



THE DIPLOMAT

PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, INC.

Spring 2004

PAWAC

**8151 Blackbridge Rd.
Edwards, IL 61528**

www.pawac.org

Executive Director

Angela Weck
(309) 693-0462

President

Dave Williams
(309) 677-3075

President-Elect

Dave Thompson
(309) 694-5335

Secretary

Mary Jo Garesche
(309) 692-8979

Treasurer

Carolyn Shepherd
(309) 694-0455

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PAWAC Seeks Nominations for 2004 Elections

On June 3, 2004, at the Peoria Public Library, PAWAC will hold elections for officers for the 2004 – 2005 programming year. We are currently seeking nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary. These are one-year terms from August 2004 to August 2005. Current officers are eligible for re-election.

Nominations are also being accepted for four openings on PAWAC's Board of Directors that will be elected on June 3. All PAWAC members are eligible to be on the Board of Directors. Directors serve three year terms and are expected to serve on at least one PAWAC committee (Membership, Marketing, Programming,

and Finance & Development).

Self-nominations are allowed and encouraged. If you are interested in being an officer or Board member, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Dave Williams at dww@bradley.edu or (309) 677-3075.

Director General Cheng Discusses Taiwan Election

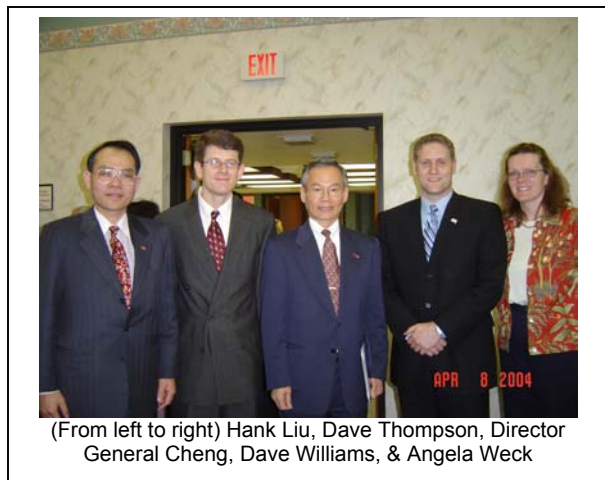
Director General Thomas T.S. Cheng spent the evening of April 8th at the Peoria Public Library with PAWAC discussing the recent election in Taiwan and its implications for democracy in Taiwan. The controversial election proved to be a hot topic among those in attendance, and a vigorous question and answer session followed the Director General's presentation.

The Taiwan presidential election on March 20 ended with the President Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party (DDP) winning re-election over the Nationalist Party (KMT) candidate, Lien Chan, by a margin of only 1.22% of the vote.

In addition to controversy regarding the voting procedures and counting, there is the unresolved issue of the assassination attempt on President Chen and his vice president only days before the election. Many believe that the assassination attempt may have been

staged in order to influence the vote favorably for President Chen.

Finally, a referendum was held regarding increasing defense spending. For more information on this, see Dave Thompson's article in the Winter 2004 newsletter.



(From left to right) Hank Liu, Dave Thompson, Director General Cheng, Dave Williams, & Angela Weck

Photo courtesy of Hank Liu, TECCO - Chicago

Letter from the President



Dave Williams
PAWAC President

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.

- Jerry Seinfeld

As PAWAC's programming year winds down, so does my tenure as president. It has been a busy and fun year, and I am grateful for the hard work of our members, our Executive officers, committee chairs, and Executive Director Angela Weck.

While this is not officially the end of the year, or my time as president, by the next newsletter, the next Dave (Thompson) will have his mug next to this column, and I imagine he'll be looking forward to the many coming events in Fall 2005. Given that, I would like to take a look back at some of the amazing achievements of the past year.

In June, we elected a whole new slate of executive officers, several of whom had little experience as

PAWAC officers (me included). We then started the formal programming cycle in October with an interesting event on the impact of trade policy on Peoria and then successfully implemented the 1st annual International Dinner fundraiser with ArtsPartners. Next, who could forget Ambassador Peck's comments to a packed house in January?

We decided upon a challenging and important conference topic, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the 34th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference was one of our best, and most relevant.

For those who were not at the Community Advisory Board meeting in April, I would like to share some

encouraging news. For the fifth straight year, total annual attendance at PAWAC events has increased. Over 785 people attended the variety of PAWAC events in 2003-2004! We are also reaching more students in more ways than ever before. Student memberships are increasing, the first *World In Transition* teacher training workshops have been completed, and the Scholastic Bowl increased from 18 teams to 24 this year.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to the entire PAWAC membership for a successful year and for the opportunity to be your president.

-Dave Williams
President, PAWAC

Business & WACA Notes...

◆ PAWAC's Angela Weck was named one of seven new "councilors" who will work with the national Board of Directors.

◆ PAWAC is starting a Great Decisions program. Watch for details soon on a Peoria area Great Decisions series!

◆ PAWAC is partnering with the Young Professionals of Greater Peoria (YGOGP). Check out our website and www.ypogp.org for future events.

.PAWAC Committees:

Finance & Development:

Dennis Triggs
dentrig@mtco.com

Membership:

Shirlee Harper
(309) 682-5009

Programming:

Judy Triggs
dentrig@mtco.com

Marketing:

Dave Williams
dww@bradley.edu

Scholastic Bowl:

John Rathbun
genrebun@aol.com

◆ PAWAC is always looking for a few good women and men to help with committees. Don't delay, contact a committee chair today!

◆ There are new councils in the Florida Palm Beaches, Poughkeepsie (Mid-Hudson Valley), Lansing (Great Lakes), and South Dakota. Councils in Corpus Christi and Las Vegas have also applied for admission.

◆ The Travel Program is planning a world affairs council trip to Libya in 2005.

"Every man takes the limits of his own field of vision for the limits of the world."

- Arthur Schopenhauer,
19th Century German
philosopher

Sources of World Affairs Information on the Internet

Editor's Note: This article was originally written by Carolyn Shepherd for an earlier newsletter. The editor has updated the information in the article.

According to the 2000 Census, 51% of U.S. households own computers and 41% have household access to the Internet. Millions more have computer and internet access through work, internet cafes, and the use of friends' or relatives' computers. Among children age 3-17, those statistics are even greater -- 65% use computers. The rate of growth of Internet use in the United States is currently two million new users per month. With this astonishing growth of Internet use in our country, the Internet is an increasingly invaluable resource for data, news, and commentary about our world. For those of us who are interested in staying up to date with current events and world affairs, there are many informative web sites available to us. Following are a few of those I am familiar with. Please feel free to let me know of others that you like, too.

www.fpa.org

The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental,

educational organization founded in 1918 to educate Americans about the significant international issues that influence their lives. FPA provides impartial publications, programs and forums to increase public awareness of, and foster participation in, matters relating to those policy issues. FPA reaches high school, college, and university students as well as adults throughout the country who want to keep up to date on world events.

Since 1954, FPA has sponsored an educational outreach program called Great Decisions (GD). FPA researches issues, history and policy options of key foreign policy topics, providing unbiased current information for its readers. FPA's national network of volunteer coordinators then implements the GD program by setting up discussion groups, seminars, and public forums in which participants can meet, discuss the issues, debate the subjects, and arrive at an informed opinion on each topic. GD currently has 400,000 participants.

Through FPA's web site, you can also sign up for free on-line newsletters: Global Views, Great Decisions Online, Global Jobs, and Foreign Policy Alert. I like the "Global Views" newsletter which I

receive each day via e-mail.

www.congress.org

Visitors to this web site can follow specific votes and bills in Congress, communicate with their representatives, and receive alerts on current issues. It features a drop-down box from which users can select specific issues and see all the postings by topic -- such as Defense, Foreign Affairs, Terrorism, etc.

www.cia.gov

The CIA web site has background information about the history as well as a "Virtual Tour" of the CIA. It's "Press Room" section contains press releases, statements, and announcements as well as text and excerpts of speeches and testimony. Its "Frequently Asked Questions" section provides answers to such questions as "What is the CIA's role in combating international terrorism?" The site has instructions to students on how to cite CIA documents from its web site as resources in research/term papers. An "Electronic Reading Room" provides the public with an overview of access to CIA information, including instructions for filing "Freedom of Information Act" and "Privacy Act" requests, along with sample request letters and a list of frequently requested

records. It has numerous links to full text of commentary, written speeches, and opinions. The CIA's "World Factbook" is an alphabetized guide to country profiles, including background, geography, demographics, economics, transnational issues, etc.

www.onlinenewspapers.com

Internet editions of newspapers from around the world. You can search for newspapers alphabetically or by country or region.

www.wsj.com

This online version of The Wall Street Journal contains not only the latest news and information about U.S. and world business, but its links address current world affairs and politics. Some links are free; others require a paid subscription to The Wall Street Journal Online.

www.nytimes.com

The New York Times newspaper's online site with user-friendly links for national, international, political articles.

www.cnn.com

This is the web site for the CNN's cable TV news network with top news stories and links to numerous subjects including world affairs. It also has a link to the on-line version of Time Magazine (www.time.com).

www.worldaffairscouncils.org

Home of the World Affairs Councils of America - our national association.

Book Review: *Bush League Diplomacy: How the Neoconservatives Are Putting the World at Risk*

**By Craig R. Eisendrath & Melvin A. Goodman
(2004; Prometheus Books; 261 pages)**

Co-authors Craig R. Eisendrath and Melvin A. Goodman's unabashed criticism of the Bush administration's national security policy is comprehensive. The irresistible punning reflected in the title belies the seriousness of this work. Drawing from secondary sources and public records, the authors paste together a collage of missteps orchestrated by the administration officials having the greatest influence on the President. Included among these officials, who the authors label "neocons", are Vice President Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. Noting that Secretary of State Colin Powell is the only key figure in the Bush administration who has never been a part of the neoconservative movement, the authors state the he represents the "one clear exception to the militant unilateralism of the Bush foreign policy group."

Predictably, the book provides reinforcement for the views of those readers already fearful that the administration's reliance

on brute force rather than international collaboration to achieve increased security has put the nation at greater risk. This book, however, has more to offer than most of the new political books. It is topical, but only in the sense that it addresses the Iraqi war as illustrative of a dramatic departure from a half-century commitment to multilateralism and the 9/11 and "WMD" intelligence failures as symptomatic of a systemic problem infecting the country's intelligence gathering and analysis mission. The authors are not political operatives, political pundits or recently dismissed insiders. Both are academics. Nor can Mel Goodman, a former CIA official and now a professor of international security at the National War College, be viewed as a neophyte in the internecine world of the intelligence community.

The authors contend that the Bush doctrine of preemptive war "has both frightened and angered the international community", making it "more difficult to cobble together the international coalitions that are needed to resolve the crises in Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, the Middle East, and elsewhere." The

book chronicles the administration's retreat from international agreements and protocols, of which the ABM Treaty is but one example. The neoconservative movement in the Bush administration is portrayed as having militarized the nation's foreign policy and as having politicized its intelligence analysis. The disengagement from arms control and disarmament efforts discussed in the work is particularly alarming and, I believe, receives far too little attention by the electorate. The authors argue convincingly that under Rumsfeld the Defense Department has usurped too much control over disarmament and non-proliferation, foreign policy and the intelligence function. The Vice President's Halliburton connection does not go unmentioned as the authors suggest the coziness of that relationship is precisely what Eisenhower had in mind when he admonished the country to be wary of the military-industrial complex. The authors call for revising the PATRIOT Act to be more respectful of civil liberties, while strengthening the Homeland Security

Department.

Only the most optimistic subscribers to the administration's foreign policy, who happen to believe in the omnipotence of our economic and military strength, will turn the last page of this book without being apprehensive about the state of our national security. Having charged the President with recklessly endangering our security, Eisendrath and Goodman offer their own road map to the future, which emphasizes a more limited role for the Department of Defense. Rather than enumerating the other measures that they suggest, I think it fitting to share the quote they chose to introduce the last chapter of the book:

"At this precarious juncture in American history, America needs more humility than hubris in the applications of American military power, and the recognition that our interests are best served through alliances and consensus." - Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), January 24, 2003

- Submitted by Dennis R. Triggs

Dr. Goodman will speak and conduct a book signing at a PAWAC event on June 8. See the Calendar for details.

Democracy and Investment, South American-Style

By Chris Kohl, US Expatriate Working in Costa Rica

A republic in our modern nomenclature has come to mean anything that is not a monarchy. The U.S.S.R proclaimed itself a "socialist republic," the United States is considered a constitution-based federal republic, and every country in South America is a self-labeled republic. Geo-politics, cultural, historical, religious, economic, and resource differences play major roles in the political, and business, environments of these countries. Given South America's history of dictatorships and socialist movements, politics and economy are firmly intertwined. Recent political and economic events in Brazil and Venezuela are illustrative of the challenges of democracy and foreign investment in South America.

In Brazil, democratically elected socialist President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva has donned his suit and tie to calm the business community and his term thus far has not been as bad as was foreseen. Brazil, much like the United States, has rich states and poor states. The states of Ceara in the north and Rio Grande do Sul in the south are as similar as Arkansas is to California. Brazil, a federalist republic, has a very difficult time meeting the needs of its very diverse groups, and one casualty is Brazil's infrastructure, which is a major roadblock for an agriculture industry that should be internationally competitive. Big companies are filling the void, and Cargill recently built a large modern private

port on the Amazon River. Cargill is one of many Canadian and U.S. companies investing huge amounts of capital to solve transportation issues. Brazil's agriculture industry is vitally important for the future success of Brazil, providing jobs and slowing the migration to over-populated cities such as Sao Paulo. Unfortunately, most Brazilians correctly view the 'weak institutions' of their government as an enabler for corruption and waste. For example, Brazil has both a National Agency for Power and Supply (NAPS) and a Ministry of Power and Supply. Recently, laws regarding the terms of NAPS directors were changed to favor directors connected to Lula's government. As a result, many investors were scared off, and with good reason. History has made North American businessmen ultra-sensitive to rapid political and economic policy changes.

With the current crises in the Middle East, little attention has been given to the major changes happening in Venezuela. Rich in resources such as oil and precious gems, Venezuela has been under political and economic stress since the election of Hugo Chavez. A member of OPEC, Venezuela is the 5th largest oil producer in the world and recently refused demands to increase production. Chavez is attempting to implement the Swedish model of socialism by controlling 90% of oil profits and becoming a hero to the poor. However, he also recently legalized theft in

certain areas, has not used oil income to properly diversify Venezuela's industrial base, and has raised red flags with his numerous meetings with Fidel Castro. This type of power grab by a South American leader, along with dramatic economic changes, only feeds insecurity about the region as a whole. The more questions and concerns an investor has, the more likely he is to go elsewhere. At the time of this writing, another referendum is being organized in Venezuela for the removal of Chavez. Unfortunately, it will take Venezuela some time to reverse the damage he has caused and rebuild foreign investment even with Chavez gone, and that may not happen for quite awhile.

The economic potential of South America has long been heralded, and US businesspeople have enjoyed the ability, as outsiders, to bridge local issues and feuds. The internal politics of many countries, however, constantly test the limits of democracy and the patience of foreign investors who have lost billions in currency collapses, nationalization of foreign-owned businesses, and graft by public officials. South America remains a land of opportunity, but one that demonstrates the need for an understanding of the political, economic, and cultural factors that influences the unique institutions and systems of the region. The different approaches taken by socialist leaders in Brazil and Venezuela obviously have vastly different effects on each nation's economy. Unfortunately, neither leader can afford to be wrong for his own, or his people's, sake.

Did You Know?

The word "dollar" has its origins in the Roman Empire.

A mining hole in the mountains of Bohemia produced so much silver it became the official source of coinage for the entire Holy Roman Empire. The mine was in a valley called Joachimsthal, and the coins came to have the same name: "Joachimstalers." Over time this became shortened to "Talers" and over more time, the American pronunciation of the word became the name for the currency that you would like to have in your pocket.

The \$ sign was designed in 1788 by Oliver Pollock, a New Orleans businessman, using a combination of Spanish money symbols.

(Source: www.didyouknow.cd)

PAWAC

8151 Blackbridge Road
Edwards, IL 61528

Executive Director

Angela Weck

(309) 693-0462

pawac@telstar-online.net

Community

Advisory Board

Mr. Bashir Ali

Dr. John Erwin

Ms. Anne Fox

Mr. Henry Holling

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Calendar

June 3, 2004

Business Meeting & Annual Elections

5:00pm, Peoria Public Library, 2nd Floor, 107 NE Monroe Street

June 08, 2004

Dr. Melvin A. Goodman, National War College (see book review in this newsletter)

5:00pm, Hors d'oeuvres & Book Signing, Contemporary Arts Center

5:30pm, Presentation, Contemporary Arts Center, 305 SW Water Street, Peoria

June 28, 2004

"The Importance of the U.S. - Australia FTA for Local Economies"

Australian Ambassador to the United States Michael Thawley

12 Noon – 1:00 pm, Hotel Pere Marquette, LaSalle Room

July 1, 2004

Strategic Planning Session for 2004 - 2005

5:00pm, Miller, Hall, & Triggs, Suite 1125, 416 Main Street, Peoria (tentative)

Pizza, snacks, and refreshments will be provided.

August 5, 2004

Business Meeting, 5:00pm, Maloof Realty, 803 W. Pioneer Parkway, Peoria

About Our Organization...

The Peoria Area World Affairs Council (PAWAC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all individuals. Since 1972, PAWAC has promoted a better understanding of world affairs among the people of Central Illinois by sponsoring public programs and fostering a cooperative educational approach to world problems.

PAWAC is affiliated with the World Affairs Councils of

America and the Foreign Policy Association.

PAWAC meets the first Thursday of each month for a business meeting followed by dinner and an open discussion.

The Caterpillar Foundation serves as our primary benefactor. Sponsoring institutions include Bradley University, Eureka College, Illinois Central College, Illinois College,

Illinois Valley Community College, Illinois Wesleyan University, Lincoln College, Monmouth College, and the University of Illinois. Also we give special thanks to our Corporate Members as well as Friends and Supporters of PAWAC.

Annual dues are \$25 and entitle the member to program discounts.

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