



YACHASPA

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.

Preguntas y Respuestas

By Patt Behler
Amigos President

Here it is, the half way mark through the year 2005. Looking back, it seems to me that *Amigos* has accomplished quite a bit. We have transferred responsibilities to new officers, established a method for developing a sound budget procedure for the next year under the guidance of Bill Sherry, treasurer, have added another Board member by election and are in a working mode on Kantuta Award projects and a revision of the Bylaws.

Although the Board will not be having its next formal meeting until August, there have been various decisions made through informal processes, using e-mail communication, that seem to be working. All of us on the Board, however, feel a need for communication with the general membership. Although this newsletter accomplishes much in that respect, we would like to include more members in decision making and in developing new projects.

So, I have some preguntas to put forth and hope to receive some respuestas!

#1: Como podemos identificar proyectos apropiados a cuales queremos dar fondos del Kantuta? As you may know, Gerard McGuire, Kantuta Coordinator, has been active in identifying projects in both Bolivia and Peru to which we may want to give grants. Some of these are connected directly with Peace Corps projects but as we all know, there can sometimes be problems with short term projects. In addition to consideration of worthwhile PC projects, we need to start identifying other non-profit organizations in both countries with whom we can work on a long term basis. I imagine that many of you are familiar with such groups and may even support them individually. Let us know about them. Send an e-mail or letter telling us about the group and how we can inquire about programs that may be ones we want to support.

#2: Ademas de los recursos donados al Kantuta, necesitamos pensar de otras maneras de reunir dinero. It seems to me that our group can certainly come up with a fund-raising project that will be interesting, even exciting, by which we can put together money to be used to make *Amigos* a stronger, more active organization. This could be a national project that we could promote to other NPCA groups or it could be fund raisers of a regional nature. Every dollar gained would count.

Which brings me to **#3: Hay algunos de Ustedes bien dispuestos a servir como un representante regional para comunicar con miembros en su region?** We need to get *Amigos* members in better touch with each other. We are set up by time zones which means that members in each time zone have opportunities to plan reunions and projects to work on as a group. Fund raising projects at the regional level are a possibility.

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Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. As an affiliate of NPCA, *Amigos* is one of approximately 150 organized groups of returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends who work together and separately. *Amigos* promotes and supports a variety of activities for the purpose of enhancing cooperation and understanding among the peoples of Bolivia and/or Peru and the peoples of the United States.

Yachaspa, the newsletter of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*, is distributed quarterly with the following anticipated deadlines for submitting materials to the editor: Spring Issue-

March 15th; Summer Issue-June 15th;
Fall Issue-September 15th; Winter Issue-
December 15th.

Articles are welcome and may be submitted to brownr@westminster-mo.edu.

Yachaspa is distributed to members by mail or electronically in .pdf format. Past issues are also available at www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org on the *Amigos* web site .

Update from PC/Bolivia

Greetings from yet another departing Country Director. My tour in Bolivia ends on July 29, 2005, so I thought I had best send a note of thanks to the *Yachaspa* membership before I leave. For me one of the distinct pleasures of the past four years has been meeting RPCVs from the early years of Bolivia's Peace Corps program. I hope your member base continues to grow as more PCVs complete their service in Bolivia and Peru. The need to stay connected is

strong and RPCV groups are excellent means to do so.

We managed to survive the most recent waves of protest in Bolivia. As many of you know, our headquarters is now in Cochabamba. The most serious demonstrations in May and June were once again in El Alto and La Paz. We were able to maintain normal operations until the week of June 6 when we activated our Emergency Action Plan at the Standfast Phase.

President Carlos Mesa had presented his resignation for the third time and uncertainty reigned through-

out the country. I must confess that we had some moments when we felt we might have to evacuate, but the Bolivian Congress was able to meet in Sucre to accept Mesa's resignation and follow the line of succession to the then President of the Supreme Court, Eduardo Rodriguez, who became interim President of the Republic. His task now, along with the Congress, is to set accelerated elections. That may possibly occur by December of this year.

(Continued on page 3)

Update from PC/Peru

I'm pleased to report that Peace Corps/Peru continues with its expansion. On June 24, thirty-three new trainees arrived. Sixteen will work in the small business program, and 17 in youth development. An additional 34 trainees will be arriving on September 23, divided equally between the health program and our new environmental awareness program. By the end of the calendar year, we will have about 110 Volunteers on board, 125 by the end of next year.

To give you an idea of what the Volunteers are involved in, the small business PCVs are mostly assigned to artisan associations or organized farmer groups, helping to increase sales and net profits. Quite a few PCVs have been instrumental in identifying international markets for handicraft and agricultural products. For example, several agricultural associations are marketing organic coffee and cane sugar to Europe. Three PCVs in the Cajamarca area, each working with artisan associations, have persuaded their associations to work together to open a retail shop

on the main plaza of the city. Initial indications are that the store will be a big success.

Health PCVs are mostly assigned to small towns. They concentrate on training the health promoters who work in the rural districts ("caserios") surrounding the towns. The training is in maternal-child care, improved nutritional practices, and hygiene. Many PCVs help start family or communal gardens to demonstrate the improved nutritional practices.

Youth development PCVs work in orphanages or at nongovernmental organizations that work with street children. They help design and implement vocational education and esteem-building programs. They also coach sports, teach English, and assist with a variety of other activities.

Fortunately, most PCVs appear to be happy and productive. Peace Corps/Peru has one of the lowest attrition rates of all Peace Corps countries.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is to meet Volunteers and staff from the early days of Peace Corps, and to exchange stories. On

recent field trips to Cajamarca and Piura, I met with former PCVs Maureen Puga and Mark Sadowsky, who have made their homes in those cities. I recently had lunch with Richard Cacchione, who has settled in Lima.

I also enjoyed seeing former staff members George Baldino and Marco Campos not long ago, and I see David Buentello frequently, as he is serving as U.S. Consul General to Peru. Former PCVs visiting from the U.S. often drop by the office to say hello. As I write this, Hank Davenport is in town, his first visit back to Peru in 40 years. To all the rest of you reading this, I extend a warm welcome to come visit. My e-mail address is mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov, and our phone number is (011-51-1) 617-2200.

Muchos saludos,
Michael Hirsh
Country Director
Peru

Update from PC/Bolivia (continued from p. 2)

Even during the time of the worst street scenes broadcast from La Paz on CNN, PCVs continued their work in their communities. Roadblocks hindered travel between most of the cities in the country for awhile, but the PCVs by and large hunkered down and carried on. We were able to de-activate the EAP on June 11.

My last official act will be to swear in our current group of Trainees, B-39 (Basic Sanitation and Integrated Education), along with RPCV Ambassador David Greenlee on July 29. We will maintain our level of PCVs in country at around 145 with the

hope that in the coming two years we may be able to get that number up closer to 160. There is plenty of work to do here.

The next group of Trainees (Micro-Enterprise Development and Agricultural Marketing) will arrive in country on August 24. By the way, with this group we are initiating a new policy: PCVs will live with Bolivian families for their entire two years. We feel this will help with community integration and personal safety.

The designated new Country Director for Bolivia is Javier Garza (RPCV Peru, 1970-71). Javier will be transferring over from the Dominican Repub-

lic on August 4. He knows Bolivia and looks forward to returning to the Andean region.

For my part, I send best wishes for all *Yachaspa* readers. Thank you for keeping Bolivia in your hearts. Suerte en todo.

Howard Lyon
Country Director
Bolivia

(Editor's Note...see Doreen Salazar's column on page 13 for more information on PC/Bolivia and the new Country Director.)

Preguntas y Respuestas (continued from p. 1)

Thanks to the work of our previous President, Ken Rustad, we now have an active group of Board members who are committed to advancing the causes of our organization. Now we need members to volunteer their talents to help us. Together, we may be able to work some (small) milagros!

P.S. You have noticed by now that I have tossed in some Spanish in this column; well, it may be rusty but I hope it still works! I think that we might well consider including short paragraphs in Spanish in future issues to translate the essence of some of our articles that are written in English. If we do, then I also think that, since we can transmit our newsletter electronically, we should consider giving some gift subscriptions to *Yachaspa* to our amigos bolivianos y peruanos. The Board would need to determine what the cost of a gift subscription would be but I, for one, would like for mi familia arequipeña a recibir news of what *Amigos* is up to in the EEUU. How about it? What do you think?

During the last six months of my current term as President, I intend to do some "outreach." This will be in addition to the wonderful and labor intensive work that Gloria Levin, our Membership Coordinator has done. I want to get in touch with members and non members, anyone who might be interested in the work of *Amigos* and encourage them to join us in the activities of our group. Perhaps you or a friend who is not yet a member are on my list to contact! I will be in touch

with many of you during the months ahead.

Welcome y Bienvenidos!

It is exciting to know that the new PC Country Director in Bolivia who will start work there in August is Javier L Garza. Javier has already expressed an interest in getting to know *Amigos* members and our work as soon as he gets oriented in his new position.

Javier was previously PC Country Director in the Dominican Republic and their Friends group leader has nothing but good things to say about him. We look forward to great things happening as we start working with Javier, the staff and the volunteers in Bolivia.

(Editor's Note...see Howard Lyon's update on page 2 and Doreen Salazar's column on page 13 for more information on PC/Bolivia and the new Country Director.)

Annual NPCA Meeting and Group Leader's Forum

Earlier this Spring I asked for responses from Board members who might be interested in representing us at the NPCA meeting. I have appointed Gloria Levin, our Membership Coordinator, as our voting representative this year.

We have been asked to submit priorities that we want discussed at the meetings so please send them along quickly so that Gloria and the Board members can have some discussion about them before the meetings. *(See the top of page 2 for contact information.)*

NPCA's Annual General Meeting (AGM), Group Leaders Forum

(GLF), and Board Meeting are scheduled for Friday, July 29, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

NPCA's Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill will take place Thursday, July 28. For those of you who will be staying through the weekend, NPCA will be offering several informational and/or action opportunities on Saturday morning, July 30. Information about the various activities planned is available at www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=680. *(Editor's note...see NPCA Update on page 15 for more information.)*

Let me know if other *Amigos* members plan to attend any of the sessions, I'd be pleased to know about it.

Amigos Bylaws Being Revised

Ken Rustad, former President, almost single-handedly kept the bylaws updated for many years. Now it is time to update them again. Bill Sherry, Treasurer and Board member, is helping with the revision and we are at the "second draft" stage. Although Bill is off traveling in Bolivia during part of the summer, I am back here in the States getting comments ready to send to him when he gets back.

We think that this new revision will help the Board serve all of our members better. All Board officers will receive the final draft of the "new" Bylaws later this year for comment and final acceptance.

Have a great summer!

Patt Behler



Although the “official” Rendezvous in Cochabamba has been cancelled, several Amigos members are currently traveling in the region and we’ll look forward to hearing from them when they return.



The Sin of Washing your Hair

by Gloria Levin (Peru 66-68)

I recently found an evaluation of some early PCVs conducted under a contract from PC to the Anthropology Department at Cornell University, entitled Measurement of Peace Corps Program Impact in the Peruvian Andes. Started in 1962, the evaluation was intended to assess the impact of volunteers constituting Peru III who had trained at Cornell; the final report makes recommendations to Peace Corps about selection and training of successive PCVs based on the observations of Peru III volunteers.

In determining the qualities of PCVs that led to high or low impact on their communities, one quality ~ called "female narcissism" ~ was noted as among the negative attributes. In reading and re-reading it, I can't decide whether to laugh or cry. But it's a "keeper" in terms of pre-feminist thought, otherwise known as blatant sexism.

"Physical behavior by a few young Peace Corps Volunteers that proved provocative to others created a certain number of inefficiencies among other volunteers, and in relationship with male Peruvians.

The most obvious case of physical behavior that upset male volunteers and Peruvians (was an attractive female PCV who was not in the research sample). ...The physical message of sexual promise this volunteer conveyed to another male volunteer was so great compared to the reality of fulfillment that this frustration, perhaps combined with cultural shock and other factors, rendered the male volunteer completely unfit for effective work in Peru. We are also aware that this girl, who enjoyed a good command of the Spanish language, followed the behavior pattern of retreating to her living quarters when frustrated, there to wash her hair, or similarly care for her physical appearance" (p. 260).

The authors proceed to discuss a woman volunteer who had no discernible impact on any Peruvian institution yet "devoted a great portion of her time to grooming and personal beautification." They recommended as an economical move that women who "retreat into personal grooming when under stress" and are, therefore "inefficient," be identified in and "eliminated" from PC training; this was in the days

where PCVs were trained primarily in the U.S. rather than in the assigned country. Their "expert" opinion is supposedly buttressed by findings of a study of "22 North American housewives receiving psychiatric treatment in Colombia for serious maladjustment to life there." They provide a caution to generalization of the study findings (but in so doing, evidence a shocking ignorance of rural PC life): "The Peace Corps volunteer does not necessarily face as acute a problem of changed socioeconomic status in rural Peru that the urban businessman's wife faces in Colombia," (p. 262). They lauded PCV females who paid attention to area studies in training and, although in some cases even more physically attractive, declined to "primp."

Did you experience something similar? If you did, consider sending anecdotes of attitudes you encountered in the Peace Corps: from staff, PCV's, or host country nationals, to Ray Brown, editor of *Yachaspa*.

Kantuta Update

by Gerard Maguire

Kantuta, which takes its name from the national flower of Bolivia (and is also the name of a university in Peru), is a project of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*. Kantuta was initiated in 1991 by the co-chairs of the Washington, DC metro group of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*, Diane Hibino and Judith Kelly, as part of the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Peace Corps.

The purpose of Kantuta is to provide small grants as follows for:

1. Peace Corps Partnership Projects in Bolivia and Peru.
2. Joint projects with other non-profit organizations.
3. Direct development projects initiated by *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* which benefit the people of Peru and/or Bolivia.
4. The support of projects of other non-profit organizations, which adhere to the mission of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*.

Ideally, to receive a Kantuta grant, a project should demonstrate that it is community-initiated, sustainable, allows for community involvement and satisfies a community need.

Amigos de Bolivia y Peru is currently evaluating two projects for possible Kantuta grants.

The first is a rural sanitation project to prevent the spread of disease, especially Trichinosis, by building 14 latrines in 5 communities in the area of Chaleco, Peru. This project was submitted by Justin Overdest, a Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to the local NGO "ALDEA".

Justin has created a fantastic blog (<http://www.cloudlog.com/>) on his experience living and working in Chaleco, which includes his photography and writing.

The second is a project to build rainwater catchment systems in the municipality of Machareti, Chuquisaca, Bolivia. This area of Bolivia is part of the Chaco, and is beset with

severe drought nine months out of the year. The purpose of this project is to develop a system that allows the communities in this area to collect rainwater during the three-month rainy season to be used during the dry season. This project was submitted by Alexis Siegel, a Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to this area.

To learn more about Kantuta, and the projects we have funded, please see the *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* website

www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org/kantuta.htm or contact the Kantuta Coordinator, Gerard Maguire, at gjmaguire@hotmail.com.

We are actively soliciting funds for our Kantuta projects. Donations to Kantuta, which are tax deductible, can be sent directly to Bill Sherry, Treasurer, at the following address: 925 Forest Creek Drive West Columbus, OH 43223.



Images of Peru from www.cloudlog.com

Amigos Member Reports from Bolivia

Steve Huffstular
RPCV and Amigos member currently
working in Bolivia

There are worse places than Cochabamba, but I don't think there are too many places where people are as complicated and pull in so many directions at once. I find that interesting and a bit sad. Somebody said Bolivia is not for beginners. Well, wise old farts scratch their heads at events in this country.

My hobby is watching all the Bolivian TV news and trying to make sense of it. Today there is a new cabinet of highly talented people who have no political party and are as bland as a mashed potato sandwich with no salt. They will work for 4 months, until the next election, and try to keep things calm. Rumor is that in about 30 days, if the Congress does not nationalize the hydrocarbons (75% of the public want it) the demonstrators will be out in force again. They want to actually help run the oil and gas fields, keep most of the profits and invest in rural areas and poverty elimination.

Question: why and how does Bolivia manage to be so rich in natural resources with so many poor people, while Switzerland and Costa Rica are the opposite? Just saying culture ain't enough, we know that now. Why doesn't somebody invent the formula for putting a stop to exclusion, and make it a prerequisite for having telephones, cars and computers. I think we in the development business are just nibbling around the edges.

What we have here is a real deal

revolution of rising expectations. Below is a diary of the last 30 days.

May 25, 2005

Today is the third day in a row in which La Paz has been flooded with 4,000 to 5,000 demonstrators including coca farmers, students, miners, teachers and labor unionists. They are reportedly well financed by Chavez interests in Venezuela and various left-leaning European NGOS. Airport traffic is very limited, and American Airlines has not been flying into Bolivia since last Sunday. The main roads in the western highlands are blockaded. CNN has sent a private plane with Harris Whitbeck, bilingual conflict reporter, and the State Department has sent security advisors to the Embassy, which is on alert. Yesterday and today the demonstrations have been violent, with vandalism of downtown shops and wide use of tear gas. As yet there are no demonstrator deaths, and if there are any in the next few days, it could mean the forced exit of the President, as occurred in October 2003.

The demonstrators represent the majority indigenous, labor and leftist intellectual groups in the low-income western highlands of the country. Their demands are 1) nationalization of hydrocarbons and all natural resources, 2) a national assembly to write a new constitution (which the Congress has failed to schedule for two years), 3) no autonomy for the departments (states). They are opposed by the less populous eastern states, centered in Santa Cruz, where the population in general has more European roots and is more prosperous. The latter have met yesterday to agree to hold their own, extra-legal election to declare their autonomy in

a kind of loose federation. In the past two days various groups have called for civil war, a military coup, ouster of the entire Congress, or immediate new elections under the Constitution.

As this is written a group of mid-level military officers have just had a press conference and put their manifesto on the internet offering to take over and provide peace and stability. They propose a civic-military government opposed to neo-liberal privatizations and the international oil companies. The general public (and our employees) believe this is unlikely because the US Embassy would not give its approval. President Mesa, an intellectual and journalist, has been curiously aloof, giving eloquent speeches from outside the capital on his long-term plans for the country, without addressing the main issues. He is roundly criticized for lack of firmness and a plan for uniting the country. He has survived 19 months by giving ground, in turn, to whichever group is demonstrating or blockading the roads. Earlier this year, in a similar situation, he offered to resign twice, but stayed in office when even his enemies opposed the likely successor, the head of the Senate from the eastern province of Santa Cruz.

Coca and drugs are not under discussion, and have not been for a year. The underlying theme is the failure of the privatization schemes of the 1980s to do anything to alleviate poverty, while massive new natural gas deposits have been exploited by international companies in a way which adds little to the public treasury and provides almost no

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Amigos Member Reports from Bolivia (continued from p. 8)

measurable help to the country's stalled economy. A sub-theme is the endemic corruption of the class of traditional politicians, the 10% of the population which rules by keeping the fractious majority, indigenous elements divided against themselves. The economy is not helped by the fact that much of the country loses up to 60 productive days per year to either dancing or demonstrating in the streets, both having long, deeply rooted traditions.

As desperate as this may seem, it is the bread and butter of Bolivian politics, which has seen about 180 Presidents in 180 years of independence, and four in the past five years. The good news is that although the political rhetoric and street theater are intense and exaggerated, transitions are relatively non-violent, if drawn out, frequent and very ragged (October 2003 was an exception, when about 70 demonstrators were shot by the army, leading to the current genocide trial against the former president, now residing in Washington, and most of his cabinet). If the Congress comes back into session and enacts the Constitutional Assembly, or if the demonstrators start to believe the strong rumors of a military coup and go home, the country could be back to normal by Monday. Or, just as easily, things could drag on for weeks while the economy falls completely apart and food and fuel become scarce, leading to any sort of new government.

A politically connected business leader just called and predicted the Chief Justice will be President

by Monday. I said, "But that requires the resignations, in turn, of the President, the head of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House." He said, "Don't worry, that's exactly what we are working on." No doubt there is a would-be Chavez in the military woodwork who has slightly better odds. Back in the 60's all it took was a P-51 fighter plane to drop a single smoke bomb on top of the Presidential Palace, and a new dictator could get on the radio and offer to save the country from chaos, and if he had a dozen brave riflemen to get him into the palace, he had a good chance to be president. Something similar happened three times in one week in 1969, the week with five presidents that's in the Guinness Book of World Records. Now the P-51s have been sold to collectors, but the military does have one good helicopter which can fly at the altitude of La Paz.

June 3, 2005

The country has been 80% blockaded by indigenous peasants and workers for 2 weeks. Our banana exports have miraculously escaped until now. All of our employees are out of the Chapare, where blockades are expected any minute. Tempers are getting short on the picket lines and fist fights are breaking out between citizens. Last night at 9 a.m. the Congress failed to reach agreement on a referendum on regional autonomy and a constitutional assembly. Evo Morales, leader of the demonstrators, announced the blockades would be intensified in all of the country, and referred to news videos released earlier in the day showing attacks on indigenous demonstrators in Santa Cruz by a regionalist vigilante group. With great emotion he said this is a struggle between poor and the rich, and accused the Santa Cruz leadership

of trying to secede and thereby keep the hydrocarbon wealth for themselves. Morales said his movement would physically kick President Mesa out of his office. At 10:30 p.m. the Congress members had to be evacuated by a huge police escort which pushed back hoards of demonstrators. Now both the Santa Cruz business sector and the highland indigenous demonstrators have called for Mesa and his cabinet to resign and call for early elections

At 11:30 p.m. last night President Mesa went on television and issued a decree scheduling the referendum on autonomy and the constitutional assembly for October. He also called for the Church to lead a national dialog of reconciliation. The decree was immediately called unconstitutional by most legislators. The demonstrators said it does not address their main demand, nationalization of hydrocarbons. Ominously, they are saying only men will man the picket lines from today onward.

The Embassy has issued a strong traveler's advisory against travel to Bolivia. We don't know yet if American Airlines will fly into Bolivia tonight. As I write I don't know if our employees can get to the office this morning, as blockades went up on most of the Cochabamba bridges at 6 a.m. this morning. We will ask employees to stay home if they can't get through to the office, and we will work a short day with those who live close enough to walk.

There was an attempted military takeover this afternoon, the second one this week, but it fizzled.

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Amigos Member Reports from Bolivia (continued from p. 9)

About 50 of General Marcelo Antezana's friends and relatives picketed outside the military headquarters asking him to take over and restore order. There was too little support within the ranks, so the general went on television and strongly denied he knew anything about it.

June 6, 2005

After two weeks of steadily increasing demonstrations and blockades, today Bolivia is at a crossroads. Most agree the government will fall in a few days, the question is how, and with how much damage to the constitution and human life.

La Paz is completely cut off, without fuel, and bread is getting scarce. Although some flights are landing in El Alto, passengers have to walk in and out of the airport. All roads leading to Cochabamba are blocked. The Chapare, Yacapani, San Javier and Camiri are blockaded, cutting off the flow of food and fuel along the main highway, and restricting commerce with Argentina and Brazil. Some natural gas wells have been taken over by demonstrators, and the water supply to La Paz is being attacked, so far without results.

Thousands of trucks and buses have been stuck along blockaded, isolated roads for many days. Drivers and passengers, including some tourists, are threatened and made to pay exorbitant prices and "fees" to move about and seek food and lodging. Chile is threatening to take action to retrieve their truck drivers who are subject to harassment. Middle class people in Santa Cruz and La Paz are forming vigilante committees to defend their neighborhoods from attack. Yesterday a demonstration leader in La Paz announced he is

taking 200 young men to Santa Cruz to defend the indigenous highlanders who were attacked by Santa Cruz vigilantes last week.

Informal sources have been saying for several days that a deal was cut at the end of last week to have the President of the Supreme Court, Eduardo Rodriguez, act a caretaker president until new elections for president and vice president can be held later in the year. Supposedly the U. S. Embassy has endorsed the deal. The press caught on to this scenario yesterday. Presumably President Mesa would step down in the next few days, and the intervention of the Church is merely a way to get the opposing parties to back away from violence so the deal can be played out. A key to making the deal come together was that the Congress be allowed to remain, and not face re-election. The sources also point out this is the way the discredited traditional parties (MNR, MIR, NFR, etc.) can resume their usual role in running the country, proving that Mesa's government "without political parties" is untenable. President Mesa would get one thing out of this scenario: he could say that true to his word, no demonstrator was shot by government forces during his Presidency.

The Church started their reconciliation meetings over the weekend, meeting first with the government. They chose to have the meetings in Santa Cruz, in the luxurious compound of Cardenal Terrazas. The Pope has sent a message asking for Bolivians to seek peace. When the Church asked the demonstrators to give up their blockades, Evo Morales answered last night with a resounding "no," saying they had not been invited to the reconciliation meetings, the meetings should be held in La Paz, the main scene of dem-

onstrations, and the Church was merely repeating their traditional role of protecting the wealthy against the poor. The demonstrator leaders repeated they would "further radicalize" their tactics starting this morning. Unstated is that the MAS party has bet their future on the nationalization of hydrocarbons and all other natural resources, and they fear the unfolding solution will result in the traditional parties uniting to take over, while making the MAS indigenous movement pay the price for the cleanup in casualties and blame.

While Mesa can step down and wash his hands of the situation, his successor will probably not have the luxury of clean hands. The sources who describe the deal made for succession say that the army and police have been recruited to participate in the interim government. Their role will be to restore order so the economy can recover, and they will reportedly not be restrained as Mesa currently restrains them. In October of 2003 the restoration of order in a much smaller demonstration cost 70 demonstrator lives and brought down the government.

A television commentator said yesterday this is about more than the nationalization of hydrocarbons or the granting of autonomy to the regions. He said its about the indigenous majority of the citizenry, forced to live for centuries in the basement of the house, wanting to move upstairs to the ground floor and take a role in running the country. Others say its about Chavez and Castro financing and guiding the setting up of another

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Amigos Member Reports from Bolivia (continued from p. 10)

Cuba/Venezuela, while giving the U.S. a black eye.

June 10, 2005

The capital of Sucre was under siege from miners and peasants as of 5 p.m. yesterday, repeating the street battles with dynamite and tear gas seen in La Paz earlier in the week. Two hours earlier a miner demonstrator was killed by the army, and three injured, increasing country-wide tension and forcing Hormando Vaca Diez (from Santa Cruz) to finally abandon his claim to succession, which almost pushed the country into civil war.

After the street battle the Congress met and accepted the resignation of Carlos Mesa as President. The Presidents of the Senate and the House declined the Presidency and around midnight the President of the Supreme Court, Eduardo Rodriguez was named President of Bolivia. This is the deal that was worked out 2 weeks ago, but was almost derailed by the reckless ambition of Vaca Diez and the discredited, moribund old guard MIR and MNR parties.

Rodriguez is a lawyer with a degree in Public Administration from Harvard. He has no party affiliation and has been given 5 months to call for new elections. He is a low key academic from Cochabamba and member of the Tao club, a local lodge with ties to the Opus Dei Catholic movement. Important Cochabamba leaders with a national profile also belong, such as ex-minister Oswaldo Antezana, members of the Los Tiempos Canelas family

and Cardinal Terrazas.

This morning some of the blockades were being removed. But the El Alto radicals are meeting now to decide if they will loosen their stranglehold on La Paz, which yesterday had no food or fuel, and limited water and electricity. They continue to push for nationalization of hydrocarbons and the constitutional assembly.

In interviews, after accepting, President Rodriguez remarked that hydrocarbons are already nationalized in the current constitution, the question is how the state administers the resources.

June 15, 2005 On Racism

In the past couple of years there has been a TV/radio campaign in Bolivia against discrimination, without using the term racism. It is sponsored by a couple of human rights groups/agencies, one of which is a very minor part of the government. At the same time political actors are displaying their prejudice or denying having prejudice more openly than in the past. The most recent president, Carlos Mesa, made some speeches exhorting people to be more tolerant and stop using racial epithets, which is a new thing for a Bolivian leader, from what I have seen. I don't see his admonitions doing much good yet, unless getting people to speak their prejudiced minds more often (on both sides) is a step toward progress.

The Aymara revolutionary leader Felipe "El Mallku" Quispe got much media attention in 2002 when he ran for president

and spoke on TV about how the Indians are treated in La Paz. I think that was the point when the old taboos about speaking openly were broken. He spoke about the restriction of opportunities, the treatment of maids and gardeners, and about the unpunished massacres with the right mix of irony and sincerity. His story struck a chord with the public and got the problem out in the open. And his running mate, Ester Balboa (a Quechua PhD who speaks 5 languages), used the platform to tell the same story in an elegant, tolerant, intellectual version. The message was clear: you can have us ignorant, resentful and violent, or we can meet on the common ground of education and learn about tolerance together.

Two years ago Miss Bolivia, from Santa Cruz, went to the Miss Universe contest and was interviewed. When asked about the Indian demonstrations and blockades in her country, she replied "I'm from Santa Cruz, we don't do that because we are tall, white and speak English." This was widely quoted in Bolivia and created an uproar. When she returned to Santa Cruz a supportive demonstration and parade were held for her, as if she was a local heroine. You hear many stories of people from Santa Cruz saying "We have to build a wall to keep the damned kollas out," then someone reminds the person speaking that both their parents were highlander kollas, and they had a grandmother (or two) who wore a pollera (Indian skirt).

The Indians are standing up for their rights, in their own fractious way, and using a form of radical, destructive civil disobedience, skating on the edge of outright violent rebellion. Their control center is El Alto, where the hope of the Aymara immigrant to the city is crushed

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by unemployment and lack of real opportunity. It is no secret, and recent Presidents have admitted, this is the result of the government (and donors) leaving the altiplano with no electricity, health care or decent schools. The Aymara reaction is to starve out La Paz, just like Tupac Katari did 200 years ago, when his 3 month siege of La Paz drove the Pacenios to cannibalism. Last week the hospitals, prisons and orphanages in La Paz were in collapse: no blood, medicines, supplies, or food.

There was a clear message in the air last Thursday during the miner/campesino riot in Sucre: either the Crucenio President of the Senate steps aside in succession to the Presidency, or the highland campesino movement will explode to the next level of violence. He stepped aside, and disaster was averted, but his speech in doing so

made it clear Santa Cruz will bear a grudge and look for a way to get even. A Quechua intellectual friend said "You have just witnessed a genuine pan-indigenous uprising, each time we are stronger and more united." The reports that the country was on the verge of civil war were not exaggerated. In my 8 years of living in Bolivia, in the 60s and now, I have never seen anything like it, revolutions have always been a comical shift at the top, with no reverberations at the bottom, and almost none in the middle. The 1952 revolution was an exception, it impacted the social spectrum.

I have many Bolivian friends and co-workers who are part of the educated mestizo or white elite. Even those who have a vocation to help the poor, or a soft spot for the Indians, are scared of a larger, more chaotic uprising. Many of those who have rural property or live in the path of demonstrations are disturbingly talking about getting guns (or

more guns) to protect their homes. And make no mistake, the Indians have lots of guns, and have had them since 1952, but they leave them at home, so far. Bolivia is one of the world's most open, uncontrolled markets. Whatever it is, you can buy it here cheaper than in Hong Kong.

I have always thought Bolivia is like South Africa and is due for some real democracy and reversing of the suppression of the majority. It been a long time coming: the divide and conquer, keep the Indians poor and ignorant strategy has had smothering success. Rampant corruption aids and abets this process. So the article at <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0609/p08s01-comv.html> in the Christian Science Monitor seemed spot on.

Politics and Presidents, and a New Peace Corps Director

by Doreen Salazar
Program & Training Officer
Bolivia

Beginning May 18, marches and strikes by various groups began in La Paz, demanding nationalization of hydrocarbons and the resignation of President Mesa, as well as the resignation of the following two constitutional successors to the presidency. The intensity of marches and protests in La Paz increased, with access to the airport (at El Alto) closed off continually, many businesses paralyzed, significant decreases in basic supplies such as fuel, and in-

creased difficulty traveling safely in the city. American Airlines canceled flights to La Paz on May 23 and 24, and the US Embassy moved to minimal staffing on June 1. In the meantime, a wide coalition of groups around the nation began to join in the protests and to match their demands, and clashes between protesters and citizen groups were reported.

On Monday, June 6, Peace Corps received confirmation from the U.S. Embassy that the ambassador had requested approval for an "authorized departure" of U.S. government employees from Bolivia. In light of that information, plus the increased intensity and number of

roadblocks in the country, Peace Corps Bolivia decided to take a proactive position, and we initiated our Peace Corps/Bolivia Emergency Action Plan on Monday, June 6, 2005.

On Tuesday June 7 President Mesa resigned. This was a hopeful sign, because he fulfilled one of the demands of the protesters. On Wednesday June 8 tension increased as Hormando Vaca Diez considered accepting the presidency, and attempted to negotiate an alliance with the military to establish law and order by force. On Thursday June 9, one death was reported in a skirmish between police and protestors outside Sucre, and by

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Politics and Presidents (continued from p. 12)

6:00 pm, congress had not met.

On Thursday June 9, Mesa's resignation was accepted, Vaca Diez also resigned, as did the next in line, and a new president, Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze, announced that he would call elections within 180 days. The situation in the country quickly calmed down, roadblocks were lifted, and Peace Corps Bolivia lifted our Emergency Action Plan status. The embassy has not yet lifted the Authorized Departure status as of today, July 1, but we expect that it will likely be lifted soon. Nevertheless, consensus over the future of this country does not exist, and civil unrest will likely continue to be "normal" in Bolivia for the foreseeable future.

We welcome Javier Garza, new Bolivia Country Director (to re-

place Howard at the end of July). Javier Garza currently is Peace Corps Country Director in the Dominican Republic. Javier served as a PCV in Peru in 70-71 and had a goal of returning to PC in an overseas executive capacity. Prior to Peace Corps Dominican Republic, he was the President and CEO of Meals on Wheels and More in Austin, Texas for sixteen years. He directed the growth of this agency from a small social services agency to one that gained national attention. Javier directed its \$3.5 million dollar budget, 50 staff and over 3,500 volunteers. Javier won the prestigious Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year award in the non-profit category for his business approach and management style.

Prior to his work in Austin, Javier worked with the Cooperative Housing Foundation in Washington. In

that capacity he worked extensively in many Central and South American countries. He also worked for USAID in Bolivia for two years as a housing advisor for implementation of a guaranteed loan program for low cost housing in rural areas.

Garza earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.P.A. from the George Washington University. He loves working with the Volunteers and is enjoying the beautiful island of Hispaniola. His daughter is a sophomore in college in northern California. His household includes his dog El Señor Paco and Cat, Ms. Kitty.

Consider a Contribution to a Peace Corps Partnership Project

The community of Azurduy in Bolivia has recognized the importance of computer training in today's increasing technical world. The community already have a few computers in the community, but do not have enough people with the skills to operate them. Additionally, the youth need computer skills to compete for places in universities.

The solution is to build a computer center in the local high school and provide three classes each semester to high school stu-

dents and monthly classes to the community. These classes will provide computer literacy required for children to advance and compete with their peers in the city and it will give the community a better knowledge of computer skills. The community is providing 40% of the costs and hiring a teacher. Funds from the Peace Corps Partnership will go to computers, furniture, construction materials and equipment for the computers.

You can easily contribute by

going to the Peace Corps web site:

www.peacecorps.gov.

Select...donate now...Latin America...and then click on the project name, Partnership Project 511-053 Computer Center in Azurduy High School.

Thanks!

Doreen Salazar

Program &

Training Officer

Bolivia

Additional Commentaries on the Situation in Bolivia

Andean Information Network (AIN)

The AIN distributed an interesting commentary on events in Bolivia authored by Linda Farthing. She is an AIN board member, independent researcher and journalist, currently working in La Paz.

An excerpt follows...Over three weeks of grueling social conflict in La Paz, the extension of road blockades and strikes throughout the nation provoked increasing criticism of the executive's incapacity to meet growing, and at times conflicting demands from diverse sectors. In response, President Mesa resigned on June 6 during a speech to the nation. Mesa said that he had done his best and asked for forgiveness if he shared responsibility for the profound political crisis that grips the nation. He begged the Bolivian public to engage in dialogue to resolve the conflict. According to the Bolivian constitution, the nation's congress must meet and accept the resignation. Although the Evo Morales's MAS party and other social sectors had asked that Mesa step

down, resignation was not a key demand of any group. As a result, it provides no solution to the profound political and institutional crisis that grips South America's poorest nation. With no clear successor with sufficient popular support to legitimately enact policy, Bolivia's future has become increasing uncertain...

Available from the Resource Center of the Americas.org at www.americas.org/item_19741.

The Democracy Center On-Line

The Democracy Center On-Line offers a report, *Bolivia in Turmoil*. The author, Jim Shultz, also maintains a blog with periodic updates at <http://democracyctr.org/blog/>.

Power and Interest News Report (PINR)

PINR recently distributed a report by Dr. Michael A. Weinstein, *Intelligence Brief: Bolivia*, that is available on the web at www.pinr.com. An earlier overview of the political situation by Dr. Weinstein, *Cycle of Instability in*

the Andes: Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, is also available on the web site.

An excerpt from the report follows...Over the week of June 6, Bolivia passed through a sharp up tick in its ongoing cycle of political instability that is rooted in the overlapping regional, ethnic and class divisions of the Andean country.

The Bottom Line...with Washington-backed Mesa out of the picture and a caretaker administration in power, Bolivia's day of reckoning has been deferred, but its underlying social conflict remains unresolved. The removal of Mesa has emboldened the left and has provoked a corresponding defensive backlash on the right. Fresh elections are unlikely to produce a reconciler, with the highest probability being an increase in power for the left, which will harden the drive for autonomy in the south and east. Expect continued instability in Bolivia that will slow development of its energy sector and possibly lead to a left-populist regime, spurring bids for secession by its opponents.

News from NPCA

Results for the just-concluded 2005 NPCA board elections are now available. Voting was held for all nine elected positions, and in a milestone, 99% of ballots were cast online. The winners are: *Geographic Regions*: Judith H. Whitney ~ North-east, Kenneth Hill ~ MidAtlantic & Nationwide, Bruce Anderson ~ Southern Tier, Robert Findlay ~ West, Deborah Most ~ Upper Midwest; *Country of Service regions*: Frances Holliday Alford ~ Asia & The Pacific, Patricia Wand ~ The Americas, Helene Dudley ~ Europe, North & East Africa, and Sandra Lauffer ~ West, Central & Southern Africa.

The annual NPCA meetings are scheduled for July 28-30th in Washington, DC. The Group Leaders Forum and Board of Directors

Meeting will take place on Friday, July 29th and will be preceded by a Capitol Hill advocacy day on July 28.

To encourage participation and reduce the cost to groups, NPCA is piloting an expanded, half-day "Virtual Group Leaders Forum." Group leaders will be able - at no cost other than their time - to join the discussion either in-person or via web or tele-conference using an 800 number. Please visit the 2005 NPCA summer meetings page for the most complete and up-to-date information. Find details at www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=680.

The NPCA Advocacy Network provides a powerful, unifying

voice through which our members support the continued success of the Peace Corps and lend assistance to other key issues of global concern. Network web pages provide vital information on these issues and key links to your representatives in congress. Check the web page at <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=26> for Action Alerts, Mobilizations, the latest news from the NPCA Advocacy Network, Advocacy Training Guide, Advocacy Evaluation Survey, NPCA Advocacy Policy, Past Advocacy and Peace Newsletters, Pending Legislation, and other useful information.

The Saya and the Fiesta of Urqupiña

by Stephen Paul Jacobs

This afternoon, some 40 university and high school students will gather in the Plaza Juana Azurduy de Padilla in Cochabamba to rehearse for la Fiesta de Urqupiña. They will be representing their neighborhood in Quillacollo during a several day celebration. As Caporales, their dance is both athletic and symbolic. In mid-August, they will be dressed, or in the case of the women, surprisingly undressed, in elaborate sateen costumes, adorned with tiny cymbals and other devices to complement their rhythmic movements. However, the symbolism of their performance, now a popular component of urban celebrations throughout the country, is less easily explained. Caporales is one manifestation, through music and choreography, of the increasing recognition of the historic and contemporary role of Africans in Bolivian society. The quality of this phenomenon raises a number of questions dealing directly with the role of culture as an economic and social resource.

Since the colonial period, most studies of Bolivian society have focused on the tensions inherent in Spanish and Indigenous relationships. Divisions are cultural, economic and linguistic. While African slaves and freemen were a small but significant minority during the colony, they form a tiny and almost unnoticeable fraction of Bolivia's present population of 6 million. Matthew Restall, in his *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest* (Oxford University Press, 2003) speaks about the critical role the Invisible Warri-

ors played in the conquest. He refers to both indigenous and African slaves and allies of the Spanish. According to his research, the Pizarro brothers were licensed to bring 258 African slaves to Perú. By the 1550s there were approximately 3,000 blacks in Perú (including Alto Perú or Bolivia) and by, 1650 about 30,000 probably working in the mines of Potosí. In the 450 years since the Spanish Invasion, intermarriage between blacks and the criollo and indigenous population has been common. According to Alison Spedding in *No Longer Invisible: Afro-Latin Americans Today* (Minority Rights Group, London: Minority Rights Publications, 1995), approximately 15,000 Afro-Bolivians live in the Yungas of La Paz, the one area of some concentration. She reported some migration to the Santa Cruz area and was unable to estimate the population of Afro-Bolivians living in other parts of the country. From my own experience, outside of the Yungas, Afro-Bolivians are rarely encountered.

The Saya

Spedding writes about the Afro-Bolivianos of the Yungas being almost completely integrated into indigenous Aymara culture. They are bilingual in Spanish and Aymara, dress and cook similarly to their neighbors. She claims that music and dance are "... principle elements of Afro-Bolivian identity." (Spedding 1995, 324) She points out the variety and importance of percussion instruments and the layering of rhythms. Men and women dance together but in gen-

der-defined groups. The women sing in high voices while the men are "lead by a caporal, who wears bells on his legs and brandishes a whip as a sign of authority." (Spedding 1995, 324)

In the spring of 2003, I attended a conference on the economic role of conserving Bolivia's patrimony. It was sponsored by the Colegio de



Caporales de Ingenieria, Universidad Mayor de San Andres, La Paz

Arquitectos de Bolivia, the national professional organization. Speakers included el Ministro de Asuntos Culturales, anthropologists, journalists, and ecologists. Bolivia's folklore is increasingly seen as an essential component of Bolivia's future as a tourist destination. The latest advertising slogan promoting Bolivian tourism is "Lo Auténtico Todavía Existe."

One great magnet for tour-

The Saya and the Fiesta of Urqupiña (continued from p. 16)

ists are the impressive urban festivals – with the Carnival de Oruro as the oldest and most important with its Diablada, a complex reenactment of the Conquista as a battle between traditional spirits and Catholicism. The Fiesta del Gran Poder, in La Paz, and the Fiesta de la Virgen de Urqupiña in Quillacollo, near Cochabamba, have become increasingly important and attract national and international tourists. (It is interesting to note that the number and size of these local festivals – involving the participation of groups from all over the country – is itself a phenomenon expressive of an invigorated communal cultural life.

All of these fiestas involve *entradas* in which troupes of dancers and musicians move through the streets of the city. The groups from all parts of the country present an extraordinary range of traditional music and dance. Participation is felt to be a form of devotion. It is a blessing to dance for the Virgen de Urqupiña and it is believed to bring a year of good luck. The vigor and display of the groups dancing Caporales has made it one of the most popular elements of these parades.

Commercializing the Saya

Bolivia is a largely rural country, sparsely populated with small scattered communities (*allyus*) separated by mountain ranges. These characteristics, long preceding the Spanish invasion, has generated and maintained an enormous richness, depth and diversity of folk traditions. In addition to rural music, there is a long tradition of ur-

ban *mestizo* and *criollo* music more influenced by Spanish sources. In the 60s of fond memory, urban radio stations and popular restaurants would play “Bolivian music” – a limited repertoire of *Cuecas* and *Huayños*.

In the 70s, political activism reinforced an increasing interest in folk music and folk culture, lead to the opening of several influential *peñas folklóricas* in La Paz and Cochabamba. A generation of musicians, largely university educated, became increasingly popular and, through recordings, became widely known in Bolivia. These evolved into the Super Groups (*grupazos*) like *Savia Andina* and *Los Kjarkas* from Cochabamba and *Los Jairas* from La Paz. These urban and very sophisticated and accomplished virtuoso *conjuntos* – using traditional instruments – mined and refined the extensive traditional source material and composed new works expanding within a traditional framework. Their public concerts, in this pre-television period, were and continue to be, major events. Recording technology improved and the *grupazos* became increasingly well known throughout Latin America and in the World Music scene.

In the 1980s, as part of a search for new rhythms (Bolivian music is defined primarily according to rhythm), the *saya* was discovered and entered the repertoire of the *grupazos*, particularly *Los Kjarkas*. Bolivian music is highly rhythmic, with a subtle spring. The percussive emphasis of the *saya* with its complex rhythmic texture was immedi-

ately appealing to Bolivians and later on was seen by its promoters as something that would connect with the wider Latin American community. The Bolivians directed their production at the Latin American market where the dance ability of the *saya* was expected to be able to compete with other tropical rhythms. It is to be noted that music from all over Latin America, particularly salsa and cumbia, is very popular in Bolivia. (I was surprised to discover the number of Bolivian Mariachi Bands in Santa Cruz.) As if to rectify a negative cultural trade balance, *Los Kjarkas* were especially deliberate in attempting to move their product within the Latin American marketplace. In the 90s, they renamed themselves *Grupo Pacha* and produced their recordings in Mexico. They began to focus increasingly on recording *sayas* and ballads like “Ave de Cristal.” In Mexico, they appeared on a CD accompanying Daniella Romo, a well established Mexican pop singer and were occasional guests on “Sabado Gigante” and other Televisa variety shows.

Meanwhile, back in Bolivia, Afro-Bolivians found that their music and dance was being appropriated by the commercial music industry without any material benefit to their own community. Social recognition may be valuable but this was clearly exploitation. The *Movimiento Cultural Saya Afrobo-*

The Saya and the Fiesta of Urqupiña (continued from p. 17)

liviano was created in Corioco, Las Yungas, following the first Encuentro de Afro-Bolivianos in 1992. The *Movimiento Saya Afroboliviano* is a performing group that travels within Bolivia and internationally. They sponsor educational programs work to encourage the interests of their constituents – a delegation recently participated in the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

Finally, back to the Caporal rehearsal, I wonder what remains of the original content of the Afro-Bolivian dance in its now hugely popular translation? Instead of a small group of women dressed in light cotton shifts in Las Yungas, we see three rows of young students wearing blue jeans and T-shirts. After months of rehearsals, when their intricate steps are mastered (a kind of coordinated shimmy), they will get in costume – a not-too-low-cut bodice, high heels (particularly problematic on the cobbled streets of Quillacollo), nylon stockings and the tiniest of skirts. Did I mention little hats with sown-in black braids? The men, also in T-

shirts and jeans, are practicing their impressive leaps and spins. They clearly have the more spectacular choreography. On fiesta day, they will wear loose fitting blouses and leggings of dark sateen. Bells and cymbals are sown along the outsides of their pants and boots so that their leap landings will resound fiercely. They carry tambourines, whips and often toss their hats in the air (the women seductively available, the men aggressively strutting). Caporales seems more closely related to the antics of drum majors and majorettes than to the Afro-Bolivian saya. In Las Yungas, a single caporal seemed to be in charge of a crew of men and the women of a community – the reenactment of the collective memory of the importance of the black *mayordomo*. Here, we are experiencing more the expression of male virility and feminine enchantment.

Any dance or music that brings such pleasure to its participants and its audience is culturally valuable. Communal life is enriched and, while a cultural resource has been

expended, it is not clearly exhausted. The popularity, however distorted its popular manifestation, has brought the existence or even plight of Afro-Bolivianos to the attention of the nation. Perhaps, this focus shifts attention away from more difficult racial tensions between *criollo*, *mestizo* and *indigena*. The activism of the *Movimiento Saya Afroboliviano* and its good works was clearly provoked in response to such attention. Our world of increased cultural exchange and interaction challenges and stimulates the imagination and helps generate alternatives and opportunities. Bolivia's extraordinary patrimony retains its evocative potential while allowing newly relevant and vitalizing expression.



Members of *Movimiento Saya Afroboliviano*

Check out the following web page for images of the participation of the *Caporales de la Univesidad de San Simón* in the Oruro Carnival.

<http://www.dbijen.dds.nl/caporales/index.htm>

*If you move...or
change your e-mail
address...*

Please remember to update your address information by contacting Gloria Levin, Amigos Membership Coordinator. Contact information is on page 2 in each issue of *Yachaspa*.

Submissions for Yachaspa

Have you visited Bolivia or Peru recently? Did you have an informal reunion with other RPCV's this summer? Consider sharing your observations and photos with Amigos members. You can tell us what really happened and save us the trouble of making up the rumors!!

We're also always interested in reviews of good books, speakers, movies or Internet resources that we can share with members of Amigos. Send your suggestions or ideas to Ray Brown, *Yachaspa* editor. Contact information is on page 2 of this issue.

Yachaspa is published quarterly by Amigos de Bolivia y Perú for its membership. The newsletter welcomes articles and other material pertaining to the general purposes of the organization. Except for copyrighted material, items may be reprinted as long as attribution is provided to Yachaspa and Amigos.

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