



THE DIPLOMAT

PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, INC.

Winter 2004

PAWAC

**8151 Blackbridge Rd.
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www.pawac.org

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International Scholastic Bowl Takes Hold

On November 22, 2003, the 2nd Annual International Scholastic Bowl took place at Bradley Hall. This year's Bowl was bigger and better than last year, with an increase from 18 teams last year to 24 this year. The competition was also tougher, with many matches going down to the wire.

After the morning session, several teams were within striking distance of the afternoon finals, but in the end, it was Roanoke-Benson HS, Bloomington HS, Bloomington Central Catholic, Peoria Notre Dame, Normal Community West HS, Woodruff HS,

Morton HS and Limestone HS who made the cut.

Limestone High School took first place, a prize that includes a \$1,000 scholarship. Second place (\$750) went to Roanoke-Benson High School, third place (\$500) to Morton High School, and fourth place (\$250) to Bloomington High School.

In addition to the team achievements, five individuals were named to the All-Tournament Team for their accomplishments. The All-Tournament Team members earn a scholarship to the 34th Annual Central Illinois

World Affairs Conference on February 20 – 21, 2004, where they will be recognized for their achievements.

All-Tournament Team

**Adam Janzen,
Illini Bluffs HS**

**Nick Swanson,
Limestone HS**

**John Smillie,
Morton HS**

**Jamie Powers,
Richwoods HS**

**Sam Carruthers,
Woodruff HS**

PAWAC & ArtsPartners Conduct International Dinners

October 2003 was a month of new tastes, new friends, and new experiences. PAWAC and ArtsPartners successfully implemented a series of international dinners hosted at homes and restaurants throughout the Peoria area.

Dinner themes included Jewish, Thai, Lebanese, New Zealand High Tea, Tropical African, Russian, a Kwanzaa celebration, a Diwali (Hindu festival of lights) celebration, and a presentation on the Button Project (Holocaust

Memorial).

While there were some problems, namely the late

notice on many dinners, next year's dinners are already highly anticipated!



Aerial view of part of the Button Project at The Shoppes at Grand Prairie.

Photo courtesy of www.buttonproject.com

Letter from the President



Dave Williams
PAWAC President

It is always the best policy to speak the truth--unless, of course, you are an exceptionally good liar.

-Jerome K. Jerome

The new year is here, and as I write this, we are preparing for the WACA National Conference, programs with Ambassador Edward Peck, Australia's Ambassador Michael Thawley, and not least, the 34th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference.

In the months before this letter, we conducted or co-sponsored stimulating programs on free trade with Greg Rushford, the EU expansion, and AIDS in Africa. We also found time to build on the success of last year's inaugural International Scholastic Bowl and to create a new tradition and raise some money with various International Dinners.

Wow! Without the hard work and commitment of many of

our members, these wonderful programs and events would never have occurred. Certainly, our gratitude is owed to these individuals, and like a Grammy Award winner, I find there are too many people for me to list here.

However, this is a perfect opportunity to reach out to those of you who have not been involved in PAWAC. With the wide variety of programming conducted by this organization, I am sure that there is something that meets your tastes. Like most volunteer organizations, our biggest need is time.

Many of our committees (listed below) are understaffed and overworked. Without stronger contributions of

our membership and our new members, it becomes difficult to continue to provide the depth of programming to the Peoria area community.

While I dislike issuing a "call to action," one of my primary goals as President is to build a stronger and more active committee structure that can take autonomy over certain functional areas of the organization or particular events managed by PAWAC.

We have committee chairs and executive officers, but we need people willing to give a few hours a month (yes, that's all!) to keep PAWAC on track!

-Dave Williams
President, PAWAC

Business Notes...

◆ Youth Trip To Germany: July 14 – August 4, 2004 to Peoria's Sister City Friedrichshafen. Cost is \$1199. Applications and a \$250 deposit are due by April 12, 2004. Contact Eric Hoadley at (309) 266-6820 or hoadleys@dpc.net.

◆ Help PAWAC reduce mailing costs! Email Dave Williams (dww@bradley.edu) or Angela Weck (pawac@telstar-online.net) indicating your willingness to receive PAWAC

communications (no spam) via email.

◆ Please make sure that you have included Angela's email address on your "safe" list, and that your settings allow attachments.

Each time we send out an email, many of the emails are bounced back for the above reasons. By changing these settings, we can continue to provide you the most up-to-date (and sometimes last minute) information!

◆ Committee meeting times will be posted on the website.

PAWAC Committees:

Finance & Development:

Dennis Triggs
dentrig@mtco.com

Membership:

Shirlee Harper
(309) 682-5009

Programming:

Judy Triggs
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Marketing:

Dave Williams
dww@bradley.edu

Scholastic Bowl:

John Rathbun
genrebun@aol.com

You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.

- Henry Ford

34th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference

The 34th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference will take place February 20-21, 2004 at the Hotel Pere Marquette in Peoria. This year's theme is "Sub-Saharan Africa: On the Path to Development."

The conference begins with a reception and registration at 5:00pm on Friday. Our Friday keynote address will be by Dr. Pauline Baker, President of the Fund for

Peace in Washington, D.C.

Saturday morning's panel discussion focuses on "Inside Africa Today." Discussion leader Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson, Acting Director of the Center for African Studies at the University of Urbana-Champaign, has a solid group of panelists to provide insight on this topic. See the box below this column for the full schedule of speakers.

This year's conference will close with two prominent speakers, The Honorable Jerome Mendouga, Ambassador of Cameroon to the United States and Ambassador Herman Cohen, Former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and Former US Ambassador to Mozambique and Liberia.

Costs to attend the conference vary based on meals and if you choose to

attend the full conference. Full conference registration is \$35 for non-member adults and \$25 for students, senior citizens, and PAWAC members. Friday's banquet is \$20, and Saturday's luncheon is \$16.

PAWAC thanks its many corporate sponsors, academic sponsors, and partners in advance for helping to make this year's conference a huge success.

Sub-Saharan Africa: On the Path to Development

Hotel Pere Marquette, Peoria, IL
February 20-21, 2004

Friday, February 20:

5:00pm Registration & Social Gathering
5:30pm Student Briefing
7:00pm Banquet
8:00pm Introduction of Speaker
8:15pm Keynote Address:
Dr. Pauline Baker, President, Fund for Peace International Crisis Group
9:00pm Question & Answer Session
9:45pm Recess

Costs:

Entire Conference: \$35 (non-member adults)
(meals not included) \$25 (members, students, seniors)

Friday Only: \$20 (non-member adults)
\$15 (members, students, seniors)

Saturday Only: \$20 (non-member adults)
\$15 (members, students, seniors)

Meals: \$20 (Friday Evening Banquet)
\$16 (Saturday Luncheon)

Saturday, February 21:

8:00am Registration (continued)

9:00am Panel Discussion: "Inside Africa Today"
Dr. Ellen Brennan-Galvin,
Population and AIDS
Patricia Weiss Fagen,
Humanitarianism in Times of War: Difficult Choices
Ambassador Edward Brynn
Conflict Resolution and Nation Building
Discussion Leader: *Dr. Alex Winter-Nelson*

10:15am Refreshment Break
10:45am Question & Answer Session
12:00noon Luncheon
1:00pm Introduction of Closing Keynote Speakers
1:15pm Closing Addresses:
The Honorable Jerome Mendouga
Ambassador of Cameroon to the United States
Ambassador Herman Cohen
Fmr. Asst. US Secretary of State - African Affairs
Fmr. US Ambassador to Mozambique & Liberia
1:45pm Question & Answer Session
2:30pm Adjournment

Book Review: *Down the Great Unknown:*

John Wesley Powell's 1869 Journey of Discovery

And Tragedy Through the Grand Canyon

By Edward Dolnick

Did You Know?

The first day of the year in the Christian calendar (Gregorian calendar) is January 1st.

The first month in the Jewish calendar is Nisan (March/April in the Gregorian calendar), although years are numbered from Tishri, the 7th month.

The first month in the Hindu calendar is Chait'r (March/April).

The Chinese New Year occurs at the second new moon after the beginning of the Northern Hemisphere winter, thus between 20 January and 20 February.

The word January derives from the Latin Januarius.
(Source: www.didyounow.cd)

This short story (292 pages) tells the story of an adventure that rivals that of Lewis and Clark as a one-armed geology professor from Illinois State Normal University and Illinois Wesleyan set off on a series of expeditions to map the Southwestern United States. Powell was a small man at 5'6 -1/2" and 120 pounds, and although he had lost his right arm at Shiloh, he maintained his charisma.

While he laid claim to being the first to explore the Grand Canyon, this was not so as countless natives had been there as had Spanish explorers and, in 1857, the Army Corps of Topographical Engineers. He was, however, to be the first to ride the Colorado and map the Canyon.

From Green River Station, Wyoming Territory, at

6100 feet above sea level, ten men took four oak boats to the mouth of the Virgin River in Arizona which had dropped to about 700 feet above sea level. Unfortunately, no one had seen rapids, understood the change in the river, or prepared for the danger. Of the ten, only six would survive (four left the river at what was called Separation Rapid and vanished from history).

Dolnick's telling of the Powell story is well researched and action packed. The reader worries about the rapids, feels the heat of the canyon, and questions the strength it takes to survive. The letters and journals of Powell and his men show the optimism, despair, anguish and relief of those who attempted to conquer the river.

If you're interested in local

accomplishments, the challenges of exploration, or just a darn good adventure, try this work. It keeps the reader paddling through or portaging around the river.

"We are now ready to start on our way down the Great Unknown... We are three quarters of a mile in the depths of the earth... We have an unknown distance yet to run; an unknown river yet to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not; what walls rise over the river, we know not. Ah, well! We may conjecture many things. The men talk as cheerfully as ever; jests are bandied about freely this morning; but to me the cheer is somber and the jests are ghastly."

-John Wesley Powell,
August 13, 1869

(submitted by Patricia Luthe)

World Affairs Councils News & Notes

◆ The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) will hold its annual conference January 28 – 31, 2004 in Washington, D.C. Angela Weck, Dave Williams, and Dennis and Judy Triggs will represent PAWAC at the event. The conference includes speakers, workshops on council issues, cultural

events, "leadership luncheons," and tours.

◆ WACA is a strong supporter of the World Affairs Journalism Program, a fellowship offered through the International Center of Journalists. The program is designed to fund travel and

research for journalists who have to apply for the fellowship by proposing ideas for articles that connect local issues with international implications. PAWAC has been working with local journalists to apply for this fellowship.

Taiwan: Election and Referendum

By Dave Thompson, PAWAC President-Elect

With the ongoing Democratic primaries at center stage, it would be easy to miss another important election approaching. On March 20, Taiwanese voters will decide whether to give controversial President Chen Shui-bian a second term, or to replace him with Lien Chan, the Nationalist Party (KMT) candidate. The outcome will have significant implications not only for domestic politics on the island, but also for the sensitive three-way relationship with China and the United States. Polls indicate a close race.

As we learned in our 2002 conference on the Taiwan / China issue, democracy is still a recent development on the island. Chen's victory in 2000 marked the first peaceful transfer of executive power to an opposition party in Taiwanese (or Chinese) history. Chen's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) was an illegal underground movement until 1987, and even since the official end of martial law and political repression, the KMT has remained deeply entrenched with unfathomable financial reserves and an extensive web of powerful connections, much like an old-style American party machine.

Chen's populist agenda has included environmental initiatives and a vigorous campaign to root-out corruption historically associated with the KMT. Most important internationally, however, is his commitment to maintain Taiwan's *de facto*

independence, against the constraints of Chinese military threats and American warnings to avoid provocation. Chen's achievements have been limited by a lack of majority support in the legislature and a soft economy, which has caused many people to associate his government with financial uncertainty and instability. The KMT meanwhile has also accused the DPP of playing divisive identity politics in its effort to foster Taiwanese nationalism. In a recent change of curriculum, for example, textbooks now treat Chinese history as part of *world* history, with Taiwanese history as a separate subject. Another DPP initiative proposes to make English an official language on Taiwan, which could help to strengthen ties with the United States and global business, but in effect would also demote the status of Mandarin (Mainland) Chinese.

As nationalism has largely replaced ideological communism on the Mainland and free-market prosperity seems to be everyone's goal, in principle the KMT and the Beijing government could find broad middle ground on which to strike a deal for reunification. The problem now is that most Taiwanese want no such thing, having gained authentic political and individual freedoms, in which most Mainland Chinese show little apparent interest as long as their government continues to deliver material progress and enhanced national prestige. The KMT's main appeal in the coming election, therefore, is a

sense of at least temporary stability and reassurance based on maintenance of the *status quo*, as opposed to the DPP's revisionist program.

Along with the coming presidential vote, Taiwanese voters will be asked to decide a controversial referendum sponsored by Chen, on whether to increase defense spending, which ironically has declined in recent years even as the potential for a Chinese attack has increased. Taiwan has never before held a referendum, and the underlying purpose and significance of this one may be to set a precedent for others later on more momentous questions, possibly leading to a plebiscite on independence. Chen is committed to constitutional reform, to replace the unnecessarily complicated and antiquated features of the 1946 constitution, which Chinese nationalists on both sides of the Strait see as a vital link between the rest of the country and its "renegade province." Even if a new Taiwanese constitution retained the "Republic of China" as its formal title, Beijing has repeatedly warned that it would regard any such meddling with the *status quo* as cause for war. Regardless of the possible implications, the United States is not opposing the current referendum, in part because it has been encouraging Taiwan to shoulder more of the burden of its own defense anyway.

Repercussions of the electoral results on March 20 may not be immediately apparent. It is unlikely that China would immediately respond militarily



Chen Shui-bian
President of the Republic of China

should Chen win reelection and a mandate for increased defense; but such an outcome would almost inevitably point to increasing difficulty for American efforts to maintain peace in the region. On the other hand, even a KMT victory would hardly signify Taiwanese assent to unification.

Looming over all of the details is the perplexing question of what the United States can or ought to do for the sake of peace, freedom, and prosperity for all concerned. Whatever the news may be on March 20, we look forward to a visit on April 8 by Director-General Thomas T.S. Cheng of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Chicago, which functions as Taiwan's unofficial consulate. Mr. Cheng will speak on the election and its implications; stay tuned for details on the time and location of this event!

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www.pawac.org

Calendar

February 20 - 21, 2004

34th Annual Central Illinois World Affairs Conference
"Sub-Saharan Africa: On the Path to Development"
Hotel Pere Marquette, 501 Main Street, Peoria

March 4, 2004

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

April 8, 2004

Director General Cheng, Taipei Cultural & Economic Office in Chicago
Dinner, 5:30pm, Carnegie's, Hotel Pere Marquette (*tentative*)
Program, 7:00pm, Peoria Public Library Auditorium (*tentative*)

May 6, 2004

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

June 3, 2004

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

Check for updates and view a full schedule of events at www.pawac.org.

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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