

The Cayembe Telegraph

Yupukari Newsletter

What Yupukari is Thinking

These interviews are the first in an a planned series. They were conducted to start a village-wide dialogue about the past, present and potential development in Yupukari.

Isaac Rogers, Clifton Laurindo and Rudolf Roberts were all asked the same questions, focusing on the physical and social changes that have been happening here.

They all noted the physical changes that have taken place during the past few years, such as the installation of a solar-powered water supply that still needs upgrading, village projects such as the Termites and the wildlife club, and the new school and health buildings.

They all also commented that since the arrival of the black caiman research project (Peter Taylor) and the Rupununi Learners Foundation (Alice Taylor) in May 2005, the village has been introduced to a lot of social, physical and technological advances and their projects have contributed to the village in many ways.

The Rupununi Learners Foundation (RLF) literacy project has brought a lot of valuable resources for the public, the schoolchildren and the teachers. With RLF we were able to get libraries for the schools and a public library with free Internet

access, computers, printers, tape recorders, a laminator and a wide range of reference and reading books.

Now children have regular reading lessons, teachers are being trained to use the resources more effectively and the village has been able to start this newsletter.

Interviewees agreed that problems remain, however. The Common Entrance children all failed their exams, and reading levels are still very low in the primary school. Commenting on the school's performance, Roberts, the Kwaimatta village Headmaster said, "The parents, not necessarily the teachers, are responsible for the performance of their children. The school is experiencing a lack of qualified teachers." Therefore parents and teachers must try to use the resources provided by RLF to support their children's progress in reading and support the school.

"Even as things change we still need to keep our cultural way of life," Roberts said. Alcohol abuse is not part of cultural life, he emphasized, because it leads to low income in the home for some families.

Laurindo and Rogers focused on the need for skill development, both employment skills and social skills, such as coop-

eration, communication and community planning. Laurindo commented, "We have knowledge and skills inside but we don't express them well, we don't represent ourselves well, due to a lack of education. We need to be better equipped with information and skills to strengthen our knowledge so that we can properly represent our selves when situations arise."

The role of Toshao as it is currently understood is one of the barriers to community development, Roberts said, and current Toshao Rogers agreed. The job of Toshao carries too many responsibilities he said, which leads to ineffective performance. Village Councillors do comparatively little work, too little work, he feels. At the same time, the Toshao position allows villagers to avoid taking on the challenge of learning to solve social problems in Yupukari.

As long as leadership is only one person's job, and that person has been inadequately educated, the village cannot advance.

New Editors for the Cayembe Telegraph

The Editor position is now being filled by two persons, Felix Holden and Shamir Khan, who will be responsible for alternating issues. This issue was edited and written by Felix Holden, unless otherwise indicated.

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Guest House under construction. See story on page two.

LIBRARIAN JOB AVAILABLE

A vacancy exists at the Yupukari Public Library for a trainee.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Assisting librarians with cataloging
- Helping library patrons
- Reading aloud to children
- Learning and teaching how to use the Internet
- Drama and singing in the classrooms
- Bookmaking
- Typing (we will train you)
- Shelving and general maintenance of the library

QUALIFICATIONS

Good reading and writing skills
Team player
Flexible and willing to learn
Enjoys helping others
Candidates will volunteer for one month, after which the position is a full-time job with two weeks annual paid vacation and two days paid leave per month.

Interested persons should report to Franzea Roberts, Caiman House, or the Village Council.

YOUTH CORNER

The Snake who wanted to fly by Ishea Gordon

A snake once met two vultures sitting on a rock and said to them, how fortunate you two are. You can travel through the air, while I go always with my stomach to the ground. How wonderful it must be, to sail through the blue sky, flying, looking down over the whole world. How unlucky am I always crawling, crawling on the ground. It make me sad to go even a short distance but with you, you only have to think of being in some place to be there and they felt sorry for him, for they are kind birds who never kill anything and are a great help to animals and mankind in cleaning up the country; They tried to make this snake more contented with this lot. **To be continued in next issue...**

REGIONAL ATHLETICS SPORTS RUNOFFS

The Regional Athletics sports have begun, with inter-house runoffs in the first stages in all regional primary schools. Yupukari will be hosting its inter-house on October 19th and 20th at the play field.

Three schools, Kaicumbay, Katoka and Yupukari would then meet at an inter-school mini-cluster competition on the Katoka sports ground, the 27th and 28th of October.

The three schools will then team up to challenge other schools of the Central District on November 3rd and 4th at Moco-Moco.

Then the final regional sports competition, the inter-branch challenge, will be held on the 10th and 11th of November in Moco Moco. Competing will be Deep South, South Central, Central, North, and South Pakaraimas.

Students of all age groups have been training in the hot sun for the inter-house events.

Training starts each day at 10:45am and runs till 1:30pm with a short break for lunch.

Mark Holden, a teacher at Yupukari Pri-

mary said he is excited about the students chances at the inter-school mini-cluster.



Library Extension and Guest House Under Construction

Construction is in progress for the extension of the Yupukari Public Library and a Guest House at the Caiman House compound.

The new library building will have a new, dog-free entrance and exit, that will also permit villagers to visit the library without visiting Caiman House.

The bottom floor will primarily be used for games, movies, music and recording, while

the top floor will be for quiet reading and computer and Internet use. It will also be available in the evening hours for comfortable reading or study.

The guesthouse will have four bedrooms with private bathrooms and its own living room. The Guest House is being built to accommodate people attracted to stay in Yupukari.

With easy access to a variety of natural

settings and information technology in place, Yupukari is now attracting many people with different interests. A lot of people and groups such as scientists, tourists, researchers, university students and volunteers have shown interest and have asked to visit.

The most recent example is an American Peace Corps worker who may offer their voluntary services to the community.