



SPRING 1988

A Newsletter of
**The Institute of
Cultural Affairs**

serving the West/Southwest USA

Initiatives

CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN FACTOR IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT

THE MACHAKOS GAME GOES TO EUROPE

In December, the Machakos Simulation Game went "on tour" to Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The game is a development education tool which teaches rural development by simulating volunteer experience in Kenyan villages. ICA staff from Frankfurt and Brussels joined Susan Wegner from Houston to guide games in 9 cities within 17 days, with a total of 140 people.

Participants were university students, representatives of development agencies and ICA members. Four German universities: Heidelberg, Goettingen, Marburg and Giessen, and two British universities: the University of Bradford and Friends World College in London held games. Two prestigious Dutch institutions well known for training in international development, the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam and the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague held games late in January. Both are well known for training in international development.

ICA: GUATEMALA SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON NEW EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Over 400 educators attended a conference in Guatemala City organized by The Institute of Cultural Affairs and New Horizons For Learning. The conference was designed to open up different levels of Guatemalan society to new learnings in mind-brain-body research. Educators, medical professionals, psychologists, business executives, management, artists and village leadership were represented.

Participation was the style of the conference with exercises and time for discussion and sharing.

Dee Dickinson, founder of New Horizons For Learning in Seattle, opened the conference with an overview of the new learnings in cognitive development. A highlight of the conference was the presentation by Dr. Rueven Feuerstein, an Israeli in his 80's, who has been working with the mentally disabled for 33 years. His methods have released human intellect in thousands of people thought to be "hopeless cases," and have been used in many cultures around the world.

Drs. Beatriz Capdevielle, David Perkins, Bernice McCarthy, Pat Guild, and Bob Samples presented a broad range of topics. These included new findings on brain and consciousness research, learning styles, multiple intelligences, creativity, and mind-mapping.

A stirring talk by Dr. Luis Alberto Machado, urged conference participants to start using new learning methods NOW. Dr. Machado set up a government ministry for mind research in Venezuela.

Dr. Machado met with the president of Guatemala and presented him with a letter indicating commitment to releasing the human intellect. The letter was signed by many of those present at the conference.

Can working through educational and related systems open up the political situation in Guatemala and across Central America?

The coming together of those who are generally on opposite sides of the fence, to focus on educational innovation, points to a creative direction occasioned by this conference. Follow-up, coordinated by ICA: Guatemala, will help create bridges and common directions across diverse networks. Suggested activities include establishing a resource center, sponsoring courses and encouraging pilot projects. The weaving together of these activities will happen through extensive national and international interchange.



*Dr. Rueven Feuerstein, presenter
at the Guatemala Education
Conference*

SECRETS OF SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

What are the secrets of superior performance? School children in six major high schools of Oakland, California, will soon be learning some of the mental, physical and spirit technologies that have enabled Olympian athletes to achieve "unimaginable" things.

A team gathered by Marilyn King, Pentathlon competitor for the '72, '76, and '80 games, is implementing, with the help of ICA's planning methods, a program that will make these technologies available through school systems. The organization, "Beyond Sports," is also preparing for a World Congress of Olympians to promote world peace and the use of "Olympian technology".

TONO O'ODHAM COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

ICA is coming together once again with Arizona ACTION and communities of the Tono O'odham (Papago) Reservation. For several years ICA and ACTION worked together in the **Pisinemo District**. ACTION provided the locally recruited VISTA volunteers who served as the core group for the community development work in Pisinemo. ICA provided the training.

The **Sif Odak District**, has invited ICA to work with them as they initiate a VISTA program. The District is working to foster a locally based economic and community development plan.

The addition of 8 to 10 VISTA volunteers provides the opportunity for the Sif Odak District to create a leadership training plan. This plan would not only work with the VISTA volunteers but also with the traditional village and district leaders. Some of their hopes and dreams include the development of local industry, increased participation in decision making, and local agricultural development.

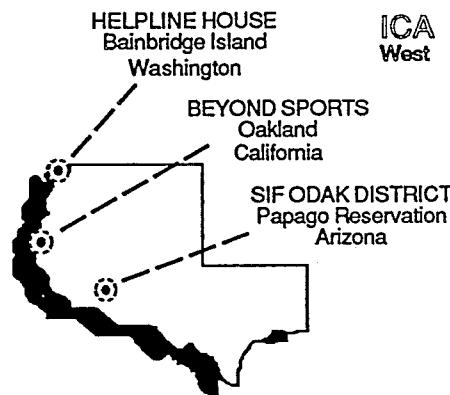
HELPLINE HOUSE: A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO HUMAN SERVICES

How a community can be made whole rather than patched with band-aids is a major question for the people who are part of Helpline House, a human service agency of Bainbridge Island, Washington. Helpline House provides emergency assistance, food, clothing, medical equipment, counselling, family support, and other services.

From the Helpline's beginning in 1968, community involvement has been a focus. Sharing this concern, the ICA has facilitated visioning and planning events with the Board, staff, and

volunteers in a partnership relationship. The Board retreat in March 1987 focused on how to share their story with the community. One creative proposal was to invite civic clubs, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, the Town Council, and Bainbridge Foundation, to hold their meetings at the facility. The staff and volunteers hosted them for soup suppers, providing Helpline House the opportunity to share their story.

When the ICA facilitates the upcoming April 1988 Board retreat, the focus again will be on how to most effectively involve the community in its own care. This meeting will be especially lively. A local church has proposed to assume leadership of the planning, fundraising, and coordination toward the construction of a new facility. This will replace the decrepit barn which stores food, clothes, and medical equipment. They intend to do it as an old-fashioned "barn raising". How to use this as an educational opportunity and how to authentically involve the community are some of the challenges they will face.



WHAT'S A REUNION DAY?

Twenty-eight long time ICA colleagues and new acquaintances from the Bay Area, Sanger, North Fork, Sacramento and Point Arena gathered in San Francisco on Saturday, January 23rd. Morning networking groups explored 1) Consulting with public agencies and private businesses, 2) Sustaining spirit methods, and 3) New approaches in education.

A lunch conversation on current trends in society moved the group into the afternoon sessions which continued the networking and considered future implications of the gathering.

Participants found it helpful to exchange ideas, methods, and approaches with others. The use of ICA methods in diverse situations was a focus of interest. A result of this meeting is the formation of a "Changemasters" group for which bi-monthly meetings were scheduled.

It was a great day! People were delighted to renew acquaintances and participate in depth conversation with colleagues.

For information on the North California Changemasters meeting on April 9, contact Connie Olsen, (415) 961-2693, or ICA West.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Because of the great interest shown in the book reviews in the Fall issue, ICA West is including not only more reviews but a listing of some items available from ICA West, 1049 Magnolia, Los Angeles, CA 90006. A complete catalogue is being compiled.

BOOKS

The Other World in the Midst of This World; A Journal of the Spirit
 Explores the life experience of states of human consciousness. Sixty four states are described, including the central thought patterns, unique feelings and learnings. The journal format provides space for recording personal experiences and reflections. The journal was created by ICA Brussels and is based on research done by thousands of people globally. \$18.00

Directory of Rural Development. IERD Volume 1
 Project descriptions prepared for the International Exposition of Rural Development, 1985. Immensely useful for discovering where in the world exemplary projects in diverse development arenas are going on. 516pp. Soft Cover. \$25.00

Voices of Rural Practitioners. IERD Volume 2
 Actual learnings of grass-roots practitioners in the following development arenas: Managing Agriculture, Commercial Diversification, Women in Development, Health Care, Learning and Education Processes, Community Housing, Environment and Technology, and Integrated Approaches. 474pp. Soft Cover. \$25.00

JOURNALS

Image. ICA: India
 An Action Research Journal on Organizational Transformation. Issues 1 and 2. \$5 for originals while supply lasts, \$3.00 for photocopies.

The Node. ICA: Canada
 A research Newsletter. A recent issue included News from the ICA international network, an article on the Guatemala Education Conference, an education bibliography, and a tribute to Lynn Edwards. Published six times a year, \$15 per year's subscription.

In Context. P.O. Box 2107, Sequim, WA. \$16 per year.
 The Winter 1988 issue is an excellent collection of articles on education, including an article on Imaginal Education by ICA staff member, Ronnie Seagren. Single issues, \$4.50. Order from publishers.

BROCHURES AND FLYERS

ICA West, Building Partnerships of Service
 Background information on the goals and programs of the ICA, particularly its work in the Western and Southwestern United States. Single copies free.

The International Volunteer Program
 Gives background on the ICA as a human development organization and lists locations prepared to accept volunteers and their requirements. Includes a questionnaire for potential volunteers. Single copies free.

The Education Summit A Conference on Lifespan Learning. New Horizons for Learning, 1988.
 Promotes the conference scheduled for June 25-29 at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Single copies free. Multiple copies available for cost of postage.

Machakos Simulation Game
 Describes the game which is based on actual villages and programs in rural Kenya and simulates the experience that one undergoes when working in a village human development project. Single copies free.

BOOKNOTES: Personal Reviews by Bruce Robertson

Here is a further selection of books that I would recommend; They come from a variety of sources, from a friend's loan of his own book to a current selection of a book club. They are worth adding to your library.



The Most Beautiful Names, compiled by Sheikh Tosun Bayrak al-Jerahi al-Halveti, Threshold Books, Putney, Vermont, 1985.

This is a book of meditation. It presents in a contemporary fashion the ninety nine names of God according to the Islamic Sufi tradition. Each name reveals or contains a quality of the divine, e.g., the Most Praiseworthy, the One Who Honors and Who Humiliates, the Repairer of the Broken, etc. There is an elucidation of each name in the Arabic with an English tag and then a description of the quality when it is manifest in a human person.

This is not a book to read as such, but to keep near your right hand as a powerful reminder of how easily we are seduced into a small and constricted view of life. The reader can invent his own meditations based on the information in this book or one may find it useful to seek out a Sufi teacher to learn some of the contemporary work that is happening with this classical language. I attended a Sufi retreat about a month ago where we worked with eleven of the beautiful names over a weekend. I can attest to the wondrous experience that this can be. So for a peek inside the depths of another tradition, Islamic Sufism, acquaint yourself with "The Most Beautiful Names".



The Old Gringo, by Carlos Fuentes, Harper & Row, San Francisco, 1985.

Imagine Mexico in the time of Pancho Villa and the Mexican Revolution. How was the American intervention perceived? What was the story south of the border? What went on in the soul of the revolution as it met up with American journalists and adventurers and its own mirrored self? This brilliantly written novel describes the interior of the revolution through a complex weave of characters carrying on an interior dialogue with each other.

The Revolutionary General: "He was locked into the destiny of the Revolution, where she had surprised him, he wanted to say. No, it was more than coming back to the hacienda. Much more than that . . . We all have dreams, but when our dreams become our fate, should we be happy that they've come true?"

The American Adventurer: "His hard eyes glistened as he spoke. He murmured that he had come here to be killed because he wasn't capable of killing himself. He had felt freed the moment he crossed the border at Juarez, as if he had walked into a different world. Now he was sure: each of us has a secret frontier within him, and that is the most difficult

frontier to cross because each of us hopes to find himself alone there, but finds only that he is more than ever in the company of others."

The one who "sits alone and remembers" is Harriet, the teacher who came south to teach democracy (as well as school) and she finds herself caught up in a web of existential passions that "offers her what she can never be." So instead of finding death like the others in the powerful consciousness of Time, she finds a pale life of remembering.

This novel is by one of Mexico's greatest contemporary writers and deserves to be read widely so we may see ourselves more fully through the eyes of our neighbor.



And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic, by Randy Shilts, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1987.

This book is being recognized as the biography of an epidemic. Randy Shilts is a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and has been covering the "story" fulltime since 1982. For some, this will be a troubling book as you will learn more about AIDS and the Gay lifestyle than you want to know. But for everyone, there is a fascinating and tragic story of how the world's greatest medical and scientific establishment and scientific establishment failed to meet the challenge of AIDS. The failure occurred because the disease struck down people who were politically embarrassing, those whose "rights" were debatable, whose fate was, for too many, inconsequential.

Even more than a story of denial and oppression of the Gay community, it is a larger story of the patterns of denial that exist in American society when confronted with troubling facts which question cherished principles and beliefs and which are found to cause suffering and death. One of the most pitiful displays was the response of the "blood banks" who finally had to face the question that was put to them years before by scientific researchers: "How many deaths is enough" to convince you to screen the blood supply?

This book is about individual acts of courage and heroism and collective acts of denial and evasion. It seeks not to lay the blame at any one source, but to tell the story of what has happened and what is still happening now all around us. This book will stir your passions. You will be moved to depths of compassion you didn't know you had, and anger you didn't know you could feel. It is worth the investment of time and money.

BLOOMING WHERE YOU ARE TRANSPLANTED

An important aspect of ICA's global work is the International Volunteer Program, through which the volunteer goes to an ICA location and participates in the lifestyle and work for six months to a year or more.

Before volunteering, the prospective volunteer spends a "preparation month" at an ICA location. Recently ICA West in Denver hosted a British volunteer, Allison Gilcrist, one volunteer from Seattle and two volunteers from the Chicago area. The following paragraphs contain Allison's account of the month.

"The first week flew by as we gradually got to know each other and started to familiarize ourselves with the community. From the first it felt welcoming. Our presence was acknowledged and we were invited to participate in events taking place as well as becoming familiar with some of the projects in which ICA West was taking part.

During the course of the second week, we were introduced to key working concepts of the ICA by taking part in a Facilitation Methods One workshop and an Imaginal Education seminar. Both were exciting but I, for one, found my imagination really fired by the ICA facilitation methods and their many practical outlets in the sphere of community development. During this time I found that we, as a group of volunteers, became more closely connected and found in each other a means of expressing our excitements and trepidations in a foreign land.

During the second and third weeks we all became involved in working on some necessary tasks for setting up the Food For All program and the U.S./Mexico Border Program....

However, in retrospect, the great validity of this month (I think for all of us) was the glimpse it afforded into ICA community living. We existed as part of the community and as such were welcomed, and when it came to

the time to leave were given a great send-out."

Allison is still in Denver and will probably work with other ICA West offices as well. Ann has gone to Brazil, while Laurel and Ron have gone to Guatemala.

The work of a volunteer varies according to the country. Some activities in which volunteers are involved include office work, health care, village leadership training, and teaching.

Some volunteers have gone on to join the ICA as full time members, while others use their learnings in related situations. In all, the effect of experiencing and working in a foreign country is life-long, altering the volunteers' perspectives of the world and of themselves.

Nuestro Futuro Comun



Our Common Future

Is a trip to Mexico in your future? Save some vacation time for November! **Nuestro Futuro Comun - Our Common Future** "A Futures Dialogue on Planetary Transformation" will be held in Oaxtepec, Mexico, November 13-17 and will involve people from around the world. This is a multi-perspective conference which will focus on edge concepts, methods and processes in Learning Modes, Wellness, Mythology, Environment, Participation and Organizational Transformation. Costs for the conference range from \$199 to \$386 depending upon type of housing. There is a discount of 10% available for registration by June 1. Contact your local ICA office for a registration form.

THE EDUCATION SUMMIT ANNOUNCED

New Horizons for Learning is holding its annual conference in Washington, D.C. June 25-29. The conference brochure states, "Human potential is not fixed, nor is it limited. We can improve and enhance our capabilities throughout life, from the earliest hours to the final years. Current scientific research and educational practice suggest that we have the power to renew ourselves, our schools, and our society!"

The Education Summit is a five-day event that explores learning through the life stages. ICA is delighted to be a part of a broad spectrum of co-sponsors. Among these are IBM, the Public Broadcasting Service, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Education Association, and the National School Board Association.

Each day will focus on different aspects of the foundations of intelligence and human development, including the early years, the school years, the adult and senior years, and looking to the future. Leading thinkers in the field will be featured, including Dr. Reuven Feuerstein of Israel, Dr. Luis Alberto Machado, former Minister of Human Intelligence in Venezuela, Dr. Malcolm Knowles and Dr. Barbara Clark from UCLA.

Who should attend? Anyone interested in education and social change. Anyone who is a lifelong learner.

Because people learn through different methods, presentations will include talks, films, videos, mind-mapping, music, movement, dialogue, interviews, and group participation. Since there will be no simultaneous presentations, all will be able to participate in all of the sessions.

Brochures are available from all ICA offices.

CELEBRATION FIFTEEN

Completing 15 years of a program for junior high youth calls for a celebration, especially when the consensus of the participants is that the program should continue. **Celebration 15** will be held in Seattle, August 19-21, 1988, and all who were part of the Student House in Chicago from its beginning in 1973 are invited.

The Student House served junior high youth of ICA staff families. The students lived together in an ICA facility, attended public school, and participated in an experiential curriculum which complemented their classroom

learning. Many students chose to spend their ninth grade year in another country, often in a village development project. The Student House program shifted from Chicago to Bothell, Washington, adjacent to Seattle, in September, 1987.

At the ten year celebration in 1983, it was decided to make such events a regular happening. Suggested topics for this event are "*Ethics for our time*" and "*How our ICA heritage influences our stance*". Current negotiations for a place indicate the cost will be approximately \$95 per person

plus tax. This will include five meals, a celebrative meal, a dance, and housing, two to a room, for two nights.

The planning team members are Kristen Cramer; Mark and Trudi Cramer-Mueller; Nina and Karyn Crow; Mary, Sara, and Carl Ennis; John Cock, Jr.; and Stan Crow representing the Residential Learning Center. For further information, or to indicate your willingness to help contact the **Residential Learning Center**

22421 39th Avenue SE
Bothel, WA 98021
Tel. 206-486-5164

The ICA

The Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) is a global network linking 18 major centers and over 50 offices in research, training and demonstration of global responsibility in the local community and workplace. Within the multitude of programs the ICA is doing, there is a common thread -- the desire to release the creativity of people that allows them to shape their own destiny.

INITIATIVES is a quarterly publication of the ICA serving the Western/Southwestern United States. Contributions of \$35 or more entitle you to membership and are needed to support the programs and projects of the ICA. Send your tax-deductible contribution to the Institute office nearest you.

1049 Magnolia Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006
(213) 380-0725

1504 25th Ave.
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 323-2100

1741 Gaylord St.
Denver, CO 80206
(303) 333-1984

1955 Portsmouth
Houston, TX 77098
(713) 522-7933

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INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
1504 25th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122

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TORONTO PRIMARY UNIT REPORT FEBRUARY 26, 1988

Recent activities of the Toronto Primary Unit have focused on program facilitation, entrepreneurship, and event sponsorship.

Program facilitation is directed primarily at strategic planning with organizations in the rural and health networks. We have delivered programs to the University of Guelph, The Rural Spirituality Centre and have secured contracts with the Home Economics association and a conference on Volunteerism. We will implement a follow-up program with Annapolis County in Nova Scotia on economic development. In the area of health we are implementing a contract with the Heart and Stroke Foundation which concludes with a national conference on establishing goals and standards for emergency cardiac care. We have submitted a proposal to the Donwood Institute (Drug and alcohol abuse centre) for \$55,000 for facilitation of their organizational transformation. We have a number of other proposals in for facilitation and training of conferences, associations and organizations.

As a way of maintaining a steady cash income we have been actively engaged in sub-contracting with other consulting/facilitation companies. Currently these include Peoplenegy (delivering ICA planning and leadership training to the private sector), Gilmore & Associates (delivering a packaged program on motivation and customer services for the Ministry of Tourism), Ron Folley & Associates (delivering packaged programs in the private sector). In all cases it is a fee for time delivered and averages around \$500/day per individual. In the period of January-April 1988 we have already delivered and contracted for \$26,000 worth of business.

Additional means of economic support include professional employment and entrepreneurial ventures. The employment is a means of enhancing professional careers as well as a steady salary. Five people are employed as; a nurse, parish program coordinator for a Catholic religious order, Peoplenegy facilitation/design/marketing, graphics designer and banker/teller. In the area of entrepreneurship 3 ventures have been formed KANBAY (Bill Staples/John Patterson and an Indian guardian) to market Indian software and programming in North America; FARMGATE PRODUCTS, INC. (Jim Patterson with a colleague) to market processed soybeans as a nutritious snack food; GLOBE RESOURCES (Bill Staples) to do market surveys and computer training. Bill has just completed a government contract to train ICA personnel on computer software. We also have a proposal in to the Canadian government for circa \$75,000 for publishing the 'EDGES' as a subscription magazine.

In the area of events sponsorship we are hosting Robin Van Doren from Los Angeles for a weekend seminar on native American spirituality in April and Jean Houston for a weekend on individual and organizational transformation in September. We hosted a colleague night during the Panchayat visit as a way of networking the various constituencies that we are working with. In addition the research team is playing an active role in coordinating Jean Houston's visits to other Primary Units as well as anticipation of the Mexico council and global research event.

Other activities in the recent months include a C.I.D.A. monitoring trek to Africa by Duncan Holmes, publication of an article on Imaginal Education in "In Context" magazine by Ronnie Seagren, publication of the Annual Report and the current editions of Node and Edges.