

Letters

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"But the point is, the ropes course creates risk artificially, placing the element of risk as the integral component of the program." Not so...In fact, the second statement counters, not complements, the first. By agreed-upon definition the course is yet another activity with some risk. Nothing unique there. I don't see how the course creates risk "artificially" any more than does hockey or football. Indeed Carter's injury is usually thought of as a football or basketball player's injury. Well, I'll admit to my cultural bias toward

American team sports too. The ropes course is simply a vehicle with which it's O.K. to take a calculated risk—after you seek out the facts, plan, act carefully, work with your comrades (by choice), and (especially) risk in striving for a worthy goal. And the great majority of risks at "New ground" are (or should be, if spotting and group safety are well-attained to) perceived risk, as distinct from actual risk. "New ground" may or may not entail a spiritual experience, again depending on group and in-

dividual objectives; "Seek and ye shall find." Folks might praise God, pray, worship together, or in solitude, and credit God with hard-won successes there, or elsewhere. Last Friday, a group of junior high kids did this with their Youth for Christ facilitators, who were a little disappointed that the youth didn't have so much of the group spirit as well. Probably most groups don't pray or otherwise acknowledge God there.

In this writer's view, the fine group feelings there are possibly as much sensual as spiritual. I'm not judging here, and I love and value the group feelings. It is my belief that a bona fide spiritual experience must involve some acknowledgement of the Higher power, not just revelling in the power of "our wonderful group." It seems that folks today never mention the name God, Yahweh, YHWH, not because they are afraid of uttering or writing the Hallowed name as were the ancient nomad Hebrews, but rather because we often lack the faith, the belief, the courage to acknowledge a power higher than ourselves in a sometimes skeptical and disbelieving world. Yes, and praise God, any one or group of us can claim a spiritual experience at "New ground," in a quiet room, or in the starlit hills above Ka bul. Locally, New Garden Friends Meeting surely has more going on in the way of real spiritual experiences than New ground does though.

Thank you Rachel Purpel for your articulate letter. The "New ground" experience needed "de-mystifying" and hopefully our letters and others' input will accomplish that. Importantly, some changes may need to be made in use approach, as you point out. How can I help?

Thanks, GUILFORDIAN for this space to explore some philosophical issues of real importance, insofar as we may acknowledge that some of our experience on a ropes course can be a life metaphor. And let the course just be fun! The Project Adventure motto is "Go for it!" Tagyoureit!!

Sincerely,
Ray Rimmer

Taiwan experiencing drain

Campus Digest News Service

Many Taiwanese college students are electing to stay in the U.S. after graduation—so many, in fact, that Taiwanese government officials are studying the problem and working on ways to draw more of the expatriates back.

These students study in the U.S. and Europe because of low-quality and non-existent programs at home. Even 70 percent of graduates from the more prestigious home universities continue studies abroad. Of the more than 80,000 students who left their home country over the last 30 years, most see little to draw them back.

After college, graduates find they not only can find challenging jobs easier but that they can earn three to four times as much by staying abroad. Higher standards of living and more moderate political climates are also attractive.

Until the recent shift in Taiwan's economy to more advanced, technical fields from agriculture and

assembly-line manufacturing, well-educated employees were not missed as much. Managers are in demand now, in addition to scientists and other skilled workers.

The number of students returning to Taiwan has increased somewhat over the years (17 percent from 1970 to 1981), but the government is now actively trying to overturn the brain drain.

Actions include visiting U.S. universities, surveying for available Taiwanese jobs and encouraging industrial growth. Taiwan's National Science Council, for example, three years ago set up a science-based industrial park outside Taipei. The park, with lots of room to expand, has drawn 32 companies and 60 expatriates so far.

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the rituals of ancient Greece! At any rate, we'll see you in January. Save me a place in the Walnut Room, or better yet, treat me to a Dolley's Pizza (ummmm!) & I'll tell you an evenings worth of crazy stories...

Mrs. C.

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employee. Her service is not equivalent to a U.S. Post Office, and therefore she is not permitted to perform the duties of that office. She does not have the authority to weigh packages.

In order to provide students with the most effective mail delivery, Mrs. C. divides the U.S. mail into categories, according to what she believes to be of the most importance to students.

"First-Class Mail receives top priority, then package notices, and finally, newspapers and magazines." She also suggests that students receiving newspapers and magazines should try to pick them up regularly. Those big items make it more difficult to distribute mail, and for other students to retrieve theirs.

There are also other things that students should remember that would make mail delivery run smoothly. Students should pick up mail daily and get their I.D.'s before trying to get packages.

Mrs. C. requires an I.D. before packages can be given out, not to make things difficult, but, she states, "It's a question of protection of private property, for which I am responsible."

When asked whether or not a work-study student helping out in the mailroom would relieve some of the pressure, she responds, "that would be a good idea, except for one problem, there's not enough room back there for two people to work effectively."

Students will always be waiting for mail from home and friends, and will always get angry when nothing arrives.

In response to the efficiency of the U.S. Postal Service, Mrs. C. says only that "Patience is a virtue."

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