

physical education

*in the
Peace Corps*



PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE PEACE CORPS

Physical education in the Peace Corps runs the gamut of experience from recreation on the village level to coaching an Olympic team.

There is a contribution to be made by the liberal arts major who last played sport in high school. Yet, there are coaching positions that will challenge the most qualified physical education major. And there is an opportunity for competition on the international level that will satisfy a varsity letterman.



Sometimes, as in the case of Kurt Liske of Kent, Ohio, these opportunities are combined into one extensive job.

Liske played varsity basketball in high school and participated in intramural athletics while majoring in history at Wooster College. He went to Tunisia as a physical education instructor in 1962 and was assigned to a boys' orphanage at the base of Mount Zagahouan in central Tunisia.

More than 200 boys, aged 12 to 17, lived at the Zagahouan orphanage. There were no athletic fields, very little equipment and no class schedule when Kurt arrived. Working through the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports, he obtained basketball, volleyball and track equip-



ment, supervised the construction of a basketball and volleyball court, and began teaching fundamental calisthenics and sports.

Eighteen other Volunteers were working in villages similar to Zagahouau and soon a program of inter-scholastic competition throughout Tunisia was started.

When competition between the orphanage teams began, one of the Volunteers still did not have basketball goals. He taught his players passing and dribbling fundamentals, but could only describe shooting techniques to them.

"My description must not have been very good," he said, *"because we lost our first game 47-2. One of the opposing players made a basket at our end."*

That Volunteer's supervisor was quite unhappy with the outcome of the first game, so he immediately obtained backboards and goals.

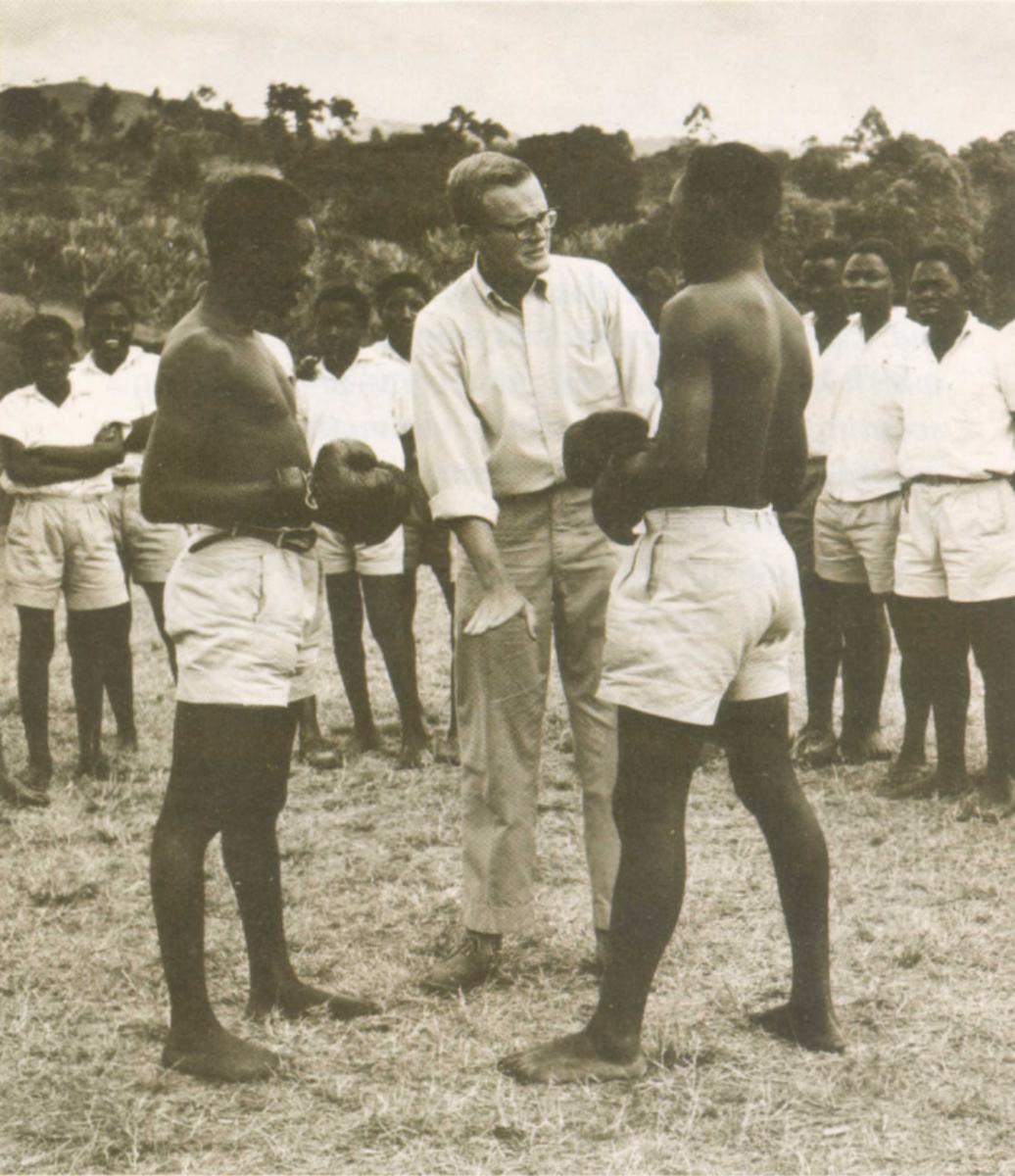
"We really improved after that," wrote the Volunteer. *"We only lost the next game 36-6. And we made all six points ourselves."*

When the Tunisian Industrial League opened its season, Kurt Liske was asked to play with the Zagahouan independent team. Players from the olympic basketball team played in this league and invited Kurt to one of their practice sessions. By the end of the season, he was helping coach the team.

Kurt completed his two years with the Peace Corps in 1964, but requested an additional year in Tunisia to complete his work with the National Basketball Team.

Peace Corps service isn't all glamour and international competition. Most Volunteers find challenge establishing children's parks and village recreational centers, organizing out-of-doors programs and regional sports leagues. Volunteers are teaching physical education in schools and *"open air classrooms."* Each Volunteer finds himself doing an amazing variety of jobs.

There is, for example, Volunteer Jared Dornburg of St. Louis, who summed up the situation



of many Peace Corps recreation workers when he wrote from Nigeria:

"Our activities at the school are enormous . . . the kids are interested in any outside activity which a Volunteer might begin—photography, scouting, art, nature study, dramatics, debate, anything which can give them a glimpse beyond their limited sphere."

One thing is certain when you teach physical education in the Peace Corps—you'll have a full-time job.

"My only discipline problem is that my students are over-enthusiastic," wrote Volunteer Nancy Thomson from Venezuela. *"When the*

period ends, I have to lead them to their next class or they won't go."

Vincent Melito, teaching physical education in Colombia, was assigned five classes daily. *"I was going to ask for more, but I soon found that it wasn't necessary to ask. Students are at my door every time they have a free period, wanting me to play basketball or baseball with them. Sometimes they start at 6:00 a.m. and don't stop until dark."*

Volunteers work directly under host-country administrators. Their support is usually limited only by the availability of materials. If you teach in Thailand, for example, you may be working



with facilities comparable to those of many American high schools. In other countries you may have difficulty keeping one basketball or volleyball on hand. Your success will depend on how well you use what is available.

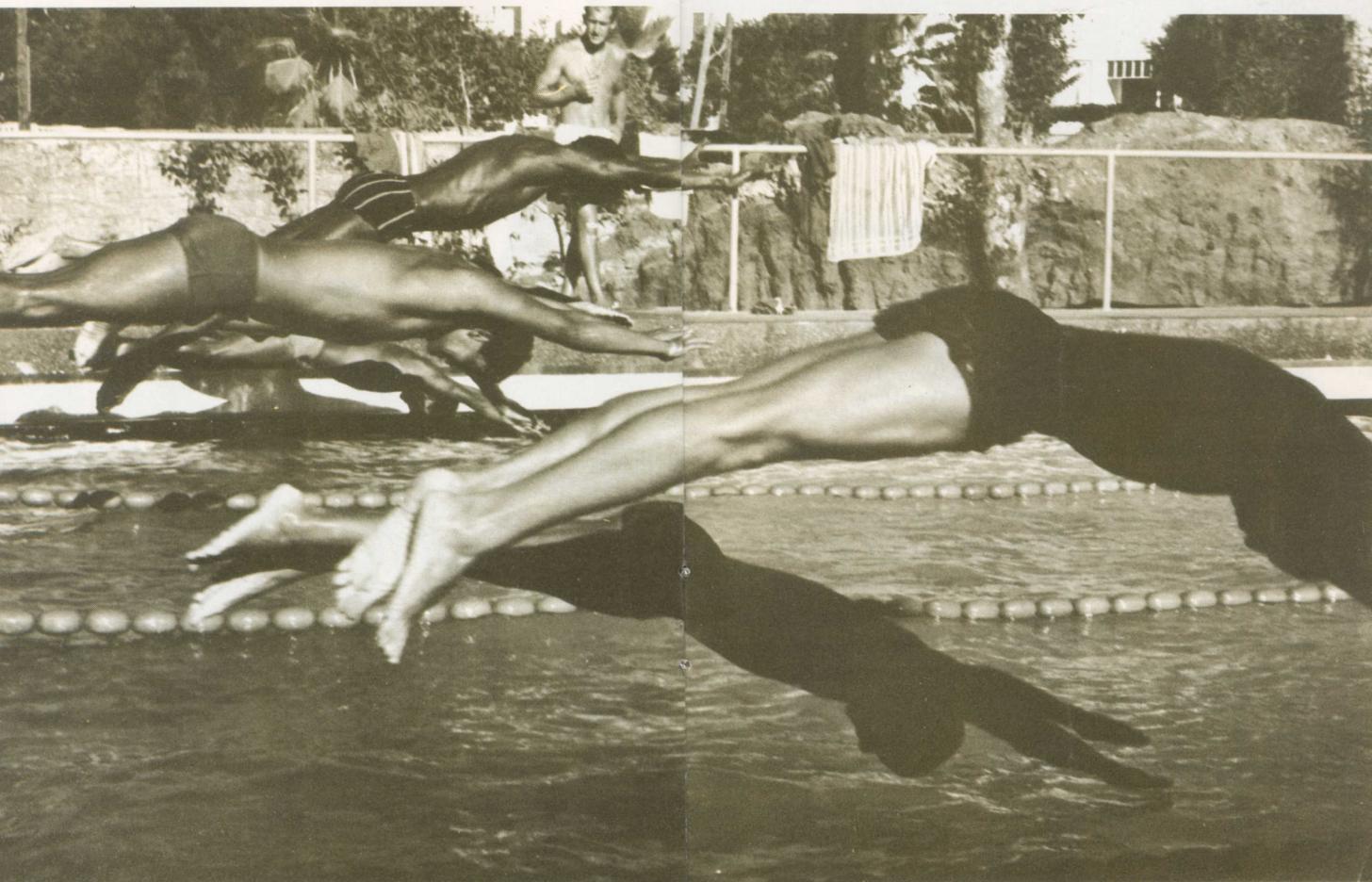
The Peace Corps is working in 46 developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In nearly all of these countries, over 50 per cent of the population is under 20 years of age. Because of a low life expectancy and widespread poverty, youngsters of these nations often become apathetic. Host governments support athletic programs in the hope that youngsters will learn the value of determination, teamwork and effort—qualities necessary to success in athletics and to an emerging nation.

As a Volunteer, you will find your students eager to learn American sports. Your ability in

basketball or baseball will make you something of a hero to your students. For you, the barrier of misunderstanding and distrust will be broken by sports, a language all children know. Your road to success will be easier, and your success will be measured every day in the face of your students.

Volunteers are teaching physical education and related subjects in:

Bolivia	Guatemala	Peru
Brazil	Honduras	Senegal
British Honduras	India	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Iran	St. Lucia
Chile	Ivory Coast	Thailand
Colombia	Jamaica	Turkey
Costa Rica	Nepal	Tunisia
Ecuador	Nigeria	Uruguay
El Salvador	Pakistan	Venezuela
Gabon	Panama	





They are teaching and coaching the following sports:

Archery	Cross-country	Tennis
Badminton	German Handball	Track and Field
Baseball	Gymnastics	Volleyball
Basketball	Soccer	Water Polo
Boxing	Swimming	Wrestling

By the time you return to the U.S. you will have become familiar with at least one foreign language, intimate with the geography of your host country, and familiar with one distant region of the world. You will have had the opportunity to acquaint yourself with a way of life totally unlike your own—new tastes, sounds, and insights will add to your knowledge of the world.

If you plan a career as a physical educator or coach, you will find that you have gained valu-

able professional experience. You will have had the opportunity to test your own philosophies and ideas about physical education and coaching. You will have learned by trial and error. And you will have gained from the constant exposure to new ideas and techniques that working in an international atmosphere can lend to your future.

And, like Kurt Liske, you will have a good feeling that comes with giving.

"In the village of Zagahouan," wrote Kurt, "veiled women and Arab men in their colorful headdress walk beside other Tunisians in western clothing. Camels and donkeys are tied along the tiny winding streets of the marketplace. Volkswagens and Mercedes are parked next to them. Tunisia is changing every day. I can watch the transition from the old to the new, and know that I am helping the new come more quickly."

TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit. Good health is a necessary prerequisite but Peace Corps physical standards are flexible.
- Married couples with no dependents under 18 are encouraged to apply. Both must, however, qualify as Volunteers. They will be assigned to the same project.
- You do not have to know a foreign language.
- Don't be deterred because you think you lack necessary skills. Many people tend to underestimate their capabilities.
- Submit a Peace Corps Volunteer application. Submission of an application in no way obligates you. Your final decision will come at the time you are invited to train.
- Take the Peace Corps Placement Test. There is no passing or failing grade. It is a tool to aid the Peace Corps in evaluating your capabilities.

YOU WILL TRAIN . . . At an American college or university. Perhaps half of your normal 10 to 12-week training period will be concentrated on the language of the country in which you will serve. Modern laboratory techniques will give you a working fluency in one of 42 different languages, from Amharic to Swahili.

A NORMAL TOUR . . . Including training, will last from 24 to 27 months. If you choose, you may extend your service up to one year, or re-enroll for another two years in the same, or a different country.

YOU WILL BE PAID . . . An allowance to cover food, clothing, housing and incidentals. Medical care and transportation are provided by Peace Corps. For the duration of your service, you accumulate a readjustment allowance of \$75 monthly. You may allot from this allowance in some instances. The allowance is subject to U.S. taxes only.

MILITARY OBLIGATION . . . Is not satisfied by Peace Corps service. However, Volunteers are deferred for the duration of their assignments.

TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION . . . Request one from Peace Corps, Washington, D. C. 20525; from the Peace Corps Liaison Officer on your college or university campus; from your Civil Service Commission Office; or from your local post office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE:

Peace Corps
Washington, D.C. 20525

ATTN: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS