



# The Swazi Sojournal



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8 SEPTEMBER 1ST 2011

"Home is where one starts from. The world becomes stranger, the patterns more complicated, a lifetime burning in every moment. There is time for the evening under starlight, and a time for evening under lamplight. We shall not cease from exploration and the end of all exploring will arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." – T.S. Eliot

## A Tale Of Integration: Waiting For Emafethi

By Emma Wallis

Staff Addiction Counselor

For those of you in Group 9 who know me, you also know that I have an addiction to emafethi. Well, being at site has not caused my sweet craving to wane at all. This started back home when I was in charge of running a seminar series for a bunch of grad students. For those of you who have been students, you know that the best way to persuade them to attend anything is to have food. I chose to have doughnuts and coffee at my seminars. They were every week. Of course that meant that I had at least one donut a week, and sometimes I had to go into the store (they were delivered for the seminar) to work out logistics, or to get lunch or something. Anyhow, it had been about two weeks since I had last indulged in an emafethi and about four days that we had been at site. Needless to say, I thought I was dying.

Mia and I planned to go to Buhleni, our shopping town, a few days after we had arrived at site to buy the standard household things, as I'm sure most of the other G9ers did. It was an incredibly hot day around 1pm and we had just sat through about three hours of our fist Umphakathzi meeting under the big fig tree. Standing by the side of the road Mia called her sisi, who had previously mentioned that she would like to go with us to town, to let her know that we

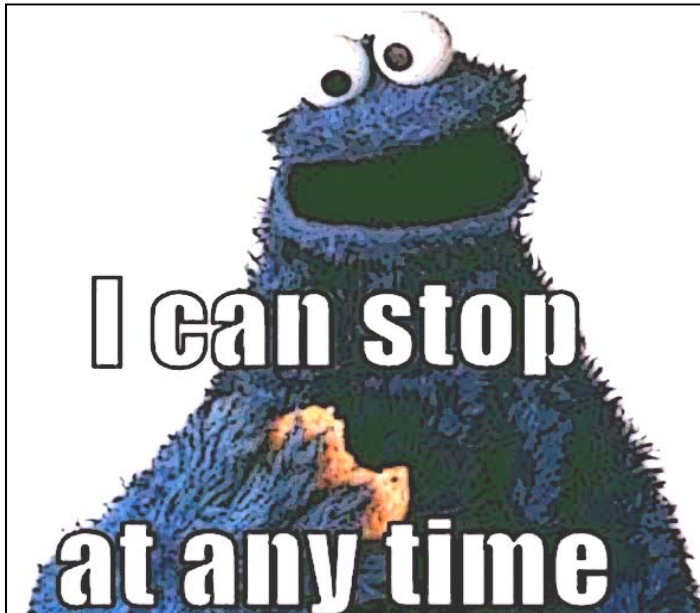
no big deal, lunch and then a ride to town. Another three hours later we asked Sisi if she was ready to go to the store yet. She was, so we all piled in the car. When I say all, I mean all, including Gogo and Sisi (another one) who we had to drop off at home really quick before going to town. OK. In the car, hot, windows down, on a dirt road forever, seriously about an hour!! Finally we got to Mhlume, and my Dramamine kicked in. Great. Luckily it only took about 45

minutes to drop off Gogo and Sisi, then we were back on the road. Sisi said that we would stop at a store on the way back, after she showed us off to some more of her friends in Tshaneni. By the time we actually got to the store it only had a few more minutes of being open. Luckily they let us in and we got to do some shopping, even if we didn't get to explore our shopping town with a local guide. On the way back we had a nice leisurely drive passing sugar cane fields, monkeys sitting next to the road eating the sugar cane watching cars drive by, and a gorgeous sun-

set. Quickly, I called my make to let her know that I was with Buhle and her sister, I was ok and I was going to be home late, not to worry. This was quite an adventure in itself, and then the icing on the cake, or the dough in the oil. We did stop in Buhleni, at one store, for one thing, emafethi. It was heavenly, I mean really. Mine didn't even make it to the car and I was debating if I had time to run in and get another before Sisi drove off without me.

A few days later Mia and I decided to actually go to Buhleni to get a look around and pick up a few things. I had not had an emafethi since that day with Sisi. Little did Mia know that this adventure was going to turn into a hunt (or long wait) for the fat

To be cont...p4



were ready to go and could meet her there. She told Mia that it was too hot and she would come 'pick us'. So we waited, mostly thankful for the ride. We got in the car and found out that Sisi actually had other plans for the day, the first of which was to go home for lunch. This was fine,

more minutes of being open. Luckily they let us in and we got to do some shopping, even if we didn't get to explore our shopping town with a local guide. On the way back we had a nice leisurely drive passing sugar cane fields, monkeys sitting next to the road eating the sugar cane watching cars drive by, and a gorgeous sun-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
EMAFETHI	1
SECURITY UPDATES	2
NO MKHULU	5
LIGUSHA	6
CAPTION CONTEST	8
BACK TO TRAINING	9
ETTIQUITE TIME	11
TANYA TELLS ALL	12

**SAFETY & SECURITY**

By : Mfanafuthi Vilakati

Staff Safety Coordinator

(Also Bruce Lee's BFF)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the newly sworn in **Group 9**. I enjoyed working with you during pre-service training. Your hard work and willingness to learn and to adjust was impressive.

**Note:** All PCVs are required to submit a fully completed in ink Site Locator Form within a month of arrival at a new site to the SSC without fail.

Spring is here, longer and warmer days...and is now the ideal time for snake to start moving. Below are ideas on how to generally deal with snakes and avoid snakes coming near or into your room.

- Keep your house and pit latrine free of vegetation right around
- Sprinkle Cape Aloe snake repellent crystals around your house
- Wear boots and long trousers when walking in the bush
- Avoid sleeping on the ground when camping
- Avoid cornering a snake,

most will bite when feeling cornered

- Seek help, don't try to kill the snake
- Do not keep livestock like chickens in your house, they attract snakes
- Store food in sealed con-



tainers so that rats and mice are discouraged

- Raise beds above floor level and use a mosquito net to safeguard against scorpions and snakes
- Use a torch when going outside at night
- Give snake a chance to escape

Use old newspapers or rags to close the gap underneath your door so that snakes, spiders,

rats and frogs cannot come into your house.

**ATM Safety**

- Do not keep your ATM card together with your PIN number .
- Do not share your ATM PIN number with anyone.

uniformed security personnel may help you.

- If your card gets stuck, report that to the bank immediately.
- Avoid using isolated ATMs especially during weekends and odd hours of the day.

Be watchful of persons who may follow you from an ATM with the intention to "strike at the right time."

Integration does play a big role in terms of ensuring PCV safety and security in communities. I wish to encourage Group 9 to really invest in being well integrated in home host families and communities. Efforts to keep learning SiSwati should not come to an end. This has always paid good dividends.

Lastly, PCVs are encouraged to practice securing their rooms at all time when they are leaving and also when they are present, especially after dark. Keep the windows shut and burglar door locked. Do not neglect to report ALL incidents.

Until next moth, ASIPHEPHE! / LET'S BE SAFE!

PS: The Swazi Backpackers in Malkerns and the Bend Inn in Big Bend are still out of bounds to Volunteers for safety and security reasons.

**Consolidation points are now six and are as listed below:**

**Consolidation point**

**Warden**

**Assistant Warden**

- Siteki Hotel
- Matsapha Inn
- Orion Hotel
- Nhlangano Sun
- Riverside Hotel
- Peace Corps Office

- Katie McBurney
- Jordan Dye
- Eric Hall
- Florence Monnier
- Andrew Nute
- Tanya Marion

- Sherlie Viciere
- Joe Drungil; Lewis Kiker
- Emma Wallis
- Mike Messick; Phylcia Woods
- Nicole Ludwig
- Ryan Fouss

**New Consolidation Points Wardens** have also been appointed to man the CPs during an EAP exercise and their training workshop in Mbabane will be announced soon. Below is a list of the new Consolidation Points Wardens, their assistants will be announced at a later stage.

## Shout Out from the Country Director

By Steve Driehaus

Last month I tried to provide you with the variety of issues that comes through the PC office on a daily basis. This month, I'd like to give a few shout outs to the people that resolve those challenges, no questions asked, often with a smile. It is inevitable that when you have 75 volunteers in country, things happen: a parent falls ill back home, a death at the homestead, harassment from a counterpart, illness of a volunteer, the housing isn't ready. It happens, and it happens daily.

I signed up to be the fixer. But to be the fixer, one needs not only capable and willing staff, but also a bunch of Group 7, Group 8, and Group 9 PCVs that realize this is a team effort. To those I've called - Eva, Cameron, Krista, Brian, Thomas - thanks for stepping up when your colleagues needed it.

I often brag about staff because they deserve it. But I want to give special thanks this month to the drivers. The next time you see a Peace Corps driver at your place at 9 am on a Sunday, realize that he got up at 5 am to hop a khumbi to get to the office and then to get to you. He probably got a call from me at

11:30 the night before. We call upon them daily and expect them to jump - and they do! To Bongani, Siphon, Benele and Norman - thank you for your commitment to Peace Corps and to our volunteers. You make it seem so simple and we never hear the complaints.

We have fires, a lot of them. The only way to allow volunteers to achieve the great things they achieve is to make the firefighting look routine - even though it never is. Thanks to all of you for making the crises look like part of your every day jobs.

## MC Champions?

Do you know of a man in your community who has undergone MC and is very happy with the results? Is he an informal or formal peer leader, who is taking the message of MC beyond the typical conversation and advocating in the community? If so we'd love to hear about him! There may be roles available in the national MC campaign for outgoing peer leaders in your communities.

Contact Aiesha for more details.

## Making the MOST of your Peace Corps

### Vacation Days

By Mike Messick

Staff Vacation Coordinator

As Group 8 has only 12 months left of service, and Group 9 is just getting started... Gail and I thought it might be helpful to gather some "true facts" about Peace Corps, Vacation Days, Earning Them, and Using Them.... so here goes:

1) This article is NOT about the "one day away from site policy." This article is about TAKING VACATIONS... whether traveling to other African countries, or USA, or Europe.

2) As Peace Corps Volunteers we earn two vacation days for each month served. The earning starts at swear in, and continues during service at the rate of two days per month...after 24 months you will have earned 48 days vacation. Peace Corps WANTS you to use your vacation days, for R&R, to get off site and unwind, and spread your joy, and Yankee dollars to the countries you choose to visit. When you COS, if you have not used all your vacation, you will simply lose any unused days. Hint: Plan your vacations, and take them.

3) Peace Corps does not want us taking vacations during Integration, or during the last three months of service...so truly you have 48 days vacation to use during your "middle" 18 months of service.

4) And if you travel to USA, and give 3 presentations un-

der the terms of the Goal Three announcement, 4Q2010...you can earn three "bonus days" of vacation...so some PCVs may earn a total of 51 days of vacation, while serving.

5) All vacation requests are made on the PC Volunteer Leave Request Form, available in the PC Office. The form needs to be completed NO LATER than 14 days prior to travel. And until you have received approval, for your leave, PCVs should assume that the leave is not approved. Please complete the form as detailed as possible, and do not hesitate to contact PC Office contact Samu with questions.

6) Note that both the day you depart Swaziland, and the day you return to Swaziland are counted as full vacation days. Even if you depart Swaziland at 11PM...

7) Samu is also your contact if you want to know how many days vacation Peace Corps has recorded you taking, for those of you that want to keep track as you work your way thru your 48 or 51 days... and as you plan vacations, it is good to touch base with Samu, to check on your days.

8) Since Peace Corps does not want us taking vacation during our last three months at site....you may request--on the Volunteer Leave Request Form--to use some of those 6 days, which you have not yearned...again the process starts with Samu, and ultimately must be approved by Steve. This is called borrowing future unearned vacation days. And keep in mind if you borrow vacation days, and then leave Peace Corps before COS, you will need to pay Peace Corps money for the days you took, but did not earn.

So here is the bottom line, PCVs--we got a GREAT, and LIBERAL vacation policy, and we got a good staff willing to help sort out the details, and numbers...just make sure you ask questions well in advance of making firm plans...making bookings, etc. And do plan to use all your earned vacation!



*Battling Addiction from p1* cakes.

emafethi anyone?

The first place we went to in town was the emafethi place, it's past the gas station, near the shebeen in Buhleni (stop by if you ever get a chance, note the timing). They said that the emafethi would be ready at about 1 pm (who makes emafethi in the afternoon anyway?!). It was about 9 am. Could Mia and I use up 4 hours in the small town of Buhleni? Two tables, a few brooms and mops, and groceries galore later Mia and I walked back in to the sitolo. Were the fat cakes, by any chance, ready early today? About 11 am. No. So we decided that we couldn't wait until 1 pm to eat and headed back out to He Provides Restaurant, previously Twinkle, for PCV famous fried chicken. It was delicious, but by the time we got done it was only 11:45 am. We were so hungry we both wolfed our food down. We went back to the sitolo, were they ready yet? No, one hour. OK, so we went back to the woodcraftsman to figure out possible transport for the tables. 12:00. Not yet, but we didn't have anything else to do. So, I asked Mia if she would mind waiting just 45 minutes sitting in the sitolo for the emafethi. She said no. That was her mis-

take, because the emafethi weren't ready until around 2:30 pm. Every single person who walked in that sitolo sat down to talk to us about where we were from, how long had we been in Swaziland? What were we doing here? When were we leaving? Could they come back with us? Even if it was in a suitcase? Where do you stay? No, really, where do you stay? What's your real name? On and on. Then finally, after truly earning it, and making a few friends in the meantime, the emafethi were ready!! And oh were they amazing. I

got eight, that's right eight. I ate two on the way home, one when I got home, I gave two to Make (who also LOVES emafethi) and ate another one with her. The rest just had to wait for tomorrow, because I was full. Oh, emafethi. Unfortunately, I have a recipe for them.

So, as a reward for suffering through this story, below is my recipe for how to make emafethi. A little warning though, with this recipe they are quite a bit fluffier and more cake like. To make them more doughy and dense do not use self-rising flour and knead for longer. What's next for the emafethi? Chocolate

**Emafethi - using 2 cups of flour yields about 16, 1.5" (in diameter) emafethi.**

**2 cups of self-rising flour.**

**2 tablespoons of oil.**

**$\frac{1}{2}$  (about) teaspoon of salt**

**$\frac{1}{2}$  (about) teaspoon of active yeast**

**4 heaping tablespoons of sugar**

**To make a bigger batch use 3 cups of flour 3 tablespoons of oil and 6 cups of sugar and increase the amount of salt and yeast only slightly, or follow ratios accordingly.**

Mix all of the above ingredients together and stir thoroughly,

until well integrated (haha, get it?). Then slowly add water to the mixture and keep stirring. I add water about a half cup at a time. You want the dough to be a little thinner than pizza dough, but not runny. Just so it sticks to itself rather than the sides of the bowl. Then I take the spoon out, put it in a cup of the remaining water, put a towel over the bowl to let the dough rise a bit.

While the dough is rising pour about an inch and a half of oil in a pot. If you use a bigger pot it takes more oil, but is slower to over heat. Vice versa if you use a small pot, it takes less oil but the oil can become too hot quickly if you are doing a big batch. If I am using 2 cups of flour I use a small pot (about 3 rounds of frying), if I am making any more than that I use a big pot. Heat the oil. The oil is ready when you sprinkle water from your

fingers in the pot and it sizzles as soon as it hits the oil, not when it hits the bottom of the pan. Then take your spoon out of the cup of water and one at a time, by the spoonful, drop your emafethi dough balls into the oil. If the dough starts sticking to the spoon dip it back in the cup of water. The emafethi may stick to the bottom of the pan, so be ready with a pancake turner if they do. The dough will need to be rolled at least once while in the oil, cooking to perfection. They are ready when they are just golden brown. If the emafethi start coming out raw in the middle and burnt on the outside, your oil is too hot. Take the poor dough balls out. Let your oil cool and try again. **Good Luck!**



*The Swedish Chef says... Bon appétit*

## Where there is no Mkhulu

By Father Zen

*Editor's Note: The departure of yet another mkhulu deeply saddened the Sojo staff, & we were greatly opposed to seeing the column go by the wayside. So, without further ado, we give to you, the New Mkhulu!*

A great young band by the name of the Eagles has a song named "Learn to be still." In this song they sing about the difficulties of "being still." As an American with an unabated attention deficit problem the amount of down time in the Peace Corps has presented me with the challenge of learning to be still. When the office first presented us with the idea of dealing with the stillness, I thought it would be easy. Watch movies, play games, try to pick up some reading speed, and see what I can do for my community. As time went on the games got old, the movies got less interesting, and reading was still reading. The one thing these all had in common was being alone. My only alternative was going out in my community more. Although at first this seemed more isolating than the previous three activities, it started to become less abrasive and more humoring and eventually it even became fulfilling. In the song the Eagles claim "we are like sheep without a shepard, we don't know how to be alone." I find this line to be particularly true because the topic of HIV/AIDS education is as broad as an open field for sheep to graze on and with only one or no other American around, its difficult to know where to go to be most productive in the open field. The office staff is amazing and provides direction when asked but it is entirely up to the volunteer to leave the house and meet new people. Which relationships are built between the volunteer and the community depend mostly on the areas of interest expressed and explored by the volunteer along with the chance encounters with community members involved in other aspects of the community. If i were to guess, i would say it is split probably 80% interest exploration (limited by what is and is not in your community) and 15% chance encounters with 5% being something I'm not accounting for like a community member finding you and proposing a project that you think is

to their own pasture to survey it and their pasture trying to find the most ing to be still in that pasture is al-  
 "There are so many contradictions in asking, How do I get out of here? torn and shaken, even if your heart awaken, and some day you will learn most relevant of the whole song to will experience the contradictions of of unknowable questions, and the it's social consequences. After a can be done as opposed to what should be done and how to exist without your fellow American sheep.



viable. As the new group 9ers go out the older group 8ers and 7ers exist in productive patches to graze on, learn- ways a challenge. The song continues, all these messages we send. we keep where do I fit in? Though the world is is breakin', it's waiting for you to to be still." This verse is arguably the the Peace Corps stillness because you cross-cultural exchange, the pondering heartbreak and magnamity of HIV and while, however, you will realize what

You will become one with being the only one to laugh, cry, or be confused by some things. You will start to learn the language and see the world through the Swazi looking glass. And what bothers you at first will soon bother you no more for instance i have learned that African time is really a good reason to bring a book. Khombi break downs are really an opportunity to enjoy house or dance music... unless its gospel... yikes. Being still is living in the moment and not worrying about what was or what will be. In a stressful situation acting negatively only perpetuates stress which is all based on a perception in the first place. If a man says you are beautiful and wants to marry you, try laughing and say thanks it will feel much better than trying to explain to him that he can not possibly love you because he will disagree and continue.

Stillness is difficult to achieve because of the constant feeling we have as Americans to want to be moving or in some way progressing toward something. Just like meditating is the training of your mind not to think or to think about nothing, learning to be still is the acceptance of a lack of motion or allowing yourself to be adrift in the sea of what happens. Once you accept that you are adrift in your social surrounding, you will learn the currents of your community and from there you will start to understand how to get to where you want to go.

**General Hospital vs. Generations**

By Kayla Camara

When you graduate college in December and live in an area that tends to get snowed in, and you don't really have a job, you take up new hobbies. One of mine was *General Hospital*. My mom has been watching this show for years and I have always been mildly familiar with it because I spend so much time making fun of her. But I got sucked in. I blame it on James Franco's cameo.



Here in Swaziland, and South Africa, *Generations* is all the rage. I am going to compare and contrast the two shows and maybe it'll look like I did some fancy cultural analysis thing when really, I just

love trashy daytime television.

**Audience:**

- ♥ Everyone watches *Generations*, old folks, young kids, moms and dads.
- ♥ I have never seen anyone but a woman admit to watching GH. Besides Stephen Colbert.

**Time slot:**

- ♥ *Generations* is prime-time baby.
- ♥ GH is on at 3 PM. If

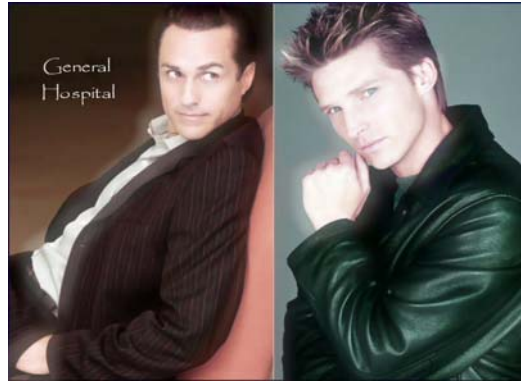
you have school-aged children, they will be walking their asses home.

**Cast:**

♥ *Generations* is all African and is shot in five languages to represent the diversity of RSA, with English subtitles. The actors switch between the languages mid sentence, its pretty im-

pressive.

- ♥ GH is all white. I lied. There are a few people of color that make sporadic appearances, but really, it's lacking and they need



the plot for over a decade. Nothing shocks America.

The characters of both fill typical "Soap" roles. Half the cast is in a hospital at any given time on their death beds. Khetsiwe is the Lisa of *Generations*. Batshit crazy. Sadly the Jason's and Nicholas of the respective soaps do not match up at all. And *Generations* has no lovable Italian

to work on that.

**Edginess:**

- ♥ An HIV positive, drug addled DJ and a secret gay love affair in the work place dominate the plots now, which is very edgy for this culture. (for the record, sex scene with host Babe is as awkward as with real parent)
- ♥ GH... not too edgy compared to other soaps but there has been prison rape, serial killers, terrorist attacks and HIV in

mobster playboy (Sonny Corinthos, obviously). But by and large, the shows are comparable. I hope I have a Make or a Gogo at my permanent site who is addicted to *Generations* so I get to both fill my soap void and integrate at the same time. Now all I need is an African Hoda and Kathy Lee...

Random Swazi Fact: I don't have electricity so that dream has been dashed. There is a lot of drama between the chickens to keep me occupied, though.

**Ligusha for the Soul: PCV Insights from the Field**

Compiled by Brian Goercke  
Staff APCD

**The Key to Success**

Perseverance and patience are key. Bad days are always followed with good ones, and the longer I am in my community the more I am confident I will find productive and useful things to do.

Steph Lambert, Gundwini, Group 8

**The Essence of Development**

Nothing is ever the same as what you read in books, what you are taught in a training, or what you expect. Development work, because that in essence is what we do here, is who you are as a person. Your motivation must come from who you want to be and from what you want for yourself. If you work as hard as you can and do everything to prepare yourself- as you learn every tool at your disposal- maybe you will be sufficient enough to accomplish what you want to accomplish.

Laura Reynolds, WFP, Group 7

**Trusting Our Counterparts**

I need to trust my counterparts more - they know what they're doing much more than I do, and when I let go of the reins, the project almost always goes better than if I had done it myself

Liz Austin, Sigaweni, Group 8

**A "Marathon" and not a "Sprint"**

There is a lot to be done. This is a marathon, not a sprint. Pace yourself. Do NOT try to do it all by oneself, or all at once, or too fast.

Mike Messick, Pasture Valley, Group 8



# 50 years of Peace Corps: A Message for soon to be Volunteers

*Meleia Egger  
RPCV Malawi 2008-2010  
Peace Corps Recruiter, Mid-Atlantic Regional Recruiting office*

Peace Corps is a twenty-seven-month-long-commitment, Little do you know, you are in it for life...

It all starts with that spark from someone, "Uncle Dave served in Peace Corps and he loved it", "Do you know they work in Thailand?" or the best and the most simple, "You would be great in the Peace Corps."

The highest compliment, the deepest calling.

And then the paper trail begins, blazing a path through a dense bureaucratic network of uploaded dreams and poorly stated ambitions.

We trace every spark believing that it will one day lead to a full fire of intention.

Really, it's your first endurance test, and it is not a smooth process-believe me.

When volunteers start, their minds are wrapped around 1,000 different words for help, ....empower, assist, aid, facilitate, uplift,

yet no idea how to use them in a sentence. Let alone in life.

Yes, we open borders, but more importantly, minds and hearts.

Winning them, earning them with the skills of our training and the purity of our efforts.



This is something those who are new to the family realize, and eventually, eventually, 9-12 months eventually....

You will go forth from this time, and this place, toting all that you can carry of your past life and loved ones.

And then, you serve.

Never, will you feel more alive - it will surprise you.

It is a progression of connection...

at first, you are in your head and it's

American, meets other.

Then you get more grounded, and

volunteer, meets villager or teacher, meets student.

And then, if you are lucky, the

simplicity settles in, and it's human meets human, heart to heart.

It's all right there. It's tucked into the humble corners of each day.

Two years- will fly by.

Watch carefully or you might miss it.

Blink twice, and it's gone....

And then, you will leave those same cov-

eted, carefully packed objects turned artifacts in the fault lines of all your cultural earthquakes.

And then, you come back.

You are returned volunteers, never former, and you try to trace the patterns of home and you stumble, and get dizzy, and people from the place you once knew ask ....

How was Malawi? Ecuador? Mauritania? Poland?

How was

Nicaragua? Mali? Panama? Vanuatu? Romania? How was Tanzania?

And what did you do there?

Well, and you will pause...

I changed the world. I changed myself.

It's been 50 years of sweat and smiles, moments and memories, adventure and admiration, respect and realization and waiting and waiting and waiting,

It's been 50 years of imagination and inspiration.

Fifty years on paper, but we are a part of so much more.

We bring hope to the forgotten corners of the world, and find peace at our core.



**THE FIRST EVER SWAZI SOJO CAPTION CONTEST; ALSO, I HOLLA AT GRÚPO NUEVE**

C.A. PRICE

**HELLO** TO EVERYONE, AND WELCOME TO THE FUN PORTION OF THIS MONTH'S SOJO. FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OUR NEWEST GROUP, I BID YOU A WARM WELCOME TO OUR LOVELY, MOUNTAINOUS, AND ABOVE-AVERAGE KINGDOM. SIYANIMUKELA KANGWANE NINE BEKUNENE.

BECAUSE I NO LONGER LIVE IN THE BUSH, I WAS ABLE TO GLEAN THIS LOVELY PICTURE OF SWAZILAND'S PREVIOUS KING, KING SOBHUZA THE SECOND, FROM THE INTERWEBZ. A WELL-RESPECTED AND INDUSTRIOUS MAN, HE SEEMS TO CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT AROUND HERE, ESPECIALLY WITH OLDER SWAZIS. I KNOW I HAVE HAD SOME WONDERFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT HIM, AND THEREIN THE HISTORY OF SWAZILAND.

IT IS IN THE SPIRIT OF PERPETUATING CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE, PUSHING OUR NEWEST GROUP, EL NÚMERO NUEVO, TO GET OUT THERE AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHERE SWAZILAND IS HAS BEEN, AND GENERAL CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY THAT I GIVE TO YOU THIS TASK:



**HERE IS MY MISSION TO YOU:** COME UP WITH A CAPTION FOR THIS PICTURE. IT CAN BE FUNNY, WITTY, IN ANY LANGUAGE YOU THINK FITS BEST, BUT - MORE THAN ANYTHING - PUT A LITTLE BIT OF YOURSELF INTO IT. THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE ONE OF TWO CUSTOM T-SHIRTS WITH THEIR CAPTION ON THE PICTURE. THINK HARD, BE WISE, AND CONDOMISE BAMGANI BAMI. WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO WRITE, SEND IT TO MY "DEEMED UNPROFESSIONAL BY THE ENTIRETY OF GROUP SEVEN" EMAIL ADDRESS - [BRILLIANTANYWAY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRILLIANTANYWAY@GMAIL.COM) - OR TO YOUR FINE EDITORS AT THE SOJO: B-RYE AND KY-RAW. WE WILL TALLY THE VOTES WE GET – ASSUMING YOU ACTUALLY VOTE – AND POST THE WINNING ONE IN NEXT MONTHS SOJO.

OH YEAH, AND GROUP 9: HOLLA. MAYBE THIS WILL GIVE YOU CATS AND KITTENS SOMETHING TO DO DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF INTEGRATION. LET'S FACE IT, SOMETIMES 20 EPISODES OF *MAD MEN* IS TOO MUCH *MAD MEN*.

CHEERS.

**Visit HOME to Gogo Mvubu!**

By Liz Austin

Staff awesome PCV

After participating in all the Group 9 Swear-In and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities, I traveled up to Mbasheni to visit my host family from PST again. As usual, I called up Gogo Mvubu to surprise her, and she was super excited (as she is every time I go up for a visit). I was not sure I wanted to go endure hours of SiSwati and large numbers of rambunctious kids, but I'm glad KAKHULU that I went - I even stayed two nights with them!

beans and rice with avocado and papaya while laughing and taking silly photos. Food tastes so much better when eaten with family! Within minutes I felt so embraced and integrated despite my slow understanding of SiSwati. Momsi (8-year-old *sis*) and I colored for a bit in my old hut - her favorite activity. *Bobhuti bami* came to fetch us and we moved into Gogo's hut for traditional prayer time and singing. Of course, Momsi wanted to have a girls-only sleepover, so we cuddled under blankets together - happiness for me is listening to her re-



laxed breathing close to me, bathed in moonlight.

Gogo Mvubu had to travel to Pigg's Peak to take care of some government paperwork on Thursday, so I filled in as babysitter for the dozen or so kids (aged 3-12). We had tons of fun - a great excuse for me to 'act my age' ( $25 = 2 + 5 = 7$ , right?!). I brought entertaining gifts,

I arrived via kombi around 4 pm, and Gogo Mvubu and the kids were beyond thrilled to see me. I got another giant hug (though not to match the legendary 'throw me over her shoulder and jump up and down with me for 5 minutes' hug of our initial meeting) and lots of happy smiles. After exchanging gifts and greetings, I played Swazi group games with the dozen or so kids, and then we all sat around the fire for

as usual, and we enjoyed cooking and eating together, playing lots of Swazi group games, taking lots of crazy pictures, coloring together, and sleeping in a huge cuddle pile all together after a communal lunch. We played 'shop,' 'kombi driver' (with an old tractor), piggyback rides, and just general goofing off while the kids fought over who got to hold my hands or ride on my shoulders. I got a 'manicure' from

one little girl as she sat on my lap, and later, we all made chocolate cake and juice (out of dirt, of course). I even let the kids go on a photo safari with my camera and they took over 150 hilarious shots! Once my battery died and I finally convinced them that their fun was *cedzile* due to a lack of electricity, we decided to walk to the nearby container store for *emasweeti* and *emachips* (I tried the fruit route, but got shot down). We met Gogo Mvubu at the *steshi*, and then spent the evening chasing down a very fast chicken with unusual stamina. I had the honor of killing it myself, and after committing the gruesome yet satisfying deed, I was joined for the feather-removal by all the kids. After a bath to clean off the blood, and a quick trip across the field to a neighbor's support group meeting/prayer time, we dug in to our dinner by candle-

light. Yum!  
The visit back to my PST host family was filled with lots of giggling and getting dirty. Needless to say, I was exhausted by Friday morning as I boarded a kombi back toward town. Exhausted, but overflowing with contentment and a feeling of being more blessed than I could ever begin to comprehend. My eyes were once again opened to the vast potential, joy, and creativity of young kids, regardless of their living situation, as I watched them from their point of view - future leaders, soccer players, shop owners, kombi drivers, cosmetologists, bakers, and photographers. It also broke my heart wishing I could make all their dreams come true. And of course, they all wanted to know when I was returning...and so my plans begin for the next visit in a couple months!

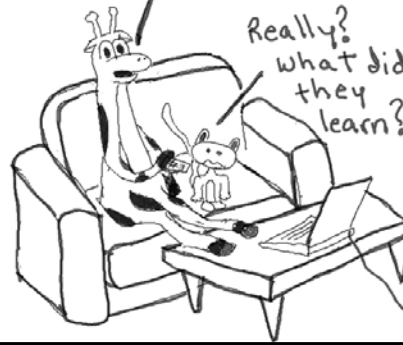


So I had some of Group 9  
over last week.



Awesome!  
How did it  
go?

It really made up for  
no mentoring day.



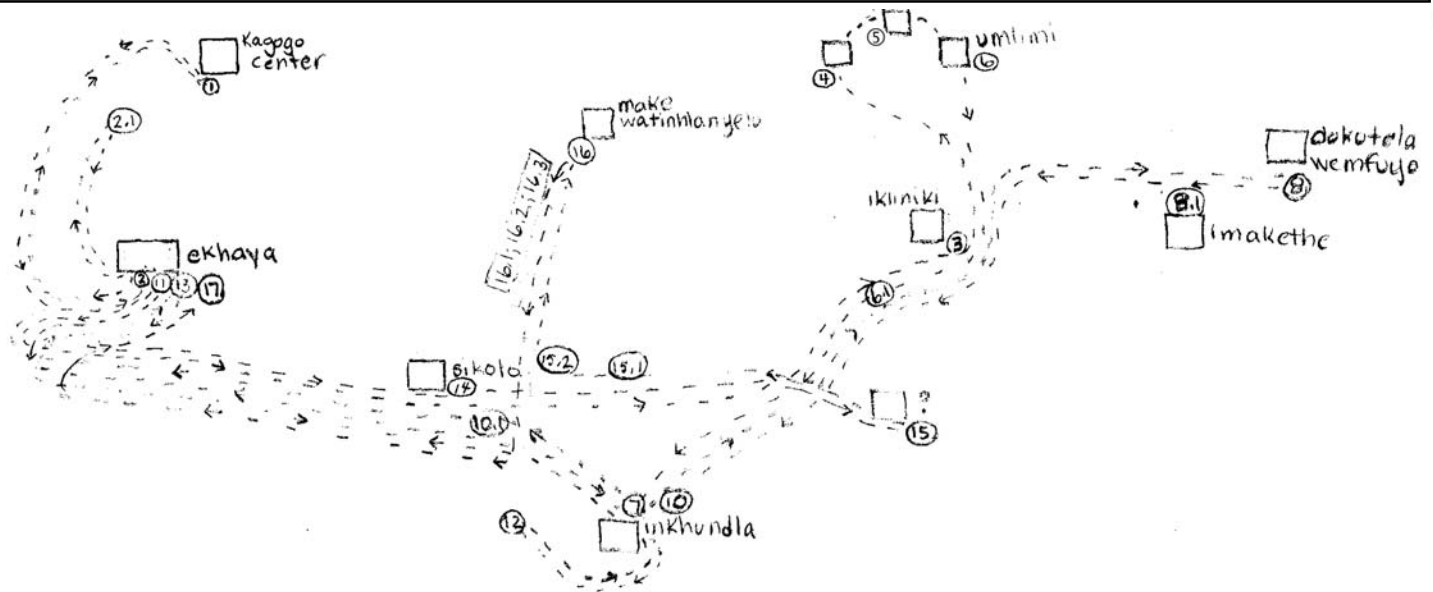
Really?  
what did  
they  
learn?

They learned that PCVs  
live like animals.



what IS  
that  
smell!

### The Swazi Circus By Krista Clark, Staff Cartographer



1. Meet GCM to talk about biodiversity seed project
  2. toilet
  - 2.1 greet *make wam' esimeni*
  3. ask at the clinic where the agricultural extension officer lives, because she has no phone
  - 4 & 5 stop at wrong house
  - 6 find Agricultural Officer, discuss plans to have soil ph. testing workshop. Ask about average rainfall- unknown by her. Directed to *Inkhundla* for rain gauge
  - 6.1 encounter Mozambican woman selling shirts door-to-door. Explain why I'm here, she asks whether Americans have to take pills for HIV. Yes, Americans have to take pills.
  - 7 *Inkhundla* had rain gauge, but it's missing. Directed to look at vet clinic.
  - 8 Vet had rain gauge, but it's missing. Directed to look at *Inkhundla*.
  - 8.1 See Agricultural officer at market. Explain quandary. Buy oranges. Get one free.
  - 9 Use *Inkhundla* phone to call meteorological society about rain gauge. Directed to look at vet.
  - 10 Encounter GCM pushing empty handigas in wheelbarrow. He cancels tomorrow's appointment with 2 potential counterparts.
  - 11 Eat lunch of care package beef jerky and almonds. Toilet.
  - 12 Get SMS saying siSwati tutor IS available, despite plans to go to Manzini. *Gijima*.
  - 13 Toilet and Melrose cheese (serially, not concurrently)
  - 14 Wait for *sisi* at school, at pre-agreed upon time and place
  - 15 Find *sisi*. Try to convince her that school and future security are a better path than wayward boys
  - 15.1 Avoid *bobhuti* proclaiming their love
  - 15.2 Encounter *bhuti wam'*, sent to find the woman to buy tomato seedlings for *Make*. Accompany him.
  - 16 *Akekho*.
  - 16.1, 16.2, 16.3 Spend 20 minutes trying to pronounce "it annoys me" in siSwati (*kunginyanyisa*) btw...it's easier once you see it written!
  - 17 Toilet
- (NB: emptiest latrine in town!)

**Latrine Etiquette**

By Steph Lambert

Staff No. 2 Expert on stuff

Latrines represent many things to different people - everything from a place only visited in the regrettable absence of a pee bucket to a throne of relaxing isolation. However one may view the abode, it remains a central part of every volunteer's life. With that in mind, I'd like to issue some guidelines for proper use of the Swazi latrine.

**Dress Code**

Occasionally, nature will call at a time deemed indecent by most of us sleep-loving Americans. Roused from one's slumber, it is essential that one remember to abide by host-family dress norms. If babe and make bare it all on the homestead, feel free to sneak to the latrine in your skivvies. For most of us, a nominal amount of clothing is required to make our morning trip. **WARNING:** It is wise to remain mismatched, disheveled, and otherwise unpresentable to Swazi society. Failure to do this may result in recruitment to morning chores, child-care, conversations in

siSwati and other activities typically unmanageable before



a steaming cup (or two) of coffee.

**The Courtesy Cough**

To avoid having your leisurely perusal of last month's Swazi Observer interrupted by a bhuti throwing open the door in a mad dash to the toilet, it is necessary to entertain the



courtesy cough. This can be a difficult rule to adhere to as the "news" stories can be quite absorbing (absorbent newspaper...in the latrine... get it? Bahahaha!) but one must always stay alert. Upon hearing the sound

of approaching footsteps, it is polite to issue a quiet but in-

sistent cough establishing one's presence in the lieu. This allows bhuti to casually redirect his path and avoid unnecessary awkwardness.

Similarly, when approaching a latrine it can be difficult to ascertain its occupant status. Rather than risk seeing babe with his pants around his ankles, it is preferable to crash through brush, stomp loudly, or sing some Swazi gospel tunes on your way to the latrine. This will announce your entrance and give the occupant appropriate time to issue the courtesy cough. This is especially important in cases where the latrine door is dilapidated or otherwise broken and does not actually shield users from outside sight.

**The Double-seater Dilemma**

For those of us lucky

enough to have dual-seating options, a situation inevitably arises wherein more than one person is using the latrine at a time. When finding oneself the first to arrive, it can sometimes be useful to employ the "freeze" method.

This enables the user to conceal his/her presence from the newcomer and avoids the embarrassment of having one's bathroom ministrations overheard. This method is not without risk, however, as the author of this essay has found herself trapped for 10 minutes at a time with her senses subjected to things not suitable for print. In addition, one must hide in the latrine until the homestead is sufficiently clear or risk being caught in her "freeze" deception. Not really an optimal place for hanging out. For those of us less humble folk, I recommend the "loud and proud" method. This is just as it sounds - own it baby! Successful users of this method have reported dramatic increases of the courtesy cough by approaching family members.

**News updates**

What's been going on in the world while you were hiding in your hut?

① One of Taiwan's best regarded hospitals said HIV-infected organs were mistakenly transplanted into five patients after a hospital staffer misheard

the donor's test results by telephone.

① A man threw his crying 7-year-old son overboard during an argument in front of shocked passen-

gers, authorities said.

① The arrival of a two-vehicle caravan of Moamar Gadhafi's relatives, including his second wife and three children, into Algeria on Monday provides powerful new evidence of surrender by the Gadhafi clan.

① The 11-state death toll from Hurricane Irene, later downgraded to a tropical storm, rose dramatically Monday. As the cleanup and recovery effort began, authorities tracing Irene's destructive path raised the number of dead to at least 30.

## You'll Know Important Stuff About Yourself When Tanya Tells You About It

By Tanya Marion

### You know you go to town too much when:

- ① you can almost get King Pie to justify producing a certain pie flavor that they say only you ever buy
- ① the manager of the Engen gas station market pulls you aside to thank you for 'your support'
- ① -you have a favorite waitress at Portofino's and she greets you with a slightly perturbed, 'where have you been?' after your month-long hiatus
- ① when you don't show up at the bus stop in your community for a couple days and everyone thinks you must have gone back to America
- ① you feel confident that you could score high in a 'match this umholeli noma umshayeli to the destination of the khumbi/bus/sprinter they work on' game at the Mbabane bus rank
- ① the laundromat lady is your girl
- ① you have been in the office for almost every major adverse circumstance encoun-

tered by your group (ETs, worms/illnesses/stitches, safety and security-related issues, etc

### You know you are integrated when:

- ① you are willing to elbow or step on anyone between you and your ride, last ride home or not
- ① you find yourself showing up to non-Swazi events wearing socks and flip-flops and pants underneath a skirt. Not only are you totally comfortable, but you are sure this is your finest outfit
- ① you hang your laundry on the line in a downpour, never knowing if/when the rain will subside and you are not too concerned. (okay so I'm not there yet, but let's pretend I didn't tell you that)
- ① you successfully hold conversations with people who can't speak English
- ① your bus driver no longer hits on you cuz you are that old news
- ① you and your Swazi friends swap music because you now have the same musical tastes, waka waka
- ① you squash a cockroach running up your wall while you are cooking WITHOUT even turning your head in its direction (sorry Joe, that's a total robbery right there)

## The cool and not so cool stuff about Africa that you may not need to know but we're telling you anyway...

Compiled by Eva Mangoka

- ☑ Ancient Greeks and Romans originally used the term "Africa" to apply only to the northern region of the continent. In Latin, the word *Africa* means "sunny," and the word *Aphrike* in Greek means "without cold."
- ☑ Charles Darwin was the first to suggest that the ancestors of human beings may have originated in Africa. However, prejudicial attitudes toward the continent made many people in the Western world highly resistant to the idea until well into the twentieth century.
- ☑ Africa is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest continent after Asia, accounting for 23% of the earth's land mass but has the shortest coastline, due to very few jutting edges and bays in its landscape.
- ☑ The distance from most Northernly point, Cape Blanc (Tunisia) to the most Southernly point Cape Agulhas (South Africa) is approx 8000km. The distance from Cape Verde the most western point to Raas Xaafun in Somalia, most Easternly point is 7440km
- ☑ By the first century A.D., Africa had been subdivided by geographers into three distinct regions: Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia. The last term was more or less used to describe the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.
- ☑ Among the native population of Africans, there are more physical variations than on any other continent in the world.
- ☑ The African region of Ethiopia is featured prominently in several ancient Greek dramas and poems. The Greek poet Homer mentions Ethiopians in both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* as a "blameless race" and "amongst the noblest of men."

## Reflections On the Liar Tony Kushner and the Lies He Told.

By Ryan Hall

Dad, do you remember when I wanted to paint my room red? The brightest red that I could find? The kind of red we would only see on television when it was spurting from the jugular vein of some bad guy in old Kung Fu movies we used to watch on Saturday night?

Well, I could have painted my room rooibos red and it would have never matched the first sunset I saw from a dirty bus window. Later, with the trash burners, I learned that every

plastic bag, every dirty diaper, every ozone puncturing polyurethane polymer set free from a thousand brush fires painted the sky in that quickening hour.

When you could swear you saw angels from on high falling. Plummeting to earth through those horse-sized holes, Only to burn up on reentry without a prayer. promise of protection. Never quite stretching enough to cover them with their bodies.

The way you never feel the dead skin burn when you pass your hand through a candle.

But there is smoke. And where there's smoke...



*GOODBYE DEB AND GARY!!*



You can look upon every problem you have in your life as an opportunity for some greater benefit.

You stay alert to opportunities by being grounded in the wisdom of uncertainty. And when your preparedness meets opportunity the solution will spontaneously appear.

Good luck is nothing but preparedness & opportunity coming together — Deepak Chopra

*You know you're Soft Corps when...*

- ① you forget that Skyping in your hut is not the PCV-norm
- ① You are too lazy to write your own Sojo article, and you want the editors to do it.
- ① You haven't chipped in on the 4 terabyte lounge drive yet
- ① The only thing you have grown at site is mold or a parasite



**YOU KNOW YOU'RE HARD CORPS WHEN...**

- YOU HAVE HAULED OVER 10KG OF SOIL ON A TOUR OF THE COUNTRY, FROM YOUR COMMUNITY TO MBABANE AND BACK AGAIN
- YOU NEARLY LOSE YOUR SHOULDERS IN A TERRIBLE GATE ACCIDENT AT BOMBASOS
- YOU MANAGE TO EXTRACT THE MAJORITY OF THE BUG THAT EMBEDDED ITSELF INTO YOUR EYE ALL BY YOURSELF
- YOU PLUCK MIKE BURKE'S NOSE HAIRS WITH YOUR BARE HANDS. MORE THAN ONCE. JESSICA.



What to do when there is no TV

- ∞ Tabulate total number of rolls of toilet paper used from training to COS
- ∞ Fashion bad jokes about Twinkies, a hotdog, & a cockroach walking into a bar
- ∞ Strategize survival solutions to post-apocalyptic situations involving boats (I mean ships), ninjas, and Leonardo DeCaprio
- ∞ Daydream Family Guy style cartoon flashbacks of Vegas flights with wild animals
- ∞ Propose a research project to determine the minimum requirements for the contents of decoy wallet to ensure muggers' satisfaction
- ∞ While staring into the steam of a coffee cup, envision the after-effects of the big bang, the primordial earth slowly cooling, and new singular cell organisms springing forth to populate the cup
- ∞ Using the model of "horse power" in cars, rate the "oompf" of other's brains expressed as "monkey power."

**Ye Ole Scroll of ROCK**

-for that swift kick of inspiration

Boy, don't you worry you'll find yourself  
 Follow your heart and nothing else  
 And you can do this, oh baby, if you try  
 All that I want for you my son is to be satisfied  
 And be a simple kind of man  
 Be something you love and understand  
 Baby be a simple kind of man  
 Oh, won't you do this for me son if you can?

--"Simple Man," Lynrd Skynryd

We magically choose people each month who we want to contribute. Please send articles, pictures, poetry, comics, HIV information, and updates on your successes to:

[swazisojournal@gmail.com](mailto:swazisojournal@gmail.com).

**Siyabonga!**

Magic Choices for September:

Joe Drungil

Rob Fisher

Anna Mae Green

Gena Pearson

swazisojournal@gmail.com

Co-Editors,  
 Kyra Berkovich — 7683.4295  
 quovadimus83@gmail.com  
 Brian Deyo — 7683.4302  
 brian@briandeyo.us

The Swazi Sojournal  
 c/o US Peace Corps  
 P.O. Box 2797  
 Mbabane H100  
 Swaziland

One of the Sojo staff does not like LOLCATS. Brian loves them.



The Manalotja code of ethics states in article 6.2 that anything that happens while XY is wearing gi-whiskers shall not be reported to the press.



SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Keanu Reeves Terry Bradshaw	3 Shaun White
4	5 Dweezil Zappa Freddy Mercury Jesse James Michael Keaton	6	7	8	9 Otis Redding	10
11	12 Yao Ming Jesse Owens	13 <b>Kerry Sullivan</b>	14	15 Prince Harry	16 Darryn Crocker Ginger Bryan BB King	17
18 <b>Stacey Hayes</b>	19 Adam West	20	21 Bill Murray	22 Joan Jett	23 John Coltrane	24
25	26	27 Meat Loaf	28	29	30 <b>Katie McBurney</b>	