

Carroll graduate serving in Peace Corps Says Corps is languishing because of budget deficit

Editor's Note: After graduating from Wabash College in 2007, Sterling Carter joined the Peace Corps as an agriculture volunteer. He is living in Niger, West Africa, in a village with no electricity and no running water. Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking close to last on the United Nations Development Fund index of human development. The following excerpts are from Carter's latest posting to his Internet blog. To read his entire blog, go to: <http://sterlinginafrica.blogspot.com/>. According to his parents, Byron "B.C." and Wyndham Traxler Carter of Flora, he doesn't get to post as often as he would like because the closest Internet access is in the capital city, Niamey, a three-hour ride by bush taxi from his village.

Sunday, August 31, 2008 Changes

The last two months have been rough, and I'm ready for something new. It all started with the trifecta of stomach ailments I wrote about in an earlier post. My house sprung a leak, to put it nicely, shortly thereafter, which is what happens when you choose to

build your house out of dirt. I had a couple of pretty good weeks after that...

While July was physically trying, August's mental exhaustion nearly wiped me out. My best friend in country left last week. She was one of my closest neighbors, my closest friend, and just generally someone with whom I wanted to finish my service. My counterpart left for the Ivory Coast two days later. This is the guy who's shown me everything in my village. He helps me in the garden, watches my house, and is one of the only reasons I stayed in country after my roof collapsed. It's hunger season though, and he needs money. A lot of guys in Niger go on "exode" to look for money in neighboring countries. Niger is so poor that they must leave the country in order to do migrant work to support their families with basics like oh...I don't know *food*.

So in a matter of days, I've lost my closest American friend and my closest friend in village.

The new stage (of Volunteers) swears in in two weeks. When they do, I'll have been in country for eight months. In Peace Corps,

new Volunteers are obligated to stay in their villages for the first two months. They can't leave, and they are meant to spend their time integrating and learning about their communities.

This past week has been a complete transformation for me. I feel like I'm starting my service over again. My plan at the moment is to spend the next two months in village, just like that new Volunteers. I need to be away from people at this point. Too much drama and too much disillusionment. The nice thing about Niger is the ability to escape. We may have lost that in America. One is too connected, has too much of a pull toward others without feeling like any part of a larger community. I hope the next couple months will be a renewal, because I need it at this point. Eight months has flown by, and I feel like I've missed a lot of it. I've been too caught up with other people's lives and business.

And it shouldn't be too hard to stay in village at this time. Peace Corps is, for lack of a better term, financially *#&\$% right now. We've had to cut basic services to Volunteers. Our administration is sweating because it's gotten to a

point where we might not have the ability to run any kind of successful program in country. We've lost a lot of money due to inflation, a falling dollar, and the weak economy. You can read about this all online if you look hard enough, but it gets kind of depressing. This is especially true when you realize that Peace Corps worldwide's entire budget deficit could be paid for with one week in Iraq.

It is a rather sad state of affairs when the soft power arm of American diplomacy, the agency created to spread goodwill and American idealism, is languishing in the current political climate. We as a country seem to have given up on solving problems with anything but a missile or a gun. Peace Corps was created out of '60's idealism, and while we can debate how effective it is, it seems a darn shame that the government is failing an organization designed to help so many people in so many places.

I've posted the link to this news article. Write somebody, anybody about this. Newspapers, congressmen, your neighbor Sally. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/21/AR2008082103384.html?nav=rss_world

See you all in a few weeks, after that, it may be months. Kala han fo.

Media help police nab convenience store suspects

Comet staff report

Through the assistance of mass media print of a convenience store suspect's video image and the immediate response of Grant County law enforcement, authorities in Carroll and Cass counties have charged two suspects involved in burglaries Aug. 28.

Michael P. Hozey, 30, and Randall S. Spry, 21, both of Kokomo, have each been charged in Carroll County with two counts of burglary, a class C felony. Their initial bonds were set at \$20,000 surety and \$500 cash.

County police investigated burglaries in which the suspect had thrown either a rock or concrete block through windows of the businesses to gain entry. Once inside, a suspect was caught on store video tampering with items.

The businesses specifically targeted in Carroll County were convenience stores - Spirit of Flora and Burlington Maramart.

Cass County Sheriff's Detective Brad Sommers also



Hozey Spry had investigated a burglary at Mr. J's Pizza and More in Young America that occurred the same morning.

At approximately 4 a.m., Hozey and Spry were apprehended by Grant County sheriff's officers and Swayzee Marshal Rob Shafer as they were taking merchandise from a Swayzee business.

Hozey and Spry attempted to elude police in a Jeep Cherokee sport utility vehicle, leading Swayzee and Grant County police on a chase, ending with the suspect vehicle crashing and the two men being taken into custody. Both men were incarcerated in the Grant County Jail but Spry later posted bond and was released.

Marshal Shafer later read a

newspaper account of the crimes in Carroll and Cass counties. He recognized the suspect in the photo printed as being Spry and contacted Carroll County investigators Steve Mullin and Kevin Hammond and provided the information which led to the pairs' arrests in Carroll County.

Spry is currently incarcerated in Howard County Jail, awaiting transfer to the Carroll County Jail in Delphi. Hozey remains jailed in Grant County Jail in Marion, awaiting local charges there.

"This was a valiant team effort," said Hammond. "Combining information put out by the media in helping to identify these suspects and the quick reaction and thinking of Grant County law enforcement all culminated into these individuals being located, identified, and detained. Everything just came together."

Carroll and Cass County authorities continue to follow up on information involving these crimes.

Carroll playground to get new B-ball goals

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Carroll School Board approved the purchase of new basketball goals for the Carroll Elementary School playground at its Sept. 2 meeting.

Six goals will be purchased from Delphi Products. Four will be non-adjustable goals, at a cost of \$975 each, and two will be adjustable goals, at a cost of \$1,295 each. The cost will be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund.

Erica Rich from southern Indiana was hired as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher and FCCLA sponsor.

Another extracurricular assignment announced was Ryan Duff, Student Council sponsor.

Charlotte Rohrabough resigned as Food Service cook, and Christina Miller was hired for the position.

Three other paid positions were listed on the board agenda, but the board postponed taking any action on them. The positions were elementary librarian, and part-time and full-time remediation instructional assistants.

The board extended the nurse supervisor's hours from 10 hours to 20 hours a week.

Jeff Hodson was given permission to hold a boys' basketball clinic in the elementary school gym for grades four, five, and six.

Eight conference requests/field trips were approved.

Three of the requests involved students: ALS Animals/Food Science students to tour Fair Oaks Dairy Sept. 25; seventh grade class to go to Camp Crosley near North Webster Oct. 1-3; and senior trip to Washington, D.C., Oct. 6-7.

The next school board meeting will be Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Administration Building.

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Kokomo Bicycle Tour Club
Jackson Twp Fire Dept. Display
Jackson Twp: Jaws of Life Demo. 3pm-5pm

Children's Activities:
Bike Rodeo 2pm - 3pm
(Conducted by Carroll County Sheriff Dept.)
Fishing Tournament: 5PM
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