

THE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR PROGRAM

"NI HAO" FROM BEIJING



Hallowe'en Hoppers in Kuala Lumpur. Front row left to right: Lise Mailloux, Christopher Viveash, Naomi Lahaie, Philip and mom Margaret Mailloux, Sabastian Lahaie. Back row left to right: Nabiah (friend), Danielle and Melvin Caldwell.

KUALA LUMPUR: A DELIGHTFUL WORLD

by Margaret Mailloux, Community Coordinator

My long list of activities sounded mundane so to pep it up I launched into verse.

In a multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-cultural society

I inform about festivals, customs and religious deity.

It helps to be aware of beliefs, the mysteries to unravel

And weekends or longer trips can be planned from file called "travel".

There are temples and mosques and churches galore

Some with snakes or bats . . . but I'll say no more.

Its not all bats and rats, and it's not just lizards and snakes

But before you come, be sure that you have just what it takes:

A spirit of adventure, a willingness to try, turtle soup, squid, Ikan bills and chicken feet.

Try a visit to the market, it's really very neat. Occasional floods with roads and bridges,

houses washed away

Trees knocked down by lightning, the power out for the day.

Its a delightful world; lush greenery, lavish flowers, exotic plants,

Mangoes, bananas, rambutans, seen at a glance,

Chic fruit, jackfruit, all growing in our yard,

Though the harvesting is difficult, you've got to beat the guard.

A bi-weekly "Beaver Tales" is how I inform

The K.L. clan, on the duties I perform I try to be humorous, sympathetic, kind,

Available and intelligent (the last, is such a bind).

I have an office and cheerfully, set about my task.

My hubby says I look the part, but for my daughter's holly hobby flask . . .

On this note I'd better close, Before I give an overdose.

But from us all here, in tropical K.L. Wet greetings we send, in a rainy spell.

Best wishes to all, where e'er you may roam

Whether serving abroad or working at home.

by Nancy Johnston, Community Coordinator
We are happy to share our news and look forward to learning about the activities at other posts.

A few highlights: last September our annual Embassy barbeque was held at the Ming Tombs. We had a wonderful time exploring one of the lesser known tombs, playing volleyball and engaging in such competitive events as three-legged and potato-sack races.

For our Christmas Party, we prepared and performed a musical "The Beijing Review". The talent displayed was impressive indeed. A resident artist produced the props; a gifted entertainer, complete with top-hat and cane, performed a soft-shoe number, and others contributed their lyric-writing and musical ability. The hilarity of the audience seemed an indication that the production was quite successful.

Presently a three-day trip to a northern city, Harbin, is planned. Viewing exquisite illuminated ice-sculptures, sledding, and ice-sailing are the featured activities. Some of us who miss the winters at home, will have our craving satisfied since the temperature in Harbin often dips to minus 30°C.

The Embassy, again this year, has put together a hockey team. So far we have had several games against the Chinese and more are planned. Despite the stiff muscles and sore-backs our players are very enthusiastic. The score is progressively improving and a "win" is shortly anticipated.

COLOMBO: 86 WILL BE BUSY

by Tui Noonan

The Community Coordinator program was initiated in Colombo in April 1985. Fortunately for the Coordinator, the summer of 85 did not see a big turnover in staff, but 1986 promises to be busy.

Hence, one of the primary concerns has been the establishment of a comprehensive welcome kit for newcomers, providing information on schooling, restaurants, medical facilities, shopping, etc.; the commencement of a small lending library and the gathering of many excursion/travel brochures offering interesting trips both on and off the island.

This year all newcomers will have the opportunity of spending a day at a typical Sri Lankan resort village observing activities varying from harvesting rice, the utilization of coconut trees for food, drink, shelter, timber, crafts and decorations; to a Buddhist wedding ceremony and sampling traditional foods.