only for Volunteers with history of previous abnormal Pap smears requiring periodic follow-up.

The purpose of the *Mid-Service Dental examination* is to clean and carry out preventive dental care and to identify and treat early any dental caries or

disease. In-country dental exams are performed at "DARIS TTE" dental clinics in Almaty. Our office will set up an appointment for you. Dentevac is **not** authorized for the purposes of routine preventive dental care. Volunteers who are going to the USA on home leave/vacation **are not** authorized to have dental care in the USA.

Kaz 14s, please schedule your Mid-Service Exam with Olga as soon as possible. Please remember that the schedule will be very tight, because we must take care not only of physical evaluations for PCVs, but we will be starting a new PST: Kaz 16.

When scheduling the Mid Service physical, remember that you will need to visit medicals twice:

1. **first for the physical exam and**
2. **second for dental evaluation.**

Please note that we cannot schedule Mid service exams on weekends.

If you are helping with PST you should schedule your exam during this trip.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the exams, please call or e-mail us.

*Your Peace Corps medical team:
Victor, Valentina, Olga*

Talking Points for PC Budget, FY 2006

President Bush has demonstrated his continued support for the Peace Corps by requesting \$345 million for the Agency in the fiscal year 2006 budget. This represents the President's third consecutive funding increase request for the Peace Corps, an increase of \$28 million over the current operating budget. Congress also has appropriated increasing levels annually since 1996. Consistent with fiscal year 2005 funding, this will allow the Agency to continue its strategic and gradual growth.

Over the past three years, the Peace Corps has attained numerous historic achievements. Namely, the Agency reached a 29-year high of 7,733 Volunteers serving in the field at the end of fiscal year 2004, opened new programs in Mexico, Chad, Albania, Azerbaijan, and Fiji, three of which are predominantly Muslim countries, participated in 10 of the 15 focus countries as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and increased the recruitment of Volunteers from diverse backgrounds.

Since January 2002, the Peace Corps has had pending requests for programs in over 30 countries, has conducted 25 country assessments, and has entered or reentered 21 countries.

The proposed budget will allow the Peace Corps to enter two new countries, gradually expand the number of Volunteers in the field, and seek innovative programming responses to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

In addition, the \$345 million provides for a continued focus on Volunteer safety and security as



it will remain the Agency's number one priority. The Peace Corps devotes significant resources to maximize the safety of Volunteers and to ensure they are given the training, support, and information needed for a safe experience.

Today's Volunteers work in projects related to agriculture, health, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, information technology, business development, the environment, education, and at risk youth. We stand ready to broaden Peace Corps programming, assuring the relevance of what we are doing in the 21st century.

Our goal----which the great work of our Volunteers and staff will enable us to achieve----is to make today's and tomorrow's Peace Corps the best ever: a continuing source of America's pride and a model of successful commitment to international understanding.

...And it came from Ekaterina-



This winter has been surprisingly cold in Kazakhstan, I hope you were warm at home when all classes had been cancelled at school because of the cold weather. I am sure you either heard horrible stories about the cold from people or watched them on TV. This experience is something to write home about! But it's already getting warmer and the weather forecasts get more optimistic every day! The worst part of winter is almost over, in March we'll celebrate Nauryz, our local New Year...

Let's reflect upon January, did anything exciting happen in the first month of 2005? I think the most memorable event was the IST for Kaz 15 group, all Volunteers from the north got together for their first In-Service Training: to hone their technical skills, to share their war stories and just to enjoy each other's company sitting on the floor in one of the hotel rooms. It was clear that the first two terms were not easy for Volunteers at schools, the list of challenges included language barrier, cultural opposition, tardiness, isolation, schedule changes, attendance, scarcity of resources, lack of privacy...Kaz 13 Volunteers! Does the list sound familiar to you? Have we missed anything?

It was interesting that the list of successes generated by urban teachers was longer than the list of successes

made by Volunteers from rural areas. We started to explore the grounds for this amazing fact and came up with the following. One of the main reasons is the length of the Peace Corps presence in Kazakhstani cities and towns. It's quite possible that 11 years down the road (that's how long the Peace Corps has its presence in the urban area) the list of Volunteers' successes in the villages will not be shorter.

As many Kaz 15 Volunteers agreed, the main challenge they faced at the sites was Team Teaching. With this in mind, during the Team Teaching session we tried to analyze the nature of challenges and to determine the strategies to work around them. We divided the participants into two groups which were discussing challenges from two different perspectives: from a counterpart's perspective (we leaped at the chance of having a local teacher at the session) and from a Volunteer's perspective.

The outcomes were amazing!

The Volunteers heard that the counterparts are sometimes scared to death to talk with the them because they think their language is so poor. FEAR! The local English teachers don't understand the Volunteers and their way to handle this problem is to hide. The language barrier does exist (especially at the new sites) and makes interactions difficult. Be patient and friendly! Encourage your counterparts to speak!

Do you know that local teachers have heavy teaching loads and a lot of other responsibilities at school?! That's the way the system works. As a result, no time for planning.

We generated the list of ideas to take back to schools:

- Set specific time for planning and have it on the schedule (ask Liz Mickelson how it works)
- Invite local teachers to observe your classes
- Train counterparts thru TEAs and Peace Corps events
- Discuss lesson plans over tea
- Have different ways to divide students (based on their level, behavior, interest etc)

BE PATIENT ! FIND STRENGTHS and WEAKNESSES!

Kaz 13 group? Are you ready to COS? Bring your enthusiasm, positive attitude and recommendation WHAT and HOW to improve to the conference which will be held in Almaty, March 28-30. See you then!

Ekaterina



News on Host Family stay front

To streamline the process of Host Family selection we want to involve current Volunteers into Host Family screening. We developed a short form (4 questions) to be filled out by a Volunteer who will screen potential Host families. We realize the fact that your language skills are somehow limited, you can't hold long conversations but you can evaluate living conditions, safety factor and you'll be able to get a feel about people by asking a few simple questions and spending some time with them. The idea is to have each HF visited twice- by a staff member and by a Volunteer. We need your input. Your Regional Manager will contact you at some point with the request to visit the Host Families in your area. It applies mainly to replacements but the new sites are not ruled out.

Address _____

Family name _____

Living conditions _____

Positive _____

Limitations _____

Family (preferably all family member are present)

How many family members have you met? _____

Do any of them speak English? _____

How did the interview go? _____

Would you enjoy living in this Host Family for six months? Why? _____

Would you feel safe in this neighborhood? _____

Comments:

Volunteer's name: _____

Date: _____

Teaching Tips from the Field

Find and Match Activity

Option 1: Questions and Answers

Procedure:

Each student gets one slip, either a question or an answer. Students try to find a matching question and answer. When a question gets a correct answer, the two students put their slips together and come to you. You check that they are right, and take in the slips. Students without any slips get fresh ones from the reserve pile, until there are none left.

Variations:

Match English words with Russian/Kazakh words

Match simple pictures with words

Match vocabulary words with definitions



Questions	Answers
What language do they speak in Brazil?	Portuguese
What colors does a panda have?	Black and white
What is the first month of the year?	January
How many grams are there in a kilo?	1000
How many legs does a fly have?	Six
What color is the sky?	Blue
Who wrote Tom Sawyer?	Mark Twain
How many legs does a horse have?	Four
Where did Cleopatra live?	Egypt
How many days are there in a week?	Seven
What is bread made from?	Flour
Who discovered America?	Columbus
What is the name of a traditional musical instrument in Kazakh-	Dombra
How many oblasts (regions) are there in Kazakhstan?	14

These are sample questions, you can compose questions about any place, even about your village events, your community needs using the vocab your students know or study.

What will you do with it?

Materials: A collection of small, readily recognizable, objects in a bag; or a set of picture cards depicting similar objects; or the names of the same items written on slips of paper.



Procedure: Display one object or picture to all the class and ask the students to describe what they can do with that object. Students can work alone or in pairs or small groups. The one who has the most ideas for the object wins.

What will/could you do with these items?

- A cup
- A stone
- A plate
- A knife
- A piece of string
- A nail
- A blanket
- A piece of wood
- A box of matches
- A shoebox
- A sheet of paper
- A piece of cotton wool
- A liter of water
- A lump of clay
- A brick
- A book
- A small cloth bag
- A rubber band
- A button

I hope it will be helpful as extra activities for your class or your English club.

Regards,
Ekaterina

Spotlight on fellowships

Marquette University, Trinity Fellows Program

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Trinity Fellows Program of Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI) is a twenty-one month study/work program offering master's degrees in business, civil and environmental engineering, communication, economics, English, history, international affairs, applied philosophy, political science, or public service. Begun in 2000, the program was created in keeping with an ideal central to the university's mission – the promotion of faith and justice through service – to develop urban leaders with a commitment to community service.

The program is young, but the model is working very well. While engaged in full-time graduate study, Trinity Fellows work on substantive projects designed by selected nonprofit organizations in the Milwaukee area. Fellows are placed in roles where they can make a significant contribution to the agency as well as be exposed to the organization's senior level of decision-making. Some examples of agency work are: volunteer training and coordination; public relations; communications projects; marketing; program development; fund development; program assessment. The nonprofit work commitment is 18 hours per week during each academic year and 40 hours per week during the summer between academic years.

To qualify for a fellowship, applicants must meet the standards of the MU Graduate School, and must have completed at least one year of full-time volunteer service. About half of Trinity Fellows are RPCVs, the other half have served in AmeriCorps, Jesuit and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, or a comparable service organization.



Each Fellow receives a full-tuition scholarship and a monthly stipend (currently valued at \$1565 per month). Each Fellow is charged a participation fee of \$1250 per semester.

The application deadline is February 10 for fellowships beginning the following August. Ten fellowships are awarded each year. Note that most of the above areas of graduate study require the GRE for admission. For more information on the program and its application requirements and procedure, visit:

www.marquette.edu/trinityfellows,
or contact Carole Ferrara at (414) 288-5861
or carole.ferrara@marquette.edu.

NEWS

February 18, 2005

MAN IN THE NEWS

An Old Hand in New Terrain

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 - Few officials in the Bush administration better understand the damage that can be wreaked by faulty or politicized intelligence than John D. Negroponte.

The man whom President Bush selected on Thursday as the nation's first director of national intelligence first saw the impact of erroneous assessments of the enemy as a young Foreign Service officer in Vietnam. As American delegate to the United Nations in the run-up to the war in Iraq, he held the unenviable job of selling the invasion of Iraq on the basis of a classified National Intelligence Estimate that detailed Saddam Hussein's pursuit and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, an estimate that turned out to be almost all wrong.

"Two examples," said Richard C. Holbrooke, Mr. Negroponte's roommate in Vietnam and predecessor at the United Nations, "where the only intelligence was bad."

It now falls to Mr. Negroponte, who arrived as ambassador to Baghdad eight months ago determined to infuse a new dose of realism into the American presence there, to reshape 15 intelligence agencies over which his degree of control is unclear. If his four decades in public service are any guide, colleagues in Washington and Baghdad predicted, he will try to be a stabilizing force who works quietly but understands the flow of power.

Like his job in Iraq, a place he was fond of saying would have to

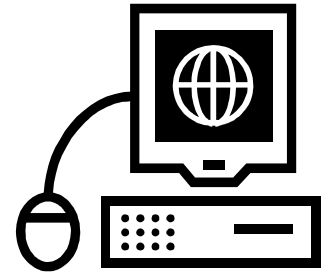
find its way "warts and all," his new task requires navigating bitter disputes over long-held territory and valuable resources. He has spent the better part of a year coaxing Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds to settle their differences without seeming like the viceroy of Iraq; now, as a longtime friend put it on Thursday afternoon, "He has to do the same with Rumsfeld, the C.I.A. and everyone else who is certain their way is the only way."

Perhaps it is no surprise that several others - including Robert M. Gates, a former C.I.A. director, and William P. Barr, a former attorney general - turned down the job. But Mr. Negroponte, 65, who has served every president since John F. Kennedy, has rarely said no, even when he was exiled to small embassies in the 1970's after differences with Henry A. Kissinger.

Now, he will find himself not only at the center of Washington's biggest turf fight, but charged with answering some of the toughest questions facing the White House, from the real state of Iran and North Korea's nuclear programs, to the capabilities of Al Qaeda, to the prospect of making Iraq into a stable democracy.

Mr. Negroponte left Baghdad last week telling visitors he thought the elections last month were a turning point, but also warning that Americans impatient to get out should not expect immediate results. In his brief tenure in Iraq, he talked often about the constant battle between "integrating" and "disintegrating" forces, and observed that it was still an open question which would prevail. He could have been talking about the intelligence community he now inherits.

Those who have worked with Mr. Negroponte universally say he battles fiercely to change policy - but never take his battles public. He often talks about making sure that military and political power are harnessed for the same ends, and made a point of putting his office inside the old Republican Palace right next to that of Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the senior American commander in Iraq. It made



it clear that the dysfunctional relationship between L. Paul Bremer III, formerly the top American in Iraq, and Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, General Casey's predecessor, would not be replicated.

But Mr. Negroponte is not an entirely uncontroversial choice: in his previous confirmation hearings, he was questioned about his performance as ambassador to Honduras in the 1980's. At that time the C.I.A. station and the embassy were accused of turning a blind eye to torture and other abuses by the Hondurans, and of shading reports of the situation in the country for political or ideological reasons.

Those issues could arise again, given current concerns about the C.I.A.'s treatment of prisoners in Iraq and elsewhere and about the flawed intelligence before the war in Iraq. But Mr. Negroponte's confirmation by large margins twice in the past four years suggests that they will not derail his nomination. Even Senator Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, who was one of Mr. Negroponte's leading critics in the 2001 confirmation hearings on his nomination to be United Nations delegate, expressed few such reservations on Thursday.

At an age when many are ready to collect a Social Security check, Mr. Negroponte is taking a job in which he will judge the flow of power, arms, and intentions

NEWS

around the world. He has been preparing for that task his whole life, in Asia, Europe, Latin America and, most recently, the heart of the Arab world.

John Dimitri Negroponte was born in London on July 21, 1939, just as Britain was bracing for World War II. His father was a Greek-American shipping magnate, and Greek is one of several languages he has picked up, along with Spanish, French and Vietnamese. He spent his youth in the New England breeding grounds of the diplomatic and intelligence communities: Phillips Exeter Academy and then Yale. By the early 1960's, he was in the Foreign Service in Hong Kong, the center of America's effort to understand - dimly, often inaccurately - what was happening over the border in China.

"He was a visa officer in a big small town, and got to know everybody," said Stanley Karnow, who began a 45-year-long friendship with Mr. Negroponte there.

Soon he was in Vietnam bunking with Mr. Holbrooke and dealing with an insurgency that America seemed uncertain how to counter. Four years as a political officer in Vietnam qualified him to serve at the National Security Council, under Mr. Kissinger. He was in Paris for the peace negotiations, but famously split with Mr. Kissinger, arguing that the deal struck with the North Vietnamese offered insufficient protections for the government in Saigon, an argument that earned him banishment to posts in Ecuador and Greece.

In Central America, Mr. Negroponte was immersed in American financial and military aid to Honduras, a huge base for C.I.A. operatives helping the contras, who were opposing

Nicaragua's Sandinista government. He has spent the ensuing two decades vigorously defending himself against allegations that he played down human rights violations in Honduras when their exposure could have undermined the Reagan administration's Latin American agenda.

Honduras quickly became a central part of Mr. Negroponte's family life: he and his wife, Diana, the daughter of the chairman of one of Britain's largest steel companies, adopted five Honduran children.

He came back to the National Security Council as the deputy national security adviser under Colin L. Powell, and then moved on to become ambassador to Mexico. President Bill Clinton sent him to the Philippines at a key moment in its transition to democracy.

He then left government for a four-year stint in a senior job at the McGraw Hill Companies, before President Bush nominated him for the United Nations post in 2001.

Several people who spoke with him in Iraq when he was ambassador there said that like his boss, President Bush, he was dissatisfied with the quality of the intelligence that landed on his desk each morning, some of his associates report. Now, each morning, he will be putting the intelligence on the president's desk.

John F. Burns and Dexter Filkins contributed reporting from Iraq for this article.

18.02 / 16:53

Democracy is a purpose not the beginning of the way-President's Message

Astana. February 18. KAZINFORM. \Indira Tulebayeva\

Today in the afternoon at the joint session of Parliament Houses President Nursultan Nazarbayev is delivering his annual message to the people of Kazakhstan.

The title of the message is Kazakhstan

on the Way of Express Economic, Social and Political Modernization. The major accent in the Message is made on modernization of the country as continuation of the course to enhancement of competitive ability of Kazakhstan.

Address 2005 contains the analysis of the passed within the years of Kazakhstan's independence. Head of the State highlighted the information of the World Bank that the republic has been included in a group of the countries with the average level of the personal income. For the past ten years monetary income of the Kazakhstan nationals increased fivefold on average, the monthly average salary increased six fold, minimum wages grew by 25 times along with the increased monthly average pension amount, said Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The previous Message to the people of Kazakhstan "To Competitive Kazakhstan, Competitive Economy, Competitive Nation" was delivered 19 March in 2004. Last year the President put a complex task to enhance competitive ability of the country.

Commenting upon development of human resources, Nursultan Nazarbayev announced the new policy of housework construction and dwelled upon elaboration of the reforms in the systems of public health, education and social welfare.

Tuesday, 18 January 2005



NEWS

Kazakhstan: Opposition Party Faces Official Ban Ahead Of Elections

By Bruce Pannier

Lawyers for the embattled Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DVK), the country's main opposition party, failed yesterday to persuade an appellate court to overturn a ban imposed on the party earlier this month. The influential party has been extremely vocal in its short existence and despite a poor showing in last year's parliamentary elections, the DVK seems to still irritate, and threaten, the government. The DVK has not given up hope of having the court-imposed ban lifted. But the moves against it may be part of plans to weaken the opposition ahead of next year's presidential elections.

Prague, 18 January 2005 (RFE/RL) -- The opposition Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DVK) party moved a step closer to political extinction this week after an appeals court rejected its bid to overturn a ban on the party's activities.

Jumash Kenebay is editor in chief of the Kazakh newspaper "Juma Times-Data Nedeli." He attended the appellate trial and said the court's decision appeared a foregone conclusion. "I was at the trial from the very beginning to the very end. One thing is clear to me. All this is a state orchestrated performance," Kenebay said. "Look! The verdict itself is very long. It was not possible to print it out just in 15 minutes. It looks like the verdict has been printed beforehand. Everything was clear from the very beginning. The whole case is politically motivated."

Officially, the DVK was banned for calling for street protests following September's parliamentary elections, which many in the opposition continue to claim were rigged to favor pro-government candidates.

But since its founding in late 2001, members of the DVK have raised allegations of corruption by top officials, including President Nursultan Nazarbaev's government.

Analysts say the problems the DVK faces now might have something to do with the 2006 presidential elections.

DVK founders Ghalymzhan Zhaiqyanov and Mukhtar Ablyayzov, both former high-ranking officials who turned against the government, were jailed months after the DVK was created. And the party had trouble registering for the 2004 elections.

But yesterday's court ruling does not necessarily spell the end of the party. One of its leaders, Asylbek Qojakhmetov, said the DVK will exhaust all its legal options. "By law, we have two more [higher] courts to appeal to. Today, we have challenged the fact that the case was tried in absentia. Now we are going to challenge the fact that our case was discussed at the Economic Court. What economic misdeed have we committed, I wonder? Our case should have been heard at the Administrative Court," Qojakhmetov said.

Analysts, meanwhile, say the problems the DVK faces now might have something to do with the 2006 presidential elections. Alex Vatanka is the editor of the London-based Jane's Sentinel publication Russia-CIS Security Assessment Binder. He said the appearance of DVK leaders in Kyiv after the recent successful "Orange Revolution" by opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko has sparked unease among Kazakh government officials. "The Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan and other opposition from Kazakhstan actually traveled to Ukraine recently to be standing next to President-elect

Yushchenko. These are the kind of images that probably made President Nazarbaev panic and his advisors [also]," Vatanka said.



Other opposition parties have already expressed concern that they might be next. Bulat Abilov, co-chairman of the Ak Zhol party, was recently quoted as saying that authorities are likely to "neutralize" his party in a similar way.

Presidential elections are not scheduled until December 2006. But analysts say the government may prefer ridding itself of potential obstacles to Nazarbaev's reelection well before the polls.

Vatanka believes the government should not be concerned about Kazakhstan's opposition possibly copying the events in Ukraine, or Georgia's "Rose Revolution" in 2003. For one, he said geography played a role in the events in Ukraine that it simply could not in Kazakhstan.

"Ukraine is much nearer to, it's actually bordering the European Union now. Countries like Poland have a massive stake in making sure their man won it [the election]. In Kazakhstan, you don't have that. You don't have that kind of international intense pressure against the regime," Vatanka said.

The situation in Kazakhstan is different in other ways as well. Kazakhstan is enjoying amazing economic growth fueled by the country's booming oil business.

And its political opposition, particularly given these recent moves, is not nearly as strong as it was in Ukraine and Georgia.

NEWS**Kazakhstan
Capital suggestion**

Feb 17th 2005 | ALMATY

From The Economist print edition

Visitors to Kazakhstan will be unable to fly direct to the main city

AT THE inauguration of a gleaming passenger terminal at Astana airport this month, Nursultan Nazarbaev, Kazakhstan's president, expressed the hope that the airport would become a major transit point between Europe and East Asia for the world's great airlines. Fat chance: these days, airliners have no need to stop over midway. Moreover, the few international airlines that do land in Kazakhstan—such as British Airways, KLM and Lufthansa—prefer to land in Almaty, the country's former capital and biggest city.

This does not please Mr Nazarbaev. His pet project has been to transform Astana from a drab Soviet-style city, a lump of concrete in a wilderness of empty steppe, into the nation's administrative centre. In 1997, he moved the government from Almaty to Astana. The city's population has since increased from 300,000 to over 500,000. In 2004, \$1 billion was spent on construction, creating a clanking of cranes day and night.

And yet no one seems to like the place, neither locals nor foreigners. It is located in the northern steppe, notorious for its harsh climate: daytime temperatures recently dropped to -25 degrees Celsius, and were made to seem even colder by a constant cruel wind. The authoritarian Mr Nazarbaev frequently scolds members of his cabinet for spending too many weekends in Almaty, in the mountainous and more pleasant south.

But the president's patience has

run thin. The civil-aviation commission recently informed international airlines operating in Kazakhstan that from this autumn they will not be permitted to fly to Almaty. The immediate beneficiary of this change will be Air Astana, a Kazakh-British joint-venture, that has a monopoly on the route between Astana and Almaty.



VOLUNTEER WRITING

Beans, and an Old Enemy Therein ...

I went to the corner store to buy beans for chili. The Russian word for "bean" is "fasol". I walk into the store, and seeing a Kazakh face, ask in Kazakh: "Do you have any fasol?" (lit: "At you beans are?") (I'd forgotten the Kazakh word for bean, which is burshak. It would have saved me a lot of trouble, as you'll see.) A blank stare from the saleslady. Thinking maybe Kazakh is the problem, I ask in Russian: "Do you have any fasol?" (lit: "Around you beans exist?") Another blank look. I have no choice but to try again. "Do you have any fasol?" A blank look. I come face to face with the paucity of my bean-describing vocabulary. "They're little. They're food. I need them wet," I try. "Fasol." The woman frowns and says, "No, we don't have those." "Do you know what I'm talking about?" "No," she says. "FASOL," I say. The commotion has attracted another saleswoman. "Can you understand me?" I ask. "I need fasol. Maybe I'm pronouncing it wrong." The women look at each other. "Fasol," I say again. "Ah!" they say. "You need fasol." "Yes! What did I say?" "You said fasol." "And how is it supposed to be pronounced?" "Fasol." "Fasol?" "Yes." "Fasol. Am I saying it right?" "Sure, you're saying it right." "Do you have any?" "No."

So what went wrong here? As I discovered when I finally found a can in another store, is that fasol has the hated-by-Americans-trying-to-speak-Russian-everywhere myakii znak at the end, which turns the normal L into a mysterious Russian soft L. I, for one, cannot for the life of me hear any difference unless people leeringly exaggerate the pronunciation like they would when talking to cats or very



stupid people. But if you say the wrong L, the word is rendered totally incomprehensible to native speakers. "Fasol? What does he mean? Oh, he means FASOL."

Dammit.

Ryan Giordano, Kaz15, Kokshetau

Weekend two with you guess who...

So, there I was, walking along last weekend, minding my own business (this time clever enough to have my coat on) when I get stopped, again, by the ever so elegant and honest police in this country called Kazakhstan.

Since I have been here, I have been stopped twice by the police, both times in the last two weeks. Now, even I am not stupid enough to believe that the first time was a fluke, funny, yes, but at least they had a reason to stop me. This time, no stumbling, no obnoxious behavior (if you can believe that ☐), and I had my coat on. These two policemen had absolutely, positively no reason to even consider stopping me, with the possible exception that maybe, perhaps, on the off chance that I was carrying a "bomb" in my backpack. (In Kazakhstan, this is not a big problem).

So the usual barrage of questions followed.

Who are you? Where are you living? Why are you in our country? Are the girls in Kazakhstan beautiful? (I am still unsure about how this pertains to

anything police like, but I hear from most of the male volunteers that this is a standard question.) Where are you staying the city? Why are you in the city? Where are you going? Where are you coming from? What is in your backpack? Do you have you documents?

My answers... I am Tim Dickison. I am a volunteer. I am teaching school in a small village. Yes, of course, I am going to tell you that the girls are beautiful, whether they are or not, I don't feel like pissing you off. (It's not like I have to lie, they are beautiful, but that is besides the point.) I am staying at a friend's apartment (stating the nearest apartment). I am going to that friend's apartment. I am coming from Kazakhtelecom (where I was doing Internet business, but I didn't tell them that. That would mean that I had money.) I have books and a camera. Of course, I have my documents.

And then the real reason for why they stopped me came out. Maybe, with the difference in cultures, the police don't understand that a volunteer doesn't make a whole lot of money, but then again, I am from America. I must be rich. What was the question? Where is your money? What exactly my money has to do with any police business in city of Uralsk is beyond me... Oh wait, no, it's not. I know why they ask that. They think 1) I am rich and 2) that my spine is weak enough that if I have money, I will just hand it over to them. For those of you who know me... That's right... I had 20,000 tenge in my pocket, which right now amounts to all of \$150, a real fortune let me tell you. I had a host family payment to make, and shopping to do.

Did they honestly think that if they kept asking where my money was that I would just give

VOLUNTEER WRITING

them all that I had? Apparently, because they must have asked me at least 20 times. Where is your money? Honestly, I have no money. I am a volunteer. I don't get paid. I have no money.

For fifteen minutes I had to tell them this. I know they understood. I could understand their little laughs and snickers and their Kazakh. Haha, he's an American and he says he doesn't have money...what a lie! Where is your money?

Oh where is the ability and freedom to tell a crooked cop to "piss off, I'm not giving you a bloody red tenge!" It doesn't exist here for me. Oh, but wouldn't it be nice to be able...Oh wait a minute. Here comes his superior officer. What is the problem? His documents check out, let him alone. To which the crooked cops immediately responded, as the other officers left, Shuttka Shuttka...Joke, Joke.

I know what a joke is. I'm sorry, your "joke" isn't funny.

Corruption exists in the world... Oh yes it does.

Tim Dickison, Kaz15, Akzhaiyk

kids

I've spent a lot of time this week in the presence of three little host kids (cousins) who are finally warming up to me. They used to stare at me from behind doors and laugh uncontrollably when I saw them. It was fun at first then a bit repetitive. But a couple days ago, the doorbell rang when I was home alone, I opened it, and there stood Amanzhan all alone and four years old, stiff with winter clothing. He walked into the house like a cowboy and stuck a hand out (well, more out) so that I could take off his glove. I took the scarf off his little face first, then his gloves, then his

shoes, then (5 minutes later), his mother entered the house, saw that Dilda wasn't home, and bundled him up again.

Ever since, he and his brother have talked to me. It's wonderful! I can ask them "what's this?" as much as I want without annoying them. But I do have to be careful - they're young enough that every animal is a bear, a cow, or a cat. The older boy told me about his chicken mask for New Year's, and asked me if I had an owl mask (I have an owl picture on my wall). No. I don't have an owl mask. I showed him my New Year's mask. "What kind of bird's that?" he asked. "I don't know." He stood looking at it. "Neither of us knows."

The two of them are already expert teachers. They used to speak only Kazakh, and their friend, a neighbor, spoke only Russian. The three boys wanted to play together, so Amanzhan and Bauerzhan took their friend Yuri to their mother. Their mother interpreted the Russian for them, and from that point on, the boys taught each other Russian and Kazakh. Now, Yuri is almost fluent in Kazakh (as fluent as a 4-year-old is in any language) and the two Kazakh boys know Russian. So cool.

They were playing hide-and-go-seek with Camila, their cousin today. They'd count to five or so and then ask "are you done?" and then the kids who were hiding would say "yes."

Susan Wunderink, Kaz15, Podstepnoy

Strange Blockbuster Tops Charts!

Bazaar melody makes industry gurus wonder: 'citrus, or is it them?'

(To the music of *Clementine*...)

In a box there, on the top layer, sat the orb of my delight,

Squatting softly, a bit loft'ly,

For my eyes was quite a sight.

Chorus:

Found a grapefruit,
found a grapefruit,
found a grapefruit last
night.



Last night I found a grapefruit,
found a grapefruit last night.

Fondled gently, but intently,
gazing o'er its fruity hue,
'Twas a pity, was so pretty,
For my knife cut right on through.

(Chorus)

Took a bite then, moaned a sigh
then, for its juice was quite
divine,

Savored slowly, drippings holy,
'Twas that grapefruit of mine.

(Chorus)

Through the flesh chewed, then
the rind spewed, now it's gone,
my lovely muse,

My desiring, so inspiring,

Now you're stuck here, this tune
to lose!

(Chorus)

Megan Schulte, Kaz13, Kyzylorda

Under Seige By Wolves

In a settlement in the Naurzysk Region, parents are not letting their children go to school for fear of wolves. Last year wolves fed on horses on the outskirts of the village, but this year they are coming right up to people's homes. A team of professional hunters shot nine wolves, but the pack is estimated at twice that size. In the Amangeldinsk Region, 60 to 80 wolves have been counted. People are afraid to leave their homes at dusk. For residents of large cities, stories about wolves may seem like a horror story from another life. But soon big city residents will come nose-to-nose with this problem. Last week in the city of Ridhom,

VOLUNTEER WRITING

a female wolf and her four pups were killed. Worse of all, the offspring showed signs of having been sired by a dog. And wolf-dogs differ from wolves in only one respect: they do not fear people. (Jan. 28, 2005, page 5, Olga Kolokolova, Kostanai, www.caravan.ru)

After reading this story, I remembered hearing about wolves as I grew up in the American suburbs. I remembered watching a film of a gentle biologist holing up in a cabin in the mountains, taking notes on the local wolf population, eating mice to see if such small game could sustain the life of larger mammals. He fought to change perceptions of wolves so their habitat would be protected. And later in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, when a bus driver told me he'd seen a wolf on the former airbase where my mother lives, he had a note of wonder in his voice. I listened, sharing in this man's gift of having caught a glimpse of the wild. And now I read about dusty-laned villages surrounded by nothing but steppe, clusters of houses with small gardens and outhouses and pens of livestock, no electric street lights. These are not suburbs. These are cells of human life huddling together to survive, surrounded by hungry, aggressive predators. And I decide this question of the wolves, as with much of life, is a question of proportion.

Erin Anderson, KAZ 13 in Ust-Kamenogorsk

AMERICAN vs. KAZAKHSTANI KIDS

Unlike American kids, Kazakhstani ones often play unattended (possibly near open

manholes), and do a lot of things like ride buses and go out by themselves to stores when it's dark. I'm talking kids of just about every age – they are entrusted with more responsibility in general. They could take a taxi alone too – I've shared cabs with very young children in Ecik, though not yet in Taraz. If a child fell into a manhole, everyone would see the incident as careless and an object lesson, and no one gets sued anyway. I want to know what American parents think, and I don't mean about whether or not open manhole covers are smart - but we had monkey bars and chores when we were kids, so is America moving in the right direction or are some of the older notions better, at least in theory?

Remember that one goal of Peace Corps is cultural exchange, but for the most part I don't talk about American kids. We've got a little too much money invested in making their lives busy and perfect that if a Kazakhstani knew about this, they'd be jealous and unaware of the inherent pitfalls. Some lessons can't be bought, nor do they need to be. For example, you have three children and two candy bars. You give one candy bar to two of the children but not to the third. What happens next?

In America, World War Three. In Kazakhstan, kids share - automatically, and every time. I've witnessed this on several occasions and am still amazed. Could it be a byproduct of the ownerless societies of yore, or just good parenting? Auntie K has moved into her daughter's apartment along with her daughter Elmyra (el-mee-rah), son-in-law Sanjay and granddaughters Ainura and Amina. These kids are absolute darlings and never a problem in all the times I've spent time around them. They also know all the courteous behaviors of their culture already even though Ainura is 9 and Amina only 5. I just hope they get a better education than the university students get now, because someone has got to start teaching outside the zone of the

theoretical and get these students some common sense!



I've said in many updates this year about how courteous people are (except in auditory ways) but now that I'm living alone and inviting friends over, I'm getting doses of the opposite – the discourtesy of kids who take your generosity for granted, and when coupled with a lack of concern, or perhaps a lack of understanding of what SHOULD be a concern, you get problems. This happens with a lot of the students, usually by being late or not showing up and not having any good reason for it. I'm going to single out Bota and her sister because their Christmas visit was a trip in every sense...

George Wunder, Kaz14, Taraz

Travel Notes

I have been to Washington DC for the entire month! It was my first visit to the States.

The weather did everything to make me feel at home. Snowstorms and very low temperature were # 1 issue in the news. To be candid, I expected windy and cold weather least of all.

As for the rest - it was wonderful!

The purpose of my journey was not tourism; it would have been very nice though.

I was attending the training for the Peace Corps overseas staff. There were 53 participants from EMA (Europe, Mediterranean, and Asia), Africa, and IPA (Inter-America and Pacific) regions. It was amazing meeting people from Santa Lucia, Panama, Mauritania, Morocco, China... To me the most valuable thing is a possibility to meet people and be

VOLUNTEER WRITING

able to converse with them, share thoughts, and make friends with some of them. I have learned a lot from them. It was so much fun!

Also, I met people who send important docs from Head Quarters to PC Kazakhstan. I saw the main PC Office, and I know now that there is a REAL physical building with REAL people. Until you see it with your own eyes, visitors from DC who come every now and then seem to you like parachuting landing from the sky...

Building relationships is a universal thing. How often we say to trainees and volunteers that it is a key to success. It works everywhere! I found it very helpful to talk with the key people of different programs and build relationships for our future work.

One day we were visiting a Youth NGO with the Youth in Development Program specialist Katie Green. It was extremely interesting to meet young Americans, to get to know their interests, problems, and needs. I was not much surprised to learn that they are the same teenagers as in Kazakhstan: they listen to hip-hop, Sean Paul, Eminem, and 50 Cent; dislike going to school, like hanging out at discotheques, computer clubs, and/or NGOs.

Guess, what is the main issue for the leader of this NGO? She mentioned grant writing, finding money for their projects. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Washington is a fantastic place for tourists. One can go sightseeing every day and there will be always something left to see next time.

I started with Smithsonian Institution. The Castle was built in 1855 with James Smithson's money who never came to America! The National Museum of Natural History is such a good place for children to learn geology, history, and geography. I was most impressed with the Native Americans Museum, which was recently built. Wandering through the halls of the Art Gallery I realized that it was impossible to enjoy all those unique masterpieces in such a short period of time. And the best thing about all museums – they are free of charge for people!

Capitol, White House, Supreme Court, and other buildings reminded me of the antique Rome and great Michelangelo's works. I have not mentioned yet memorials, Sculpture Garden, bridges, Arlington Cemetery where I just slightly "touched" America.

But the places I fell in love with at first sight are Georgetown and Alexandria, the oldest parts of Washington full of beautiful houses, restaurants, and stores...

I cannot believe that I lived through all these events during only one month!

As some of you might know I was a counterpart for a married couple, kaz-8 EE PCVs Tom Katen and Paula Evans. We spent two great years in Balkhash, my native town. They live now in the Northern Virginia about 15-20 minutes from Washington. It was so exciting for us to meet after almost three years. I was staying with them my last three days. I realized that real friendship is not affected by time. For them it was also somewhat curious to host me, to show me their routine weekends' mornings with papers and cappuccino, etc. I asked Tom and Paula what they would recommend if they had a chance to speak to volunteers. Both agreed that if volunteers found associates, they would have a much easier life in terms of accomplishing tasks and just having fun.

I happened to be a spectator of three historic or year-important events while I was in the States: Inauguration of Bush for the second term, the very first ever-been-in-the-States concert of the Kazakh National Orchestra, and the Super Bowl game 'Eagles' versa 'Patriots' (I have a video if somebody wants to see it).



Someone could say that I have not seen the real America, that Washington is a fake city. I agree and disagree. I saw dressed up men and women heading home from the devoting to Inauguration balls (ladies wore fancy gowns and open shoes in a very cold and windy night), at the same time - homeless people who were trying to warm up on grates. I was dancing salsa in the Cuban dance club where people of all races and nationalities were dancing and were beautiful. I was eating at Mexican, Chinese, Moroccan, Irish, Italian, and other restaurants and cafes...In short, I witnessed diverse life and people in Washington, and this diversity amazed me greatly.

Charles Dickens in 1842 called Washington "the city of great hopes". It is really a city of hopes and possibilities.

America is a great country. And Peace Corps is definitely its best part. I feel connected with it...

Aitzhamal Mansurova
Regional Manager

LANGUAGE

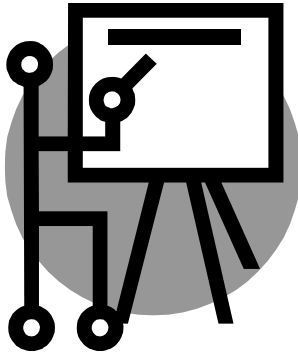
Michele A. Berdy is a Moscow-based translator and interpreter.

Утром – дйньги, вйчером – стэлья! (you have to pay cash on the barrelhead.)

Russians are fabulous quoters. The average Russian has a mental library of apt quotations and aphorisms that includes the Bible, 30 or 40 Russian and foreign poets, standard translations of

Shakespeare and dozens of novelists. They use them straight, they use them ironically, they twist and tweak them to fit the circumstances. Everyone nods or laughs, and you, the hapless foreigner, wonder what on earth that was all about.

One of my favorite sources of aphorisms is the work of Ilf and Petrov. I highly recommend their novels to anyone under the impression that corruption and scams are a phenomenon of the post-Soviet period, introduced by the Wicked West. When someone says, «Этот олигбрх – вел-кий комбинбтор» (That oligarch is a real conman!) he's referring to Ostap Bender, the hero of Ilf and Petrov's comedic novels. Bender once said, «Бензн ваш – идйи нбши» (The gas is yours, the ideas are ours), which can be used to describe any deal in which one side puts up the money and the other side (supposedly) provides the know-how. «Он не предлагбли партнёрство. Он на сбмом дйле предлагбли «Бензн ваш – идйи нбши»» (They didn't propose a partnership. They proposed that we bankroll their so-called brilliant ideas!)



It was a wise man who insisted on getting paid by Ostap Bender before handing over the goods: «Утром – дйньги, вйчером – стэлья!» (literally, "you give me the money in the morning, I'll give you the chairs at night," or "you have to pay cash on the barrelhead.") This is a good phrase to use whenever someone wants you to do work without paying in advance (or at all). «Да, я напишэ статью. Но этром – дйньги, вйчером – стэлья!» (Yes, I'll write the article, but give me the money in advance.)

Ilf and Petrov also gave us the oft-quoted phrase, «Спасйние утопбующих – дйло рук самх утопбующих» (literally, "the task of saving drowning men is up to the drowning men themselves"). This is used whenever it's clear that no one is going to help you and you must rely on your own devices. Another useful phrase is «кйпэчий лентй» (a bustling lazybones) - someone who makes a fabulous show of frantic activity, but actually does nothing. «- Он, кбжется, хорущий сотрэдник. - Да нет! Он кйпэчий лентй!» (He seems like a good worker. Not at all! He just puts on a good show.)

Another phrase you hear often is «крзис жбнра» (crisis of genre), which refers to any standard form of art or work that is no longer popular or relevant, or anything that is no longer going well or easily. «Я пытблась писбть отчёт, но не получлось. Крзис жбнра» (I tried to write the report, but I

didn't get anywhere. I've lost my touch.)

«Гйгбнт мсли» (a giant among thinkers) is used ironically to refer to any silly person with an unjustifiably high opinion of his intellect. «Сбылбсь мечтб идиута» (literally, "an idiot's dream has come true") refers to any time you get what you hoped for and discover that it's less than you had expected. «Мен назнбчили дирйктором. Сбылбсь мечтб идиута. Одн проблймы» (I was named director. What an idiot I was to want it. All I have is problems.)

And I always think of Ilf and Petrov when I'm nearly mowed down as I try to cross one of Moscow's streets. «Пешехудов нбдо любить. Пешехуды составляют бульшую часть человй-чества. Мбло тогу – лэщую его часть. Пешехуды сздали мир». (We must love pedestrians. Pedestrians make up the majority of humanity. Moreover -- the best part of humanity. Pedestrians created the world.)

Read in Kazakh

Дос іздеген ит

Ертеде орманда бір ит өмір сүріпті. Жалғыздықтан зеріккен ит өзіне дос іздейді. Ол досының ешкімнен қорықпайтын батыл болғанын қалаған екен. Бірде ол орман ішімен келе жатып, қоянға жолығады.

Ол қоянға:

– Қоян, екеуміз дос болайық. Бірігіп өмір сүрейік, – дейді.

Қоян келіседі. Сөйтіп, екеуі бұта арасын паналап ұйықтайды. Олардың

LANGUAGE

жандарынан бір тышқан шикылдап өте шығады. Ит оянып кетіп, үре жөнеледі. Қоян иттің даусынан шошып. ырғып тұрады. Қорыққандығы соншалық, құлақтары дірілдей бастайды.

Неге қатты үресің? Даусыңды қасқыр естісе, екеумізді бірдей жейді ғой... – дейді.

Ит үргенін қоя қойып: “Е-е, қоян қорқақ екен, қасқыр ешкімнен қорықпайтын батыр екен” – деді өз-өзіне. Ертеңінде ит қоянмен қоштасып, қасқырды іздеп жолға шығады. Сөйтіп, қасқырды іздеп табады.

Қасқыр, кел, дос болайық, бірігіп өмір сүрейік.

– Мақұл, бірлесіп өмір сүрсек көңілді болады ғой.

Сөйтіп, олар түнде қатты ұйқыда жатқанда, бір құрбақа құрқылдап, секіріп келеді. Ит оған бар даусымен үре жөнеледі. Қасқыр оянып кетіп, өзінің мазасын алған итке дүрсе қоя береді.

Ей, ақымақ! Сенің үргеніңді аю естісе, екеумізді де жарып тастайды ғой.

Ит: “Қой, қасқыр да қорқады екен, одан да аюмен дос болайын...” деп ойлайды. Сөйтіп, келесі күні аюға келеді.

Аю аға, менің досым болшы! – дейді.

Мақұл, ініме жүр, бірге тұрайық, дейді аю. Түнде інің жанынан сары жылан сумаң етіп бара жатқанын байқаған ит үре жөнеледі. Аю болса:

Ойбай, үре көрме! Сенің бүйтіп

дос болғаның құрысын... Адам естісе, терімізді тірідей сыпырады... – дейді ақырып. Ит одан да көңілі қалып, адамға келеді.

Ей, адам, дос болайықшы... – дейді. Адам бірден келіседі. Ол итті алдымен тамақтандырады. Үйінің жанынан жылы үйшігін жасап береді. Сөйтіп, ит күні-түні үйді күзетеді. Арсылдап үрсе де адам оған ұрыспапты, ризашылығын білдіріпті. Осылайша ит өмір бойы адамға қызмет етіп, айнымас досы болып қалыпты.

Аударған Гүлбаршын ӘЗІМБАЕВА

Russian Exercises

Put the following sentences into past tense:

Кто читает?

Моя сестра в Москве.

У нас есть книга.

Лёд на реке тает.

Мы очень любим гулять.

Они должны работать.

Нельзя курить.

Там холодно.

Стоит хорошая погода.

Answers:

Кто читал?

Моя сестра была в Москве.

У нас была книга.

Лёд на реке таял.

Мы очень любили гулять.

Они должны были работать.

Нельзя было курить.

Там было холодно.

Стояла хорошая погода.

From The Penguin Russian Course, J.L.I. Fennel, Penguin Books Ltd.



LANGUAGE**Зимняя Ночь***Борис Пастернак*

Мело, мело по всей земле
 Во все пределы.
 Свеча горела на столе,
 Свеча горела.

Как летом роем мошкара
 Летить на пламя,
 Слетались хлопья со двора
 К оконной раме.

Метель лепила на стекле
 Кружки и стрелы.
 Свеча горела на столе,
 Свеча горела.

На озаренный потолок
 Ложились тени,
 Скрещенья рук, скрещенья ног,
 Судьбы скрещенья.

И падали два башмашка
 Со стуком на пол.
 И воск слезами с ночника
 На платье капал.

И всё терялось в снежной мгле
 Седой и белой.
 Свеча горела на столе,
 Свеча горела.

На свечку дула из угла,
 И жар соблаздно
 Вздыхал, как ангел, два крыла
 Крестообразно.

Мело весь месяц в феврале,
 И то и дело
 Свеча горела на столе,
 Свеча горела.

A Winter Night

Snow swept over the whole earth,
 swept it from end to end. The candle
 burned on the table, the candle
 burned.

Like a swarm of midges in summer
 flying towards a flame, the snowflakes
 outside flew in swarms to the window.

The snow-storm modeled circles and
 arrows on the windowpane. The candle
 burned on the table, the candle
 burned.

Shadows fell on the brightly lit ceiling:
 crossed hands, crossed legs, crossed
 destinies.

Two shoes fell to the floor with a thud,
 and wax dripped like tear-drops from
 the night-light onto the dress.

And everything was lost in a grey-white
 snowy mist. The candle burned on the
 table, the candle burned.

A draught from the corner blew at the
 candle's flame, and, like an angle, the
 heat of temptation raised two wings in
 the form of a cross.

The snow swept all through February,
 and many a time the candle burned on
 the table, the candle burned.

*From The Heritage of Russian Verse,
 Dimitry Obolensky, Indiana University
 Press*



LANGUAGE

A Russian phrase that you'll start hearing everywhere if you learn it is "иметь в виду", or "to mean". For example:

Я: Мне нужно пойти.
 Ты: Что имеешь в виду?
 Я: Я имею в виду, что мои уроки скоро начнутся.

Me: I have to go.
 You: What do you mean?
 Me: I mean my classes start soon.

"Иметь" is a verb, and conjugates normally. "в виду" doesn't decline, and has no meaning outside of this phrase (or so people tell me). So:

Я	имею в виду	I mean
Ты	имеешь в виду	You mean
Он, она, оно	имеет в виду	He/she/it means
Мы	имеем в виду	We mean
Вы	имеете в виду	You (pl.) mean
Они	имеют в виду	They mean

Some examples:

Я не понимаю, что ты имеешь в виду.
 I don't understand what you mean.

Не ясно, что она имела в виду.
 It isn't clear what she meant.

Нет, я не имею в виду нет, я имею в виду да.
 No, I don't mean no, I mean yes.

Что он имел в виду, когда он сказал, что моя гитара сломалась?
 What did he mean when he said my guitar is broken?

Вы имеете в виду, что мои уроки *опять* отменили?
 You mean my classes are cancelled *again*?

Мы имеем в виду, что мы не умрём без шапки по пути в соседний магазин.

We mean to say that we won't die without a hat on the way to the magazine next door.



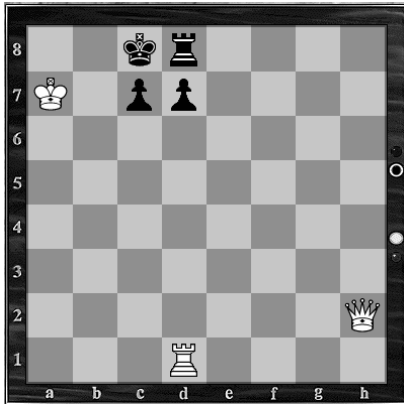
Утки закончились? Что ты имеешь в виду?

You're out of ducks? What are you trying to say?

Я имею в виду, что хоть Казахстанские девушки очень привлекательные, я не хожу на дискотеку чтобы красть их у вас, братишка. Поэтому отпустите моё ухо, пожалуйста.

I mean that although Kazakhstani girls are very attractive, I don't come to this disco to steal them from you, my brother. That being the case, please let go of my ear.

CLASSIFIEDS



This problem was composed by Max Euwe, who was World Champion from 1935 to 1937. White to play and mate in two.

Answer: Qd6. White prevents the defense ...d6 in the most dramatic way possible, by offering a queen sacrifice. Although there is no threat, every Black move creates a weakness which allows mate. After 1...c6 (or c5) White can play 2 Qb8 mate, while if the rook moves then d7 is not guarded, so White can play 2 Qxd7 mate. Finally, if Black accepts the sacrifice by 1...cxd6, then 2 Rc1 is mate

HIV/AIDS Project

Just an FYI for those of you who are interested: I'm working with a group of university students to promote HIV/AIDS education and awareness in Kyzylorda. Our activities are still in the early stages of planning and organization as the group was formed shortly after World AIDS Day in December. Our current goals include gathering accurate information about HIV/AIDS (in English and in Russian), compiling and distributing a list of HIV/AIDS resources specific to Kyzylorda, and working with local health organizations to give presentations to the community. The group has about ten

members and attempts to meet once per week. In my students' words, our mission is "to educate the people of our city, opening their eyes to this problem, as well as help those who may be sick to be strong and to have as normal lives as possible." If you have any comments, questions, ideas, suggestions, or are doing something similar in your area, drop me a line!

Megan Schulte (Kaz 13)
megster24@yahoo.com

touch-typing

Hello, everyone. I was just wondering if any of you have come across or know where I might find touch-typing program software in either Russian or Kazakh; everyone at my site, including the computer teachers, are astonished at how quickly I can type, and at how I don't have to look at my fingers.

Thanks,
Teresa
taparmer@bsu.edu

Nauryz in Shymkent

Hello Everyone!

On behalf of all Shymkent volunteers, this is an invitation to come to Shymkent to celebrate Nauryz on March 22. Traditionally, Shymkent has a large celebration which in the past has drawn volunteers from all over the country to our city.

Please let us know if you will be able to join us within the next month, so we can arrange to find accommodations for you, and plan a group dinner one night.

Hopefully the 13's can come through before their COS conference. The 14's will most likely be under travel ban next spring so this would be the one-and-only chance to check out Shymkent's Nauryz celebration.

We will arrange flats for you, maps, and provide you with what different activities and events are happening in which parts of the city. You are responsible for the cost of travel, accommodation, your meals, etc.

For any questions contact:

Martha at
marthapope@hotmail.com
or Sandie at
sandie-stringfellow@yahoo.com

horsemeat

Do you have a love of stringy horsemeat? 25 year old misogynist seeks female for limitless guilt free sex in a conservative Muslim community. I'm a real bastard, but hey take a chance. Must be able to use a squat toilet in -40 degree weather, and hand wash laundry in a tiny plastic bucket.
loveless in lugavoy

Far Away Places

Kaz 15's, 16's, 17's???

Hello, PCVs, from JoAnn Landingham and Andy Holmes. JoAnn is a Kaz 13 serving in Maikain in Pavlodar Oblast, and Andy is a Kaz 12 RPCV who served in Bayanaul (also in Pavlodar Oblast) and is currently working in Almaty.

Last summer, we organized the "Far Away Places" summer camp on the shores of beautiful Lake Zhessibye in Bayanaul. Bayanaul is one of the best-kept secrets in Kazakhstan. It is basically the same thing as Borovoe, except it is less well known because it has

CLASSIFIEDS

no railroad access. The Bayanaul mountains rise majestically out of the endless Pavlodar steppe, and are covered with pine and birch forests and surrounded by three beautiful, clean lakes. Working the camp is worth it just to experience the strange and beautiful scenery of Bayanaul. We could go on and on about how wonderful Bayanaul is, but Vesti is long enough already so we will cut to the chase.

“Far Away Places” 2004 was a huge success. The camp follows a format used by PCVs for years; each year a little bit is added to it. It has an international theme—each day for five days a different country and culture are studied. The camp is conducted entirely in English for the 50-60 best English-speaking students from the schools of Bayanaul and Maikaien. The campers are divided into five teams of 10 or so, with a PCV and a local English teacher leading each team. Volunteers will be responsible for teaching lessons about the countries being studied as well as leading their teams. Volunteers will also conduct arts and crafts activities, play various sports, and monitor camper safety during hiking and swimming excursions.

The camp format is really great—it is loads of fun and keeps the campers (and the volunteers!) busy the whole time. It is admittedly a lot of work, but it is also a great time. The camp runs seven days, plus 3 days of preparation and set up in Bayanaul. The camp is sponsored by the Bogatyr Access Komir coal mine in Ekibastuz, and is held at a really nice children’s camp on the shores of Lake Zhessibye.

The reason we are writing this letter is that we are concerned

that this great format could be lost when JoAnn and the other Kaz 13s who worked the camp last year COS. We want this camp to become an annual event (we already have a local sponsor), and we think that similar camps would be very successful in other locations in Kazakhstan. We are looking for Kaz 15s and 16s who will be around for a while, so that they can learn from this camp and potentially run this camp themselves, either in Bayanaul or at their own sites.

Our sponsor has promised that we will have the camp, but the dates are not set yet. It will most likely be in early June. We will send out an email as soon as the dates are confirmed.

For now, just send us an email or call Joann if you think you might be interested. We will contact you as we get closer to the camp and begin to work out the details. It is a great camp with a really good group of kids in one of the most beautiful places in Kazakhstan. Hope to see you there!

*JoAnn Landingham Kaz 13, Maikaien
joannfwn@yahoo.com
(31840) 2-14-02*

*Andy Holmes, Kaz 12, Bayanaul (I’ve
really got to let go, don’t I?)
andyholmes13@yahoo.com*