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WIS

an ICA Research Newsletter



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T H E N O D E

An informal newsletter for the Global Order

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node (nohd) n. the point on the stem
of a plant where a leaf
or a bud grows out.

THE NODE is an informal publication intended to keep the Order at large informed on the journey of the research and transformation process. THE NODE is published six times a year by the ICA Research Node, Toronto. It is available by subscription. The rate is US\$15 a year (Canada \$18. Make checks payable to "ICA Research")

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***Appreciation and the blessings of all the Muses to those folk who say yes to the drivenness to put pen to paper and fingertips to computers to make this smorgasbord of interchange possible.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

Which Way the Future?

"In light of this changing reality, it is time to surrender our most familiar metaphor of our depth identity as the 'Global Order', that carries with it so many conscious and unconscious emotions, assumptions and patterns from our past. A metaphor that seems to be a more accurate description of our emerging values, patterns and potential is THE PLANETARY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION. The evolutionary task of these times is to co-create the healthy emergence of the PLANETARY stage of earth history. This requires the embodiment of a breadth and depth of the planetary ethic that is being birthed. This ethic nurtures a healthy ecology of cultures and styles, fosters a partnership mode with life forces, and embraces the assumption that reality is alive. A reperception of SPIRIT is taking place that is guided by a consciousness that we are inextricably linked -- ecologically, psychologically and sociologically -- to all that is...We are functioning as an ASSOCIATION as a diverse interactive network of individuals and groupings whose primary bonding is not structural commonality but the sense after a planetary ethic, values, and ideals. The shift in metaphor would represent the embracing and legitimizing of a multi-faceted spirit-based organization that is open to the expansive participation of the new and the old. This PLANETARY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION is non-residential and residential...but in essence is one planet-wide community committed to co-creating and sustaining the spirit environment for "those who care" across the planet."

-- The Global Panchayat: TREK REFLECTIONS: 31.05.88

Destructuring the Order

"In light of the new organization that we are becoming, it is our recommendation that we call out of being "The Global Panchayat" structure as it is presently constituted. This will give us an opportunity to perceive afresh any global leadership needs and to invent the required forms. In the context of the emerging multiple leadership modes it is our recommendation that we discontinue the practice of assigning "globally designated" priory. This will enable the current leadership experimentation to continue in each location and give us ways to explore future options. It is our recommendation that the four Global Commissions -- Legal, Finance, Order Life and Assignments -- be called out of being. Any support structures necessary in the future will be created by individuals and local units. When necessary to involve the wider organization this will be done through a networking mode."

--The Global Panchayat TREK REFLECTIONS

"Thank God for Bankruptcy!"

"Bankruptcy of finances, of spirit, of one's frame of reference. In facing extinction, one awakens once again to what every good business entrepreneur knows. There is a moment when, regardless of how much you have invested in the enterprise, cutting your losses now and starting over is the only way to move ahead. In 1984 this ragtag group started over. You can start over. This whole world society, Marshall McLuhans's global village, can begin again. We can get a new game started, the game of assuring that there will be a TOMORROW for us, for our children and for their children. And the miracle in admitting defeat is the discovery of what it was all about. For the people who started over in 1984 were not the same people who set forth in the fifties, sixties and seventies. They were individuals who had eaten, slept, laboured and studied with Hindus, Moslems, Christians, Animists, Taoists, Buddhists, Atheists, Jews Humanists. They had broken bread with the hands of Black, Bronze, White, Tan, Yellow, Red, Brown people. They had listened, sometimes with little comprehension, to the guttural sound of Germans, the lilting tones of Pacificans, the clipped speech of Koreans, the soft nuances of Latinos, and the harsh pronouncements of Western absolutists. And they knew, at a depth beyond understanding, that all the discomfort, misunderstandings, stupidities, loneliness, and painful humiliations, yes even the bankruptcy, were worth it. They have had an education, a very costly one. They know that the capacity to change one's perspective, step outside one's own skin, and listen to someone else knows no national boundaries. And they are committed to finding the others, whoever and wherever they are, who believe in starting over, in finding yet one more way to get this new game going."

--Donna Wagner: "An Uncommon Place Known as Tomorrow" Brussels.

Anger and Change

"Anger and hard feelings are by products of change. Change has to occur before new order. During change all kinds of feelings come to the surface. We see the ICA getting rid of personal frustrations that have been pressing for some time. Energy is shooting out of the planet, a tension-relieving process. A similar process is occurring with the ICA. What is needed is flexibility, to be willing to change, to be willing to ask, what am I doing here? Am I accomplishing something? And if the answer is no, having the willingness, the faith, to let go and move, letting go without knowing perhaps where you are going to be. That is the whole key to the spiritual change in consciousness. When inspiration isn't flowing, stop and do something else. Things are progressing, moving very fast, breaking up or re-forming in a new way. The greatest service to yourself and the planet in the next few years is to be willing to move with the flow of change in your lives, to adjust and satisfy the human need for creativity by finding those new channels and areas for creative expression. Deep undercurrents of spirit are going to be moving through some amazing new pathways. People will be upturned and placed in new places as these undercurrents cut through old ground."

--Delos Inc: INTUITIVES LOOK AT THE FUTURE OF ICA, May 1988.

"Open Space Is Everywhere!"

"Open Space is everywhere. It is constantly unfolding, washing over certainties, forms, rules, and all that is familiar. Open Space: I used to delight in boxing it up, creating ways to control and predict and to tame it. But now, familiar boxes and squares? No way! What is a movement? It's something that moves. The New Village Movement in Kenya was, it worked, and it moved on. And what is left? Open Space. So, is my contribution needed? Yes, urgently. Open Space: we've got it and it is endless. Familiar ground? There is some -- human hearths, joy and misery, elation and invention, the exhilaration of charting a new course; new colleagues; a beckoning to break out of boxes and bags. Surrender, real and complete, and it feels good. Resentment is gone. Should we build? Or should we flow? Can we stand present to need? We can. Interior resources are real: strength, centredness, certainty of resolve, openness of spirit. Will we invent? We will. Will we modify and defend the old? We won't. Open Space: I'm learning to let go. I'm learning to let you care for me. Laugh at my urgencies? Why not? Refine my care: it's richer and deeper for the letting go. Why let go? So I can be filled up, so I can link arms and hearts, ideas, concerns, plans and commitments with others. Am I larger for letting go? Am I deeper? Does it matter? Have I been knocked to my knees? I have. Has it hurt? It has. Is there new life in dying? There is. Is there new reverence for life. Yes... Walking, swimming, gliding, and not drowning. I'm awaking in Open Space. And I'm learning to love it."

--Keith Packard:(Nairobi):AWAKING IN OPEN SPACE AND LEARNING TO LOVE IT

"We Can Start Over"

I know that a sacramental core is needed to give focus and direction to movements and networks. I know that all movements require an intensification of their commitment and passion. It's impossible to draw a circle without a central pivot point. And without points of attraction, there is simply random activity. Nehru was part of the Freedom movement in India, but Gandhi was its sacramental centre. It doesn't make Gandhi any better than Nehru, but imagine what the movement would have been if Gandhi had tried to become Nehru!...The covenanted community of which I am a part has a history and a tradition. It stands for: MISSION: being of service to the world; GLOBALITY: being inclusive of all human expressions; DISCIPLINE: being responsible stewards of the earth's resources; RISK: being willing to stand between the no-longer and the not-yet; ON BEHALF OF: not seeking benefit for the self but for the larger society; SPIRITUALITY: defining one's own meaning, giving time to the meaning dimension, being in touch with the deeps...The outer trappings of the Global Order may have changed in the last four years, but its essential integrity is intact in the individuals who have not gone whoring after the generativity of others, who have not attempted to imitate the charisma of others, who have not succumbed to the bourgeois materialism of the world, but instead have quietly and unobtrusively cared for their own spirit."

--Donna Wagner: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE AND SACRAMENTAL COMMUNITY

MARKINGS FROM BOMBAY PRIMARY UNIT

A Fiftieth Birthday

"I want to share the important marking event that was my fiftieth birthday on 11 May, 1988. We began the celebration with a workshop on the journey of life; we listed the qualities of human beings for each phase of 25 years (from the Hindu stages of life; we gathered in teams and created four montages depicting the four stages of the journey; we found striking pictures from many cultures and ages: an education in itself. We recalled experiences of our own life at those phases gone by. During the early evening colleagues came from Pune, Bombay, and Panvel to celebrate with drinks and snacks in our room while looking through our family photo album. After a fine meal we continued the celebration with Dick West asking questions of my life by decades giving me the opportunity to reflect on past events, to chart the journey and name it. There were many lovely gifts and cards, but the one I will mention was the fifty roses from Fred and Bob. Each of us in the house wore one or carried one for the next two days. I am grateful to be a part of the community of the Order. It has been our connectedness and oneness of purpose that allows us to experience the whole whenever we gather in places round the globe; so that in the midst of a celebration such as the birthday of fifty years, I appreciated your presence in the event which marked the rite of passage into the religious phase of my life."

--Nancy Lamphear 1/6/88, Chikhale, India

"Just Being There"

"Being in India one discover that every sense is challenged to its limits: smell, taste, touch, sound, sight, and sensing itself. During the travelling seminar with Jean Houston we journeyed into time and space walking through temples of the seventh and eighth centuries and saw the vegetable colours of the statuary still visible. We touched walls of sandstone carved with statues of men, women, animals and gods from past times. We crawled into a small tunnel which once, through, assured us of getting into heaven. We felt the hot stone on our feet as we walked the same pathways of pilgrims from times long before. We listened as our guide told story after story of the gods, goddesses, and people who had created the way of the earth before our time. We participated in the Puja with the coconut, banana and red powder asking the gods for the health of children and the birth of a baby to those who cried out for a child. We watched the dancing Shiva dance the dance of destruction, allowing the new to be created and birthed. We encountered kavidi in which a man decided through fasting and trust in the universe that he could pull a chariot with hooks into his back's flesh only. We saw the god Balaji through slits in his face covering, and had the high priest take our prayers to the god for his blessing; we touched the flesh of the baby dying of malnutrition in line with the thousands of people. We stood near Nandi, Shiva's bull, as it waited with lifted foot listening for his master's voice calling him to do the necessary

deed. We smelt the incense, felt the ashes and powder on our heads, tasted the sweet laddoo and the holy water given as gifts from the gods. We felt the blessing of the feet of the gods on our head as well as the blessing of the elephant with his trunk. We jumped to clang the chains together as a test of agility; we clapped our hands to demonstrate that all was well in the temple, that we had removed nothing that belonged to the gods. We felt the coolness of the water washing our feet before entering the temple, we bowed with heads touching the ground in honour of the gods; we listened to the bhajan music as it held the participants spellbound; we saw temple after temple after temple and waited with crowds and crowds of people, just being there."

--Nancy Lamphear: REFLECTIONS ON THE TRAVELLING SEMINAR, India, 5/31/88

A Witness of My Own Life

[Let me introduce you to a young colleague here in Bombay primary unit; his family lives in Chikhale house: his name is Dilip Maske and he is fourteen years old; Dilip has been in the Student House for three years. Dilip was assigned to give a witness at a weekly celebration several weeks ago.]

"I am so happy because I have the opportunity to talk for the first time in Chikhale about my experiences. Now I am going to present to you a witness of my own life. Before the Student House started I was living with my grandparents. The experience was so different between their village and the Student House. When I was with them I was studying in the fifth grade. I didn't get the proper guidance and because of that I lost interest in school. My mind was wandering like a flying bird. After I had passed fifth grade, I joined the Student House and got admission in Ghorpadi School.

"I was so afraid about Pune's education standard. In this situation everything was new -- the Student House and everything else. I was not able to speak English and found this to be a hardship. During this struggle my rank had gone down in school. In the first term examination, I ranked no. 9. Deepak Kamble ranked first in his class. I began watching him studying hard and decided I could do the same. I came in second in my class. I also saw two quotations: "Things happen because of doing them so do it" (Ramdas) and "I will bend but not break (Dr Ambedkar). At the next exam I came in second in my class. In the next two years I ranked first in several exams. During my eighth grade year I took part in many competitions and I received certificates for that. I was also assigned as a class monitor. Because of my concern about being a first rate student, I suggested to my teacher that the monitor's job was too time-consuming. She announced to me that because of the "peacekeeper" role I had played, my class became a demonstration class in the school. I discovered that there is a role beyond being a good student. I found that enabling a group to be a demonstration was a role that was needed in the world and I could play that role. This is my witness."

-----Dilip Maske, May 1988

Training on the Mozambique Border

"...After several days of trekking and many events in villages, we found ourselves in a village just a few miles from the Mozambique border. We met Mr Phiri, a society manager from Chassa. He told us that the MRA had crossed the border at night, invaded his home, and stolen everything from his house and forced his wife and children to carry their loot for thirty kilometres at which point they found the nyau dancers, left the lady and children and forced the nyau dancer to carry the booty. So on this night accommodated at the school office, I was as scared as a cat, and couldn't sleep all night. Fortunately, nothing happened. The next day we held our seminar there and left for Kangele which had been raided a month ago, about ten kilometres from the Mozambique border; so now it was surrounded by commandos to guard the town because the village had received a load of maize and were scared the MRA might carry out another raid. Mr Phiri told us we would be sleeping at the primary school across the river. It was scary, walking to this school, listening intently for any sound or movement; but we had a good night's sleep at the primary school. In the morning, we went to the cooperative and held a planning meeting with 105 people. The next day we were taken to the Governor's office. The governor expressed his pleasure with the work we had done and asked if we could include eight more wards in our planning safari. That may have to wait since we are still in the middle of a three-year project sponsored by Integrated Rural Development Projects."

-----James Wambua, Lusaka

Money For Wellness!

"For many years, our Order has necessarily been concerned about cost savings when it has come to health care...As individuals and houses we have consciously worked and won at keeping corporate health costs down by bargaining for discounts, and obtaining free services... Additionally, a number of us have experimented with alternative health care techniques. The Los Angeles House, despite a shortage of extra money, has taken steps to improve our health status. Our corporate diet follows the Five Finger Food groups, consisting of lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, small amounts of meat and fish and less salt and sugar. Every smoker has worked at smoking cessation in the last year. Aerobic exercise, running, walking, racquetball and bowling, as well as gardening, yardwork and balancing exercises are among the activities practiced regularly among us. Meditative exercises are a daily routine among several members. What if each primary unit was able to set aside money to spend only on wellness? That might encourage and increase the opportunities for more of us to corporately as well as individually expand our options for physical exercise, seminars or classes to increase our human capacities through dance, meditation, healing etc. What is the possibility of this happening in our locations around the world? What is happening in this arena in your location now? Why not share the approaches we have used at the November Council In Mexico? What kind of interchange would you like to see happen now, toward a dialogue in November?"

-----Molly Shaw, Los Angeles P.U.

"Why Bother With Annuities?"

"Anybody with some surplus of income over expense can save that surplus and spend it later. If the surplus is invested for a period of time at a positive rate of return, there will be more to spend. An annuities program makes this a formal process. In some places it can receive legal protection under the law. The program specifies when how, and for what these savings and their investment returns shall be spent. It does this in its benefit formula. An individual may enter such a formal process by purchasing an annuity from a financial institution. An individual may also purchase an annuity for someone else by specifying the beneficiary and the conditions of payment of benefits. A group may purchase an annuity for one person or for a group of people. The process is similar to purchase by an individual, but the group must be recognized as a legal person who is party to the contract. In some countries, a separate legal and financial entity may be established to invest savings and pay benefits. This would be a trust fund set up for the purpose. The amount received by a beneficiary in relation to the funds supplied by the provider is seriously affected by tax laws. There are at least three reasons to create such a program: 1. To provide a stream of payments to a beneficiary. There is no chance of diversion of savings or "eating all now". 2. To provide legal protection to beneficiaries. Funds purchased to purchase annuities or to make trust fund investments can be used for other purpose. 3. To reduce taxation on both savings and benefits."

-----From "Annuity", a paper from Brussels

Healthy Portents From Nairobi

"The Ahero Project is really exciting. It has been flooding out there throughout this rainy season, so we all told Mark Lusweti to find a place on HIGH ground. They have now rented living and office space and should be getting settled in soon. The Project is with the Ministry of Agriculture's Smallholder Irrigation Unit in collaboration with the Dutch government. The main intent of the SIS unit is to set up irrigation systems with small farmers. They have been unsuccessful in getting participation by the farmers and have enlisted our help to do so. The first three months will be spent getting to know the situation and getting authorization from district officials. Then we will spend a lot of time working with groups that have been previously involved in the scheme, and then move on to work with new groups of farmers, using a planning format and other curriculum. The project is for twelve months but could go on much longer. The Dutch fellow we're working with has Nathan and Jan-Willem that there is a huge scope for work of this sort. It provides very good income; they pick up all the housing, travel, materials costs of the project. I think everyone sees this as a very healthy portent of the future...Discussions continue relative to restructuring: there was a fine philosophy and mission retreat held in Kamweleni last Month. I was in Botswana, but there was apparently a lively discussion the other night on who are the employers and who are employees in this new NGO. The consensus here seems to be very much in the direction of a worker-owned organization which would be pretty innovative. We've developed some initial statements of purpose, but there are still many, many points to be discussed, not the least of which is name."

-----Frank/Sandra Powell, Nairobi

What We Ask of the Council"

"We are requesting that the Council accentuate the theme of Order Growth by providing a forum for sharing what we have discovered and are discovering about the future of the task we set out to accomplish: what experiments are going on, what new insights are beginning to take shape, what we are finding will attract and sustain the national members of the staff. Hans Kung says that when revelation or new creation occurs, we are at a loss to name or even talk about what is happening. He says we grasp after words, sounds, phrases, tunes, symbols, visions that communicate a depth that we sense but cannot articulate. It is only as these are shared that patterns begin to emerge and elements begin to surface of the mythos that will one day be our common story. We believe that we are at such a point in history. In the midst of the confusion, we believe some touchstones are beginning to emerge and the answers to our unspoken questions are already taking shape around us. We believe it involves a tension between the immediate needs and tasks and the thousand-year vision. We believe that the Order can grow everywhere and that it is a priority for us now to attract a catalytic core in each location to assure the future task of the ICA. We want to talk to and hear from others who are likeminded, and we are in the process of preparing a paper on this subject which we plan to send to all the primary units in the near future."

Rio: "The Issue of Order Growth"

"A Book Won't Contain It!"

"Whereas we have experienced ourselves to be in an increasingly constricting vortex that was carrying us to smaller and smaller numbers, suddenly we have caught a glimpse of a planetary spirit association of many thousands of people. Whereas once it was clear that certain people were "the Order: and others were something else, it has become evident that we are participating in an accelerating dance of planetary care. We have come to recognize that old assignment rules and codes don't work as they once did...The fluidity, frequency and diversity of the assignment shifts have gone way beyond what can be suitably ritualized on assignment sheets. Our existing structures will not creatively engage this ever increasing number, and at this stage it seems unwise to try to impose that which may only impede. People move in and out of this dance of planetary spirit association in formations that fascinate and sometimes confuse but can scarcely be described...Every individual is capable of deciding where s/he wants to be and of working out how that can come to pass. Every location has the capacity to negotiate with such people when they seek to be part of that community, and dialogue over assignments can best take place with one's peers or self-chosen mentor. Our network is so large and diverse that an assignment book will no longer contain it. People's engagement often extends beyond their location. All information is available to everyone. Any location can be a life-giving situation. What the globe requires is decided by individuals and teams in each situation. Informal structures are more effective than formal at this stage. Continental checkpoints are always possible and can be arranged as needed."

--Extract: Letter from the Global Assignments Commission

WHAT ARE WE INTO?

Our Common Future: More Than Just a Conference

Module I: Partnerships for Planetary Service

"It's not just another conference where presenters give their speeches and go home. Actually work with Humberto Bravo on creating an environmentally sound regional development project. Spend time with Dee Dickinson, Barbara Clark, and Roger Johnson putting together a cooperative learning environment for a university. Work with Antonia Shusta, Harrison Owen, V.S. Mahesh, and Ray Barrett on an organizational transformation academy. Explore the values of a partnership society with Riane Eisler and Jean Houston. Work with Dr Keregero, Ervin Laszlo, and Manfred Max-Neef on development alternatives. Create your own project, workshop, or training event. It can be a halfday to a two-and-a half-day happening. Facilitate it. Talk to one of the coordinators about which presenters you would like to have in your workshop. Fill out a conference group sheet. Coordinators are Kim Epley: Phoenix; Jeanette Stanfield: Toronto; Karen Troxel: Chicago; and Donna Wagner: Brussels. This module is yours to create. If you want a collaboration effort to happen during this conference, make it happen and let us know. Participants will come away from the conference with resources and tools they can use to serve the global in the local. In addition, the talk by Willis Harman to open the conference, the synthesizing and reflection groups meeting at the end of each day and the weaving events in the afternoon and evening of the final day will provide an opportunity for deep sharing of the threads, values, and doorways crucial for partnering the planet today. A whiff of Century XXI coming up November 12-17.".....

Jeanette Stanfield

Module II: In Our End Is Our Beginning

Module II will be a rite of passage. The focus is on the global network of the ICA and the Order. Under the rubric of embodying the partnership mode of planetary service, what is this global network becoming and what does it need to become? What are we trusting in as we move to the future? What are the emerging values and connecting patterns which will sustain and call forth this global network into Century XXI? It is an awe-filled time of endings and an ecstatic moment of beginnings. It is a time of discovering strange companions on this journey. It is a time of crying. It is a time of laughing. It is a time of surrendering ourselves to the mystery's pleasure and trusting the oneness of the league in history. A strange symbol of this time together will be a booklet of pictures and writings of those who see themselves on this journey as a global network, and a planetary association. What do you see? This module is only what we all dream it to be and what we all call forth in these next few months. Truly the future is now. Celebrate it in a major rite of passage: November 18-23. Oaxtepec, Morelos, Mexico -- an ancient healing centre.

Permanence: Could It Be?

After 20 or 30 years of being shunted round the globe unlike the foxes who have holes and the birds who have nests without any lasting resting place, is it possible we may be entering a time of relative permanence? This is a question posed by one correspondent who is beginning to plan and look forward to staying in one place for ten or twenty years. Just think, she says: in that time one could build up a network of steady clients, one would have time to invent, test, refine, market and evaluate products; one could invest in equipment, TV, computer, furniture, clothes, a library, annuities, health plan, pension plan without having to sell them off or renegotiate and start all over again in a new location. One could perhaps see projects through to a conclusion, without having to hand them over to someone else with a five-minute all-too-short context. The community could create a long-range twenty-year plan without having to reinvent the wheel every time assignments change. One could plant a tree in the backyard and -- with a little bit of luck -- watch it grow year by year. There would be time to learn the local language and use it. And much, much more. Could it be?

Finally: A House With a Pool!

The Los Angeles House has moved to Phoenix: it has sold the LA property and invested the proceeds in an apartment complex close to downtown Phoenix, and about fifteen minutes from the airport. An office will be maintained in Los Angeles. The Phoenix property has seventeen apartments -- each two-bedroom with kitchen, living room, and much storage space and porch. The apartments are ranged on either side of a green sward of lawn and in the middle is a kidney-shaped swimming pool! The Phoenix House will occupy some of the apartments and rent the remainder out. This is the kind of house that many of us have dreamed about for years. Dreams do at times come true.

"Mezio: A Fast-Paced Team of Rural Developers

"We have been fortunate this year to be able to develop a team that is committed to the future of the ICA in Portugal with everyone involved long-range in the human development effort here. This group is composed of two Americans, six Portuguese, and one Australian nurse. We live in one house and work as one team. We are all EEC-salaried teachers of development skills and all Rotary-salaried development consultants. We also have fourteen Portuguese trainees funded by the government to do specific programmes in Montemuro. A Brazilian economist will join our staff this year to head up the economic initiatives division. It is difficult to imagine how our richness could become richer, but we also need a bookkeeper, a marketing specialist and a small ruminants specialist. Interested applicants must be willing to live in community, mesh harmoniously with the existing team, speak Portuguese and learn from the villagers in the Montemuro. Anyone coming is joining a fast-paced team of rural developers living in a very exciting time in Portugal."

Anyone For Spain?

"We live in a fairly modern apartment, centrally located, in a safe but lively neighbourhood of the City of Madrid. Local transport is inexpensive and very convenient (we don't use a car); there are lots of fiestas and cultural events, there is a rich history; there is lots of freedom for creating program; there is time and encouragement for personal growth pursuits, lots of guests and visitors and excuses for mini-celebrations, a flexible schedule within the spanish siesta time frame; we're open to change, trying to implement ecological sanity in our own environment; We need: people with spanish language capacity or a determination to learn; people willing to carry their own load toward self-support or program support. Lots of opportunities exist for teaching business english; we need people who can write proposals, carry through on funding and implementation. We operate and maintain a 24-hour bulletin board on computer and modem and are coordinating the set-up of others in Iberia. We are all nice people and we're getting to know more people everyday who have houses on the beach!"

Chile: "Like Mushroom Spores"

"In 1984 the Order residential staff left Santiago for Lima and turned everything over to a part-time team of colleagues. Lima ICA circuits to Santiago about every four months and is always a source of wisdom and an impetus to growth. With their help the group here has facilitated four or five LENS seminars with over 500 total participants, a community forum, an IERD symposium and 14 Imaginal Education courses. Members of the Santiago team have participated in many ICA conferences outside of Santiago: in Caracas, in Lima, in Guatemala and Chicago. In the past year the group has experienced a consolidation and strengthening of the team with fifteen people participating weekly and sharing responsibility for meetings, courses and events. We have had visits from Judy Hamje and George West from Lima who have presented lectures on marketing and given much in the way of practical spiritual assistance. One member of our team, Sergio Soto, spent the year in the Lima House and has returned with many resources for us. Two of our team were privileged to meet with Jean Houston in Venezuela. The team has many dreams and plans for the future including more LENS seminars, a national training school, imaginal education courses developed for business, and an advanced IE course and school. We all sense a real need to grow in ways that care for the newest and oldest member...Chileans are experiencing an openness to new ways of doing things. Press coverage does not reveal the deep changes that are going on. There is a profound decision to participate in business education everywhere. It's like mushroom spores that have blown around and landed in the forest. You can't tell where things are going to sprout and grow. Everyone senses a search for spirit values and methods and an opening to new humanizing and balancing relations between employer and employee. They feel that sociological evolution is well under way. The decision about the next government leader is secondary to that basic fact. Those Who Care are alive and well in Chile, and Chile is on the move.

-----Marilyn O'Boyle, Santiago, Chile.

Human Capacities in South Asia

ICA: India has developed a curriculum of courses, workshops and seminars that develop human resources. Other processes are being created to meet unique current and future needs of individuals and organizations. Some of the arenas covered thus far are: imaginal education; discussion methods; organizational planning; philosophy and values; human potential exercises; developing personal archetypes; project evaluation and documentation; women's advancement; community youth forums; teaching methods and style; collaborative projects; sacred psychology; listening skills, fine tuning the five senses; expanding the memory; left and right brain exercises; team building; local practitioners training; proposal writing; curriculum building; rural development symposia. The media used are discussions, talks, workshops, psychophysical exercises, visualization, and music. Clients to date are the Pune Blind Men's Association; the Pune Management Association; Walchandnagar Industries; the Rotary Club of Pune; the Pune Downtown Rotary Club; the University of Bombay; the Sanjeevani Trust and the Food and Nutrition Board.

The Space Between Comes to India

When one crosses the line, one finds
that there is a "SPACE BETWEEN"
"fixing it now" and
"making believe it doesn't exist".

Following the success of THE SPACE BETWEEN in Peru last February, we are announcing the introduction of THE SPACE BETWEEN into India to be held 27 February -- 11 March 1989 in northern India. This programme is designed to bring people closer to the spirit of the culture whose integrating philosophy, religion, heroes and heroines may have responses to the conflicts of today's strife-ridden world. What does the non-violent movement of Gandhi say to today's conflicts? What does the integrating Hindu philosophy in which you and god, you and the creator, are one and the same reality say to the alienation in today's civilization. THE SPACE BETWEEN will look at these questions as we explore the village culture of India, and work arm-in-arm with villagers on a village project, as we explore India's past, as we talk to contemporary leaders of industry, education, and the women's movement, as we visit the religious sites such as Benares, as we meet with spiritual leaders such as Darshan Singh in his ashram, as we walk the footsteps of Gandhi. The programme fee is USD1000. ICA members and houses will receive a \$50 commission for all participants recruited for THE SPACE BETWEEN. We want to give participants an experience they will never forget and an experience which will have an impact on their daily lives."

-----A.M. Noel, Linda Vernooy, Delhi

 EVERYTHING ELSE

"The Search Is Ended"

a life of love
 of music,
 dance,
 of resonance within fields of
 pure energy
 of meditation, contemplation, and prayer
 of service, work, action,
 energy in motion
 a sourcing at the Source
 a system,
 a process,
 a rhythm of both/and and much,
 much more,
 a dialogue
 a coming and a going
 a life with
 the Beloved of the Soul

 -----Rob Work 06.01.88, Ca

"Does God Play Dice with the Universe?"

James Gleick: CHAOS: MAKING A NEW SCIENCE. Viking Penguin Press. 1987 pp. Hardback. Most of us were brought up to believe that simple systems give rise to simple behaviour; complex systems give rise to complex behaviour and that detailed atomic structures are the decisive building blocks of reality. Now New York Times editor and reporter, James Gleick has pulled together a stunning report on the work of the chaos scientists that says "it ain't so". Now, it seems, simple systems give rise to complex behaviour, complex systems give rise to simple behaviour and laws of complexity hold universally, caring not at all for the details of a system's constituent atoms. Chaos science rings the funeral bells of the reductionist program in science. Gleick has done a wonderful piece of detective investigation and pulls together the multiple strands of chaos science in a book that reads like a detective novel. He reports the development of a science of process, rather than of state, a science of the global nature of systems bringing us back to theories of the whole rather than of bits and pieces. Some discoveries of the chaoticists: small errors can be catastrophic; tiny deviations create big errors; disorderly behaviour of systems is a creative process; self-organizing systems are a form of stable chaos; in the "Noah effect" things change fast arbitrarily; trends can vanish as fast as they come; in the new geometry the universe is rough, scabrous, pitted, pocked, broken up, tangled and intertwined; the geometry of fractals is an attempt to model the self-similar symmetry inside scale: pattern inside pattern. Underneath apparent randomness there is deep order. This is a book that corroborates what most of us suspected: there is deep order in the universe; a hidden unity in nature, and dissipation is always an agent of order. The conclusion of the chaos scientists is that God DOES play with the universe, but they are loaded dice.

"I Can't Believe It!"

Scientists in France, Canada, Italy, and Israel are reporting what appears to be a new and inexplicable physical phenomenon. The finding is so new and peculiar that researchers are loath to speculate on its ultimate meaning, but they are already talking about it as providing a scientific basis to homeopathic medicine. The finding is that water takes on the characteristics of biochemicals that have been added and then removed from it. This is so startling that the French laboratory that headed the work made a bailiff and the dean of a medical school part of its team to ensure no fraud was being enacted. On its face the experiment is simple and predictable. The scientists produced a goat antibody to a substance that appears on human white blood cells. They then added a drop of the antibody solution to the equivalent of 99 drops of distilled water and trace minerals. They shook the mixture violently. Taking a drop from that new solution they diluted it again with 99 drops of distilled water and minerals and repeated the shaking. One of the classic principles of physical chemistry states that the dilution should statistically have completely eliminated all the molecules of the goat antibody from the test tube. It did. A more general principle says that in order to have a reaction the material that causes that reaction must be present. It didn't happen like that. When the heavily diluted water solution was introduced to the white blood cell part it attacked the material as if it still contained the antibody. Instead of gradually diminishing with dilution the strength of the antibody-antigen reaction bounced up and down like a sound wave. The first conclusion of the discoverers was: "I don't believe it; it can't be true." University of Toronto physicist, Lynn Trainor says that some reactions taking place in the body may be driven by a physical "memory" left in water rather than the body chemical that initiated them. "We could be looking at a kind of phenomenon that shakes the present rules of microbiology, chemistry, physics, and other sciences," commented one scientist. The British Journal, NATURE, is printing the work, not because it believes the result, but because the four-nation, six-laboratory team conducted the research with such rigor and meticulousness it seemed to rule out any simple error.

-- THE GLOBE AND MAIL [Toronto] 30.06.88

GNIEB

being your being, being my being, then
 everything will flow, flow
 through you, with you, and what of
 discipline,
 interior or external, fear of energy,
 fear of flowing, flying, letting go,
 dying, changing, transforming;
 to die is to live is still
 the truth about Life
 and what of now, and how,
 for what and why and when and
 for whom
 Room for More
 Adoration of Being

-----Rob Work 06.01.88, Caracas

Wedding Bells at the HCP

In high ceremony, on July 1, in the presence of the 150 participants at the Greenkill Conference Centre and several Order visitors, A.M. Noel and Linda Vernooy were married in Human-Capacity-School-style. (Some months before they had been through a Hindu service of matrimony in India: this ceremony was "the Order" Wedding. They will also go through a Christian format of Marriage in A.M.'s parents' home in Malaysia). The congregational dinner with the standard Order conversation took place in the Camp dining hall with the whole School participating and being appropriately wowed by the methodology. Showers and men's event were done in fine style. The men had a conversation on the challenge of being a man; one well known Order man said it was the finest men's event he had been to. At the women's shower, Linda, in the old tradition of community, was appropriately bathed, sauna'ed and showered; then each woman brought jewellery, scarves, or oil and Linda was re-dressed with the scarves, the jewels, and the oils. Later, both men and women got together and for several hours carried on the wooing dynamic with singing, plays and skits. Jean Houston performed the Wedding Service. A.M.'s sister and nephews were there and described it as the most incredible wedding they had ever seen. The reception was held at the home of Linda's parents, Mr and Mrs Vernooy. The Noel-Vernooy family will operate out of Delhi.

Mind & Nature & the Participation Blues

"2000 people thronged the MIND AND NATURE CONFERENCE organized by the State of Lower Saxony, West Germany. The conference was addressed by 63 speakers representing leading academics, writers, scientists and religious leaders from the planet. Five meditation group leaders were available (fortunately) in the mornings and evenings. Between Saturday afternoon and Monday evening most of us had heard 19 lectures each of 45 minutes duration, and attended four discussion panels in which the lecturers had further developed their original positions. The material presented ranged from the conditions before, after and during the big bang to the structure of the human brain and how it perceives reality. The topics included detailed discussion of chaotic systems and summons to cross-cultural understanding. There was excellent simultaneous translation. On Sunday a notice appeared advertising that the Americans at the conference would meet on Monday night at 8.30. On Monday morning the sign had been modified to indicate that the english speakers would meet. By late Monday afternoon the same sign had been rewritten saying that those interested in a new modality for the conference would meet at 8.30. About 70 English-speaking people gathered to vent their frustration with the non-participatory method of the conference and to explore ways to increase the level of dialogue. People were assigned to implement proposals. The next morning the passion for participation aroused the previous night combined with the innate passion of Susan Griffin of Berkeley and Ted Turner from CNN Atlanta dramatically changed the tone of the presentation. The mood of involvement was intensified by panel leader Hazel Henderson who insisted on soliciting questions from the audience. Several informal discussion groups were organized for more dialogue. Subsequently a flute player, Tai Chi exercises, laughter, joy and movement, action, music, poetry and slides brought multimodality to the Congress. By Wednesday night the theoretical and the practical, the historic and the present, the spiritual and the material had become one; so had the Congress." Nelson Stover, Brussels.

Is There Life After Econet?

"Paxica is an electronic bulletin board system (a BBS). It was born on Christmas Day 1986 due to the encouragement and patronage of our GAB member Sr Don Fernando Elzaburu who provided the initial computer hardware, modem and software. For us in Spain PAXICA is one vehicle for midwifing change: a forum for the exchange of ideas between change agents of all kinds. It offers message exchange in 21 areas such as peace and disarmament, communications, environment, development, learning and education and numerous computer-related areas; it also offers a files section of public domain software which can be downloaded or added to by user. Paxica is a public node in the international FIDONET public network of amateur electronic mail hobnbyists who send and receive mail. Because we were first in Spain, we are also the regional coordinator for Spain and responsible for helping other nodes get established. PAXICA has registered over 830 different users from all over Spain, and a few places in Europe and the USA. We ask users for a contribution of ten dollars a year. We are in the process of writing funding proposal to expand the services of PAXICA. We believe the FidoNet mail system offers the Order and ICA a viable option for computer communications. It is a grassroots-distributed system, not a centralized network and offers us communication from any point to any other point if we choose. There are no fees to national or international carriers, and no extra charges for time and volume. You use regular telephone lines for all calls and pay for calls in local currency. We hve sent out a proposal outlining the first steps toward initiating various global communications using the Mexico Conference as a reference point.

"Let's Use FidoNet!"

"FidoNet is a public network of nodes using IBM/MS-DOS or compatible computers. It is a voluntary hobbyist effort made of up individual groups and non-profit organizations active in 30 countries with over 3000 nodes and is growing everyday. Access to the network is arranged via the nearest location or coordination point within the larger FidoNet. There is no fee to join FidoNet. Since the FidoNet System uses regular telephone lines, the charges are for the cost of the telephone calls only."

See "Communications Proposal for the Mexico Conference" (22.6.88) sent to all houses by Madrid.

Or Is It FAX?

"The FAX market is reaching critical mass. Half the phone traffic between Japan and the US is now FAX. FAXing is a faster and cheaper than overnight letter services; A facsimile message is an exact rendering of the original complete with pictures, logos, and signatures. FAX can send a page of material in twenty seconds. A Fax machine can cost less than \$2000. The Japanese are selling higher-priced models that have multiple-page document feeders. These can be programmed to send a stack of documents at night when phone rates are lowest. Canon and Ricoh products can transmit pages in three seconds with twice the clarity of ordinary fax.

-----from BUSINESS WEEK 21.03.88

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"Our Restlessness Is Part of Something Huge"

"...Nothing much anywhere suggests that our restlessness, felt so privately, is part of something huge, something alive all over the world: a many-headed restlessness that is the shaky underpinnings of nothing less than a worldwide transformation. We all know that technology is marrying all the races and places of our world into a pulsating, panicky whole that is far from knowing what to do with its (with our) imposed unity. But the new can't grow in what's already used up. It has to grow in what longs in us, in our loneliness and our restlessness. We make a mistake when we sidestep and placate these feelings, for only in the raw and unformed parts of ourselves -- only in this bewildered area within -- is there space for the new to take root. No matter how personal our individual sense of urgency is, that urgency is amplified in a feedback effect by a world that is neither to meet us or leave us alone. No one can make a separate peace. That much is clear. For there's nowhere to hide anymore. The wilderness is washed with acid rain, and human viciousness can strike in the deserts as well as in the cities. There is no land anywhere -- no city, no household -- that is not touched by the common tumult. One of our most pressing PERSONAL problems now is how to meet the astounding, intrusive, and dangerous realities presented by an electronically instant, planet-spanning environment. How do we turn the noise of information into the coherence of vision.

Plainly nobody is going to do it for us. Whether a resonant, resonating world culture evolves out of all this cacophony is strictly up to us -- all of us and some of us and each of us, at one and the same time. By a culture I mean a living web of thought that contains, rather than is contained by, the particulars of the environment. For right now we are surrounded, and intruded upon, by our technological environment, and culture as we've known it has been shattered. Its pieces are still alive but there is no longer a sense of a whole. We long for, we search for, we are trying to create, a new culture that can make sense of, and give human proportion to, the technologies through which humankind is now evolving." -- from Michael Ventura: SHADOW DANCING IN THE USA
(Courtesy: Stuart Hampton: "Uncommon Insights Into Unsettled Times" p. 48.

