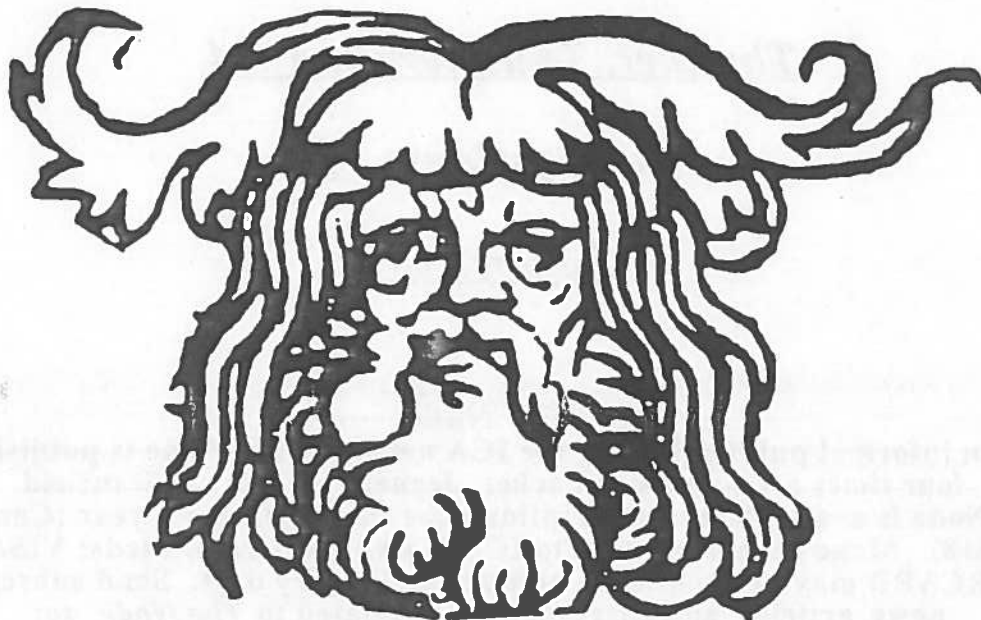


THE NODE

Vol. 7, No. 1



April, 1993

The Node
April 1993

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ICA Canada
The Node
577 Kingston Rd, Suite 1
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M4E 1R3
Phone: 416-691-2316
Fax: 416-691-2491
e-mail: weblicatoronto

Rituals in the Rainforest

John Miesen

Tranquil, yet exciting; discontinuous, yet familiar; quiet, yet resonating. These are a few descriptions of the flow and feel of the ICA Australia retreat held in January.

The event was very informal compared with past experience. There wasn't even a roster for cooking and washing up. People just did what needed doing. Informality seemed appropriate as the retreat was held at Tapitallee Resort situated two hours south of Sydney, inland from Nowra in a rainforest setting.

The resort was started some ten years ago as a demonstration of the possibility of using recycled building materials and organic farming. The buildings are constructed of recycled materials and/or hand made mud bricks, water is supplied by the rain and electricity is used sparingly. The decor was carefully chosen or donated to add to the serenity of the surroundings.

Our days were organised into three themes - Saturday was permaculture and ecology; Sunday, the new economic vision for Australia and Monday, the use and place of rituals in our lives.

Food was organised by everyone bringing a main dish and a dessert or snack for the weekend. Consequently, the fare was as diverse as those who attended—from a Rotarian to a 'cosmic gypsy'.

On Saturday morning we visited the nearby Berry Organic Farm where we joined in with the work of the farm by weeding and mulching some 42 fruit trees. A few also picked strawberries and harvested potatoes. It is a subscription farm with some 18 families tending the crops on a rostered weekly basis and sharing the harvest. The visit was great for experiencing practical ways of relating to the earth and engaging in self-sustenance.

During the afternoon we attended a discussion session conducted by a local person who talked about permaculture techniques for both rural and urban sites. He also guided us around the resort where we saw the aqua garden, chicken house, organic vegetable garden and the solar powered restaurant. Our host then gave a demonstration of mud brick making, which was a fascinating look into what can be done with the existing resources around us. Then it was time to go for a swim under the waterfall - a short trek down through the rainforest.

We watched videos that night and saw the series on permaculture made by Bill Mollison. He has initiated permaculture gardens in urban areas such as New York and Bombay as well as in rural third world nations.

Sunday morning saw us reading articles about economics and discussing the concept of economic renewal. Our suggestions for Australia's economic

health are:

- * **neighbourhood support for engagement**
- * **encouragement of small business**
- * **a change in the attitude that equates unemployment with disaster**
- * **valuing activities that are now not highly valued because they are not income generating**

That night our video of the movie 'Metropolis' ran out after 20 minutes and Richard Maguire amazed us all by narrating the whole story. It was a great show!

Our work on rituals on Monday touched the spiritual heart of the retreat when we talked about the kind of rituals which give people a way to name the significance of the present and to claim the promise of the future. There was not enough time to devote to many rituals and ceremonies but we focused on rituals for young people including the naming ritual (baptism), the rite of passage or adolescent ceremony and the coming of age ceremony. Our context pushed us to make these rituals meaningful in a polycultural society. The group's work inspired and uplifted us. We all felt we had touched something within us that needed to be shared with the world.

In nurturing the fruit trees and each other we learned more about the elements of care which we hope to extend outward to the community at large.



ICA Zambia News

Voice Vingo

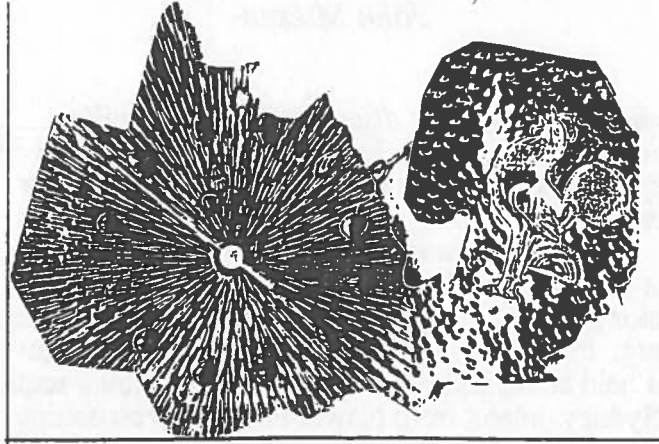
"Wrap it nicely for us, God" was my prayer as we approached December 1992. During the ICAZ staff planning workshop on 29-30 December I participated in a number of small informal group discussions. People talked about how they were adapting the ICA methods to suit particular situations and how their participants were responding positively. They shared the hardships and difficult encounters they had had in the field, but all pointed ultimately to some work accomplishment.

As for me, I've been working on a sustainable agriculture project. I was assigned at the beginning of the year to co-ordinate the Sustainable Agriculture Program and to document its growth and impact. I found this task to be not only involving but also educational. At the same time, I was assigned to make sure that all the other ICA programs received adequate documentation and that there was good communication between ICA office and the field staff. I got to know each of the ICAZ programs quite intimately and would like to share what has been happening this past year.

ICA has been involved in three different kinds of program, each with its own focus. The program in the Eastern Province focussed on resuscitating old projects within the community and initiating new projects. The Northern Province program focussed on leadership planning, involving local leaders and women's advancement. The Kabwe rural program focussed on sustainable agriculture. The common thing about each program was the emphasis on releasing the human potential and catalysing self-help initiatives.

The Eastern Province program was an interesting experience for ICAZ. ICA was contracted to do grassroot programs by the District Councils. This involved all five districts of Eastern Zambia. I was interested in the relationship that was there between ICAZ and District Councils and their funders. Both parties believed in having to test a program before implementing it. They would do a short facilitation course for confidence building and team building. It was very interesting in terms of the amount of effort and time they put in before working in the village. The program started with a facilitators course involving the district and ICA staff and then a grassroot training and planning event, debriefing meetings and follow-ups. A number of victories got recorded during the follow-ups, like building schools, toilets, clinics, wells maintenance and community planning events as a result of the work done by ICA.

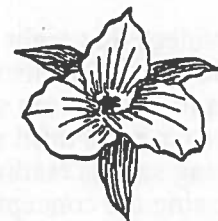
In the Northern Province, ICA conducted ward development committee seminars aimed at equipping local leaders with leadership and planning skills.



Another emphasis was on women. The original program involving local leaders was found to be effective for men, but women were being left out. A focus was therefore put on women and a lot of victories were achieved by the women's clubs that were formed during the planning processes. These ranged from market gardening to small animal production and development meetings.

In Kabwe rural, ICA is involved with six clubs involving 100 farmers, each experimenting with sustainable agriculture methods, like composting, alley cropping, the use of natural pest control methods and intercropping. The interesting part so far has been the linkage between ICA methods and technical expertise that has been achieved. The ICA staff itself has an area for demonstration where ICA staff learn how to enhance their encounters with farmers by mastering the technology involved in sustainable agriculture at both main-field cropping and market gardening levels. Training programs have been held separately for staff and village people. The ultimate goal of this is that the villagers being trained will be educating other villagers about sustainable agriculture. In the coming year ICAZ intends to own its own space for office and construction of a new training centre. ICA intends to expand its programs to cater to all of southern Africa.

Thanks to ICA Japan, CIDA (ICA Canada), and Misereor, who are all giving financial support to our programs.



Reflections on a Visit to Charleston, S.C.

- John Epps

On one of those brilliant January days with cloudless skies, crisp atmosphere and shirtsleeve temperature giving a rare sparkle to the usually drab ambience of mid-winter, I returned to Charleston, my birthplace. The city takes pride in belying the myth of rapid change; here, after an absence of 17 years, I was easily able to navigate her outrageous network of one-way streets and to wind my way into memories that have not faded. There are changes - new coats of paint highlighting the mansions around the Battery which still stand resplendent in their defiance of time and tide; a new tourist park brightening East Bay Street replacing the legendary Henry's and Carriage House; and the Old Slave Market now bustling with tourists in search of mementos from their pilgrimage to this shrine of Continuity. And both the Francis Marion and the Fort Sumter Hotels no longer function - present day visitors preferring less by way of ambience and more by way of affordability.

But it's still the same: the narrow lanes between mansions South of Broad street along which the aristocratic residents (SOB's according to the title derived from their place of residence) conduct their strolls; the 4-rail barrier along South Battery over which languid men and boys toss fishing lines with only the remotest interest in a catch, and along which lovers stroll hand in hand savouring the salty breeze; White Point Garden with its small pyramids of cannonballs over which children romp in innocent disregard of their sinister symbolism; the squat Moorish towers of The Citadel standing mute gray guard over a deserted parade ground; the unique aroma of North Charleston industry combined with low tide; and most of all, the appearance of calm. In this atmosphere, there is no need to rush: time is an asset to relish, not a resource to manage. Struggle, though it be essential to life elsewhere, in this place is bad taste.

Charleston is different. Dallas, Chicago, Denver, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore all have their unique charms, but none can match the sublime contentment of Charleston where the major news is of a hurricane that hit five years ago and effectively pruned the landscape of anything - brush, bridge, tree, house, or building-- lacking the interior resources to stand firm. Of course life occurs here with recognizable levels of human catastrophe. But somehow they are not paraded. They're submerged under layers of civility, proper appearances, and an unshakable belief in the benevolence of history. To be agitated over anything more serious than the cat's latest litter is simply foolish:

"It'll all work out - just relax!"

Ulcers are commonplace.

Some describe Charleston as a paradox of the grotesque and the sublime. Although both are present, neither quite reaches her essence. She is rather like the live oaks decked out with Spanish moss that line the old Summerville Road. From some perspectives She is a cathedral to a pantheon of magnificent deities. From other viewpoints the same sights appear as decadent residues of historical disaster. But it's one thing, and I think it's in the atmosphere. You can't breathe here and miss it.

I think the culture begins at around 10,000 feet as your plane descends into the city. Certainly by the time you've landed and reached the concourse, it permeates your system.

Charleston is not one place alongside others. When you are here, every place else is far, far away;. Of course there is some sense of superiority over the crassness of Savannah, the anonymity of Columbia and even the bustle of Atlanta. But they're someplace else, and you have to make an effort to get there. Probably China's sense of itself as the navel of the Earth comes closest to the self perception of Charleston, except that no native Charlestonian would ever use the word "navel" in polite society.

Charleston is a wonderful place to be from and a delightful place to visit. I am pleased to be her native son.

14 February, 1993



The Ballards

PETER celebrated his 18th birthday, held his second summer job as a crew member for Bel Air Public Works, played shortstop and homerun hitter on the Yankees softball team, had a winning season with the Lakers Basketball team, enjoyed watching the 1992 Olympic Basketball "Dream Team".

CHRIS - celebrated his 21st birthday, crew foreman on a painting crew last summer, shared his faith by delivering two sermons at Ebenezer Church this summer, gave birth to a new singing group called "Proclamation".

JACK gives thanks for an entire year of employment at Harbel Community Center in Baltimore and with Training, Inc. Washington, D.C., serves as Chair of the Ebenezer Church Council, Coach-Dad of Softball and Basketball teams.

LOUISE survived three graduate courses in the summer (with assistance from Jack to care for family duties) and maintains 4.0 average, passed the masters comprehensive examination in October (again with help from the family crew!), has a new additional assignment at school as an Enrichment teacher.

FAMILY Jack & Louise celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with the renewal of their marriage vows, The family vacationed at an actual resort for the first time (in Virginia), and had the wonderful experience of connecting with old friends during this year: ICA friends from Richmond, VA and Washington, D.C., high school friends at Louise's 30th Reunion, college friends in Virginia Beach. Very sadly, we lost Granddad Ballard in February ('92). We appreciated the wonderful celebration of his completed life.

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The Cramers

Claudia is still managing the Stevens Crest Apartments. **Claudia's Quilts** is enjoying commissioned quilted wall hangings of scenes of Mount Rainier, the Cascades, the Rain Forest and Puget Sound from a local quilt shop at the Pike Street Market in downtown Seattle. She also has co-created many quilts - from wall hangings to kingsize bed quilts which have included Merlin the Magician, a photo album of Whidby Island, a T-shirt quilt representing over 3,000 miles of marathon running and a wedding quilt based on computer graphics designed by Bob Lanphear, plus Halloween costumes on the side for grandkids and Kristen.

Don's business is growing in an interesting way - helping public schools build site-based plans for continuous quality improvement. He is working with nine elementary schools, one junior high and one senior high school. He has several other contracts, but none as consuming as this one.

We spent two weeks with Mark and Trudi, Dustin and Monica in Chicago over the holidays, helping them remodel their home in Highwood.

In the meantime, we all jammed into the apartments of family and friends - Brian & Trish Townley and later Mark and Carrie Jewell (while they were in Seattle). Our kids and grandkids hope to

move into one of the remodelled rooms of their home this weekend. Their "new" home is going to be very nice and much more spacious.

Kristen continues to do well as a real estate agent. She also refurbished her own house this year. Then she splurged and spent ten days at the Club Med in Cancun, Mexico over Thanksgiving.

The Edwards

Three weeks ago we began the tortuous moving process (although it is only "down the road") and today we are settled sufficiently to be able to address some of the other outstanding things which we would have wished to do earlier.

Well, here we are, in a retirement home! This is the oldest old people's home in Chicago, founded in 1837 for the care of indigent ladies. It has changed its complexion somewhat, in that it now (Bill is glad to advise) includes men and that the four or so millionaires who are resident could hardly, even in today's inflated scales, be regarded as indigent. But it welcomes people from all strata of society.

It is a delight. We have an apartment on the sixth floor with views south, west and north. A sitting room, dining space, bedroom with space for a sitting area, hall, kitchen and bathroom. Quite adequate for our requirements, especially as we have had a walk-in

closet converted into a small office, where we house the computer and our manifold files and papers.

The food is excellent; although we have our own kitchen, we go down for all meals. There is a degree of formality, in that men are expected to wear a tie for dinner. We like that in this environment. The "public" rooms are all well appointed and are a pleasure to be in or walk through.

But, above all, the home has its own medical centre with nursing staff, physiotherapist, doctor, dentists and pharmacy. If there is the sign of any malady which may require attention, one is taken into care. Some, of course, are resident in the nursing center permanently.

Our co-residents have proven to be delightful, hospitable and welcoming. So we are already feeling very much at home. We are among the babes in the place. Many are over 90 and there are a few centenarians. And some of the oldest are the most interesting. But there are few, it seems, who do not have some distinction in their lives.

Bill continues to work at Kanbay Resources. Last year was a major breakthrough for the company and we hope and expect that it will continue its upward momentum.

Lyn is engaged at the Institute on a half-time basis. For the past two years she has been responsible for the Highlights newsletter mailed quarterly to ICA friends and colleagues in the Heartland Region and Chicago Nuggets, mailed to Chicago clients and colleagues. This she has enjoyed very much. However, on February 1, Lyn will begin to take on the task of becoming an "archivist". The products of 30 years of creative energy expended by many people will be documented. The objective of this probably two-year endeavour is to make accessible to researchers and practitioners the models, tools, spirit exercises that release human potential and social care. All of you will probably hear more about this

as the project gets underway.

We do hope this letter finds you health and happy. May 1993 be the year when the world moves toward reconciliation and peace.

Our new address:
Bill and Lyn Edwards
909 Foster Ave., Apt 607,
Chicago, IL 60640 USA

The EI/ICA/OE Global Archives

Kemper - Chicago
— Lyn Edwards

- * Started work February 8, 1993 on 131 five-drawer files plus an unexplored number in basement.
 - * Chose 165 books to comprise the "Historical Memory" Library.
 - * Prepared for move March 9 to renovated Archive space in basement.
 - * Projected an August fortnight (10 days) for a colleague work gathering. Watch for dates.
- Memo from Lyn Edwards
to *The Node*, March 1993
-

Darlene (Devorah) Golembo

Manila, Philippines

After reading all your letters in *The Node*, it inspired me to write about what's been happening to me since I last wrote (about 5 years ago). Many things have transpired. In 1986 I began studying Raga Yoga Meditation in the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University. This has made a difference in my life. I have been able to find new easy methods to transform the self. I have learned to appreciate how the mind works and am in the process of acquiring constant peace and happiness. There have been many changes since the old days with, of course, more changes to go. I have

travelled to such places as Malaysia, Ubud Indonesia, London, the United States and India for self progress and world service. In Ubud Indonesia where we have a meditation shop is a place where travellers from around the world gather for spiritual experiences.

I am still here in the Philippines after 7 years, am teaching English and learning Tagalog (Zoey Armas is my Tagalog teacher). I'm also teaching meditation classes and doing positive thinking workshops. I'm also trying to organize religious groups to participate in a World Parliament on World Religions which will be held in Chicago this coming August.

Back in 1991, I discovered I had a brain tumour. Luckily I was able to get one of the best surgeons in Chicago and the whole operation was a huge success. Friends in ICA gave lots of support. Thanks to the Fentons, Packards and Jim and Karen Troxel and Paula Otto, etc. I enjoyed the stay in the States.

I'm much better now—fully recuperated and back to regular activities. I celebrated my 50th birthday in Ubud Indonesia. Spent one month as shopkeeper and meditation teacher at Brahma Kumaris' Meditation Shop. A wonderful experience. Actually this whole life is one beautiful experience.



The Holmes

At midnight on the 31st December, Duncan and Heidi held candles in front of an outdoor stage shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the city listening to fifteen drummers announce the New Year. The MC encouraged us to reflect on the last year and carry the amazing, the pleasurable and the personally stretching events of the past year into the new year. We would like to share some of our unbelievable moments of 1992.

In February we left the snow of Ontario and stepped into the crocuses, daffodils and cherry blossoms of British Columbia. All the flowers, it seemed, were opening weeks early to celebrate Duncan's mother's momentous birthday.

Some other highlights of the year:

Reading Robert Varga's *The Unicorn of Kilimanjaro* and believing the myth may be real. Did you ever wonder what is in the secret forbidden forests of Kenya?

Watching Rachel play the tympany drums with vigour at her own graduation in June followed by a steak and seafood dinner at The Keg.

Slapping hands (in high 5s) and shouting with those in passing cars at 2 a.m. as Toronto tumbled out into the streets with the Blue Jay banners and banging pots to celebrate winning the World Series. It was a celebratory event the like of which Toronto has never seen.

The funeral director's amazement as he asked for the family of Hannah Struthers (Heidi's great aunt) to rise (expecting the first two rows to respond) - and over half the room stood up.

Heidi and her Mom looking into the eyes of a beautiful golden eagle and having a pheasant hawk in our hair at a marsh near Lake Huron.

Listening to live violinists play Viennese waltzes while watching the sun set on a cruise through Georgian Bay's 10,000 islands with Duncan's cousins.

Getting an A+ in a course on Law and Aging from a teacher-lawyer/advocate for the elderly who despises nursing homes (Heidi is Director of Care in one).

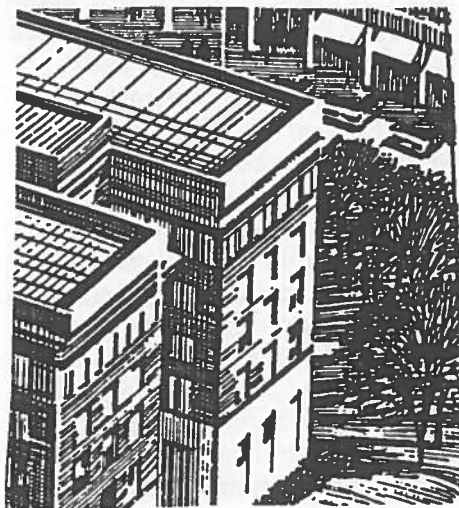
Being home for once, for the famous Beaches Jazz Festival in July - 2 days sitting on lawn chairs in the park listening to an incredible variety of jazz music.

Duncan spending five days back in his home town doing consulting and visiting with school mates he hadn't seen for over 20 years. Oh, the memories!

A world of fairyland white on every little twig greeting us in Monroe, Wisconsin, where we gathered for the Myrtle Leatherman clan's "Thanksmas" celebration in November.

The surprise of surprises that stretched even our wildest imaginations was the decision to buy a condominium—a wild 10-week journey from first looking for a place to signing the final deal and moving the weekend before Christmas. It was great to find a comfortable place to call home. We truly have room for families to come and visit and enjoy the pool and whirlpool.

**757 Victoria Park Ave.,
Ste. 205,
Scarborough, Ont., Canada
M4C 5N8**



The Jewells

Our December was full of activities including the usual ICA activities of getting out a mailing, conducting training sessions in ICA's Technology of Participation, facilitating groups in creating their plans for their future, plus all the other December additional activities.

Mark works to keep us up to date with the unfolding saga of the new business that he and three others are starting, at the same time they continue their jobs at Christ Hospital in Chicago - Mark as director of Epidemiology, Clinical Research and Quality Assurance for Medical Staff.

One of Russell's jazz band tours brought him to Seattle last spring. What fun to hear them in action. We proud parents were excited to read a reference to "...the virtuoso trombone work of Russell Jewell..." in a column by the Chicago Tribune's music critic. Again, it's been long, hard hours of work and ongoing practice with minimal compensation - but he does love it!. He and Janet (who is a professional bassoonist) went to Amsterdam last summer and this fall to Panama for a performance with an orchestra and some training clinics.

Nathan is a pilot based at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C. He has had the opportunity to fly cargo and people to various spots around the world, including Europe, Turkey, Korea, and will most likely be involved in the Somalia effort.

Diane, Kedric and Keilan live only a short distance from us now, so we do get to see one grandchild with some frequency. Diane, after years of thoroughly enjoying caring for others' children, is excited to be caring for her own. She experiences all this as a real challenge, but one she's taken on wholeheartedly.

Jim handles the computer databases for ICA's newsletter and

membership in the western U.S. and provides ongoing computer support for me and our other Seattle staff member. He and I have been the training team here in Seattle and he does the documentation for the facilitation work I do.

We have experienced this year as full, rich and rewarding. This has been held in tension with our response of both deep concern and hope to news from around the globe.

Martha Talbott

This past year has been one filled with new beginnings as well as the deepening of existing relationships for me. The event that symbolizes much of what this year has meant for me happened the morning after Bill Clinton was elected President. I woke up that morning with the thought in my consciousness of "something new might just really happen in the United States." I must confess that it has been a long time since I have felt that way about my own nation. I have found myself experiencing this same sense of newness and hope about many things this year, starting with my own life.

One of the most surprising beginnings has been the launch of a group of Atlanta residents who are committed to having a Training, Inc. in our city. This is a real example of life working in strange and wonderful ways. It all started when a man here saw a two minute clip about Training, Inc. during a program on quality in the workplace on public television. He called Training, Inc. in Washington, D.C. to find out more about it and off we went. There are eight of us who have been working in a "bring Training, Inc. to Atlanta" group since last July. Bruce Donnelly, Charles Lingo and I provide the imaginal education foundation and the others (as well as Bruce) provide the in-depth knowledge of

Atlanta. Kay Lush provides encouragement around the edges, since her high school counselling job keeps her extremely busy.

It has been truly amazing how quickly and how intensely the folks have become committed to having Training, Inc. here. With only two having visited a site for a few hours, everyone is an avid advocate of the unique approach Training, Inc. brings to job training. We have had a very positive response in the initial probing we have done for support. Our next big decision is which institution we will get for the sponsor and then comes putting together the funding package. We hope to have "the doors open" within 6-12 months.

I have enjoyed working with this immensely and at this point would hope to become the director in the near future. For now I am still working at the law school of Emory University and will continue here until things get a little more secure for Training, Inc.

I have moved into my own apartment and have really been enjoying getting settled. It is in one of the few culturally diverse neighborhoods in Atlanta, and I really love it!



Margie Tomlinson

This year I have re-structured the system that sustains me. After thinking about what was really sustaining me for over a year, in January I decided to move on what I had been considering. I finished my term on the nominating committee, the chair of the status

and role of women work area, and being on the council on ministries of the First Methodist church. At the same time I began instruction in becoming a member of St. Benedict's Roman Catholic parish. At the Easter vigil I made my commitment to be faithful to God in the context of the Roman Catholic community. My ICA community decided to make this an opportunity to gather and celebrate our life together. We used our former daily office during Holy Week and held an Easter Saturday breakfast. So how am I different you ask? You probably wouldn't notice but as I explore and do my "inner work" I feel a continuity and less fragmentation in my life.

In Chicago we have been developing new curriculum to train teachers, agencies and companies in living in a multi-cultural world. It is surprising to realize how broad the spectrum is. There are teachers who think the US is a "melting pot" like it was one or two generations ago. There are teachers who want to "assimilate" everyone into a "macroculture" that is sometimes even called "the traditional American culture". There are teachers who know that we live in a changing culture that has multiple influences that are shaping the macroculture. They are working hard to change the way they teach so that all young adults are learning more.

This year I constructed a six day advanced training for facilitators which is the follow-up to the six day basic facilitation course. The "Renewing Priestly Identity" convocation continues.

I was able to be away for one month during the summer - the longest time I have ever taken to "smell the roses"! Dorothy Hackman and I flew to Milan, Italy and took the train to Assisi, Rome and Florence. We spent time living in Catholic religious guest houses and taking time to walk, to see what we wanted to see and to pray where we wanted to pray. I still have not been able to put into words what happened to me interiorly as

we spent five days in Assisi and two days in Rome.

Being in Czechoslovakia, while attending the ICAI conference and general assembly in Prague, one begins to get a feel for what happens when a country had communism imposed for 40-plus years and then a velvet revolution. Suddenly individuals have decisions to make!

This year I had the opportunity to spend two days in workshops with Peter Russell who created the video "Global Brain" that made James Lovelock's Gaia image of the Planet Earth popular. In October I lead a group in a study of Peter Russell's new book, "The White Hole in Time". He was able to come to our house and spend two hours answering questions from the study group, our staff and other colleagues. That was a fun time. Peter is a person who walks his talk. It's so refreshing!

My daughter Kathy, is in her second year teaching at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. Her husband, Matt, is in his second year doing an undergraduate degree in business. He was on the dean's list. My son, Kent, now lives in River Falls also. He is working for a trapper at the moment.

In 1993 I have trips scheduled to Phoenix, San Francisco, Edmonton and Albany. It is a good thing I like to travel!



The Vances (Bob & Cynthia)

Since much of our consulting work was in the heavily hit Homestead area we lost considerable business.

We began consulting part-time in the Tampa area while saying with Cynthia's mother - very helpful since we had no electricity, water or answering machine in Miami for almost a month.

A second strategy has been to assist some clients, namely a Haitian preschool complex and a housing corporation, by writing grant requests for some of the hurricane-related monies.

The additional time near Tampa gave Bob an opportunity to pursue his fossil collecting and research. He has been doing this for five years now, primarily diving for up to four hours at a time in 15-20 feet. of water at a distance of 200 yards from shore. On his last dive this fall a 4-foot. nurse shark followed him around for 10 minutes until Bob decided that dive was finished!

Bob's health continues to be good with no sign of cancer for two years and vitality better than he has experienced in years. With several colleagues he is writing a chapter for a book on organizational transformation which chronicles our joint consulting learnings.

Other highlights of the year include an RV trip to the Yukon and the Arctic Circle with Bob's brother Denny and his wife Jean. For 3 weeks we experienced what Cynthia calls "gourmet camping" in the lovely Canadian forests. We saw magnificent mountain glaciers and lakes and Cynthia and Jean enjoyed identifying many beautiful wildflowers in the area. We saw mountain sheep, goats, moose, black bear and even a mountain lion. During one hike we noticed grizzly bear and cub tracks fresh after the recent rain so we promptly turned back. It was a wonderful summer vacation. Unfortunately Bob only identified 94 species of birds!

We also had an exciting trip with no-stop conversations with Pam and Terry Bergdall on the way to New Orleans for the national conference of the American Society for Training and Development. We

stopped in northern Florida and the 4 of us floated and snorkelled down the cool Itchetucknee River. It took a long time for all of us to squeeze into those tight wetsuits and we had many laughs over that! We especially enjoyed feasting on 20 pounds of crawdads and beer on the rooftop of Carlos and Katherine Zervigon's condo overlooking the downtown. Bob received the National Excellence Award for our ASTD Miami chapter for last year when he was president.

...Cynthia still sings and raises funds for the Miami Bach Society and plans the programs for Leadership South Dade - deeply caring young leaders working on restoration projects for the zoo, migrant children and housing rehab.

The awesomeness of this past year still overwhelms us. The former drum beats of "mystery, possibility, mystery, possibility" still echo life's unending rhythm that we talked about over the years. We look forward to the inauguration and new energy on the national level.

The Whites

Everyone has asked about Andrew. We were not directly involved in Andrew, we were at least six hours away. Our experience was one of heaviness in the air accompanied by a total stillness. Meanwhile, another kind of wind blew on us causing us to ponder our desires, providing the Mystery with a new opportunity to answer prayers, offer options, shower us with gifts of manna from heaven.

The White family all reunited here early in the year. Instead of Disneyland and Busch Gardens, the days were filled with events of Daytona's Bike week. Such has life always been for us when the Whites have been able to all show up at the same place at the same time. Since we have been

such an unusual family and will continue to be spread out in so many places, we had a precious gift given - to be able to have some time together.

Russell arrived in May to begin a second wave of life. He has established himself in an airplane repair business and is working toward getting his license. It's really fine having this opportunity to get to know him and hang out doing nothing together. The hard part is having to share the TV!!!

Just before Russell's arrival, we were blessed with Apollo the Sunrise, a delightful surge of fire energy around here. He's a yellow tiger cat which Spindle and Judi picked up one evening while out for a walk. Amber took to him right away, but Spindle hissed, growled and sat in a tree outside all day, right up until Thanksgiving.

Judi drove to Whitesboro, NY to her 30th High school reunion in August, had a car accident, sprained her neck and some shoulder muscles, plus a few other strained muscles on her spine. Needless to say, the reunion day was not one of frivolous frantic frolic as planned. Rather it became a privileged entrance into those lost moments. Each encounter with a classmate was a connection with a new acquaintance, with the same sense of bonding that only years of common experiences can form.

Bob continues his job at Handy Way and has a second job weekends. He's committed to getting out of debt by this time next year. Russ gave him a boat motor for Christmas for the boat he's going to get some day and Santa brought a smoker oven for the bass he's going to catch when he goes fishing. In the meantime, he's getting to know folks in town and he's getting a reputation as the man who makes the best pizza pie in town. Some missionary minded folks who are connected with the Heifer Project have been courting him to get involved again, having heard rumours of his African feats in the construction end of things.

Judi chose to not return to Taylor to teach a second year—not being able to work when August's end arrived anyway. In November she took a position at E H Miller School of Exceptional Education where she's a teacher-therapist for six autistic kids. She is able to very directly apply the three year training in psychosynthesis as well as a whole lot of creative venturing with psychophysical exercise. She's chairman of the School Improvement Plan.

We moved to the other side of U.S. Highway 17 with Lake Stella out front and back windows, to 204 Chestnut Street, Crescent City, FL 32112.

Randy is now breeding horses in Oklahoma as well as being a Sgt. in the Army Reserves.

Rob is finally experiencing the joy of being alive as a stage lighting technician in NYC and his son Brandyn is having a great time loving every day in kindergarten.

We welcome new winds of change.



The Whitneys

This has been a "working" year for both of us. Ken has had numerous contracts with national associations, and is active in the Colorado Society of Association Executives. In May he was named to a five-year term with the Golden Urban Renewal Authority, which has been very busy redoing the main street of Golden. Ken also makes beautiful furniture in his spare time!

Clare continues to work as office administrator with COLOG,

Inc., a group of geophysicists specializing in environmental analysis and remediation. We have worked on sites from Alaska to the Virgin Islands, Maine to San Diego this year. We're watching the new administration to get a sense of funding for the next few years, especially for Superfund site cleanup.

Mark is still sharing our house and works for Mt. Sopris Instrument Company, which manufactures geophysical equipment. He attends a community college part time and celebrated his 30th birthday this summer.

Highlights: Going to Lyndonville for Peter's graduation with honors. He has a BA in English and is working at a ski resort in New Hampshire; attending a Shamanic retreat conducted by Larry Ward and beginning to learn about the shamanic tradition and discovering our power animals; escaping Colorado's winter with three days in San Antonio and a wonderful visit with Charles and Doris Hahn; hosting Clare's parents - lots of bridge, visits with friends and sitting on our new patio admiring our garden; and exploring Capital Reef, Bryce Canyon, Zion park, Grand Canyon and Canyon de Chelly in the Navajo Nation and while there are Anasazi ruins, it is a living canyon with flocks of sheep and fields of corn.

We've read some great books: *The Fifth Discipline*, *Women who Run with the Wolves*, *Georgia O'Keefe*; listened to some great concerts—*Carmina Burana*; seen some great plays, and looked at some spectacular views: the stag wandering through an apple orchard at Capital Reef National Park, the awesome view from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon as well as sunsets from our own backyard.

The Ulangcas

Our highlight of the year was our trip to Europe for the Prague Conference.

Our trip continued with an 8-day tour through Italy with a mostly-British group and a guide who gave us good background on what we were seeing in Venice, Rome, and Florence. We then struck out on our own, with a Eurail pass getting us on trains to Luzern, Switzerland; Brussels and Brugge, Belgium; and to a once per decade international flower show, Floriade, in the Netherlands.

Modern-day Romans bustle about (and careen on motorcycles) in the shadow of ruins from the days of the Caesars. They say anywhere in Rome you dig more than a few feet you will find ruins of a previous building, because several cities were built on top of one another. We saw the standing columns and still-visible layout of the Roman Forum, the dank underground catacombs where the early Christians met, and the church on the site of the first church built after it became "legal" to be a Christian (St. John Lateran). The art in the Vatican museum is splendid; they recommend two weeks to see it all. The famous Michelangelo ceiling in the Sistine Chapel has been restored, and the colours fairly glow. St. Peter's is the largest church in the world - with a high altar about the size of our Vestal church's sanctuary. St. Peter's Square is embraced by two open semi-circles of columns with statues atop - designed by Bernini to symbolize two open arms for all the world.

In Florence, Michelangelo's statue of David took our breath away. The white marble creation towers over you - yet is perfect in proportion, and with that look of youth and strength at the moment when David resolves to fight Goliath.

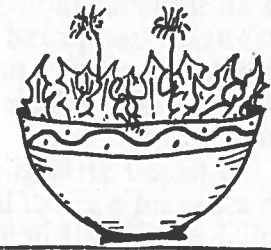
We remember the different kinds of transportation. There was the gondola ride around the canal "streets" of Venice, and the boatride on Lake Luzern, followed by travel

to the top of Mount Pilatus on "the world's steepest cog railway - a 48 degree grade". There was a walking tour of Luzern, Switzerland, a lovely little city just a little bigger than Binghamton. The trams and the metros were marvels of speed and frequency. Perhaps best of all were the trains - incredibly on time, pleasant to ride on, and a great way to see the countryside. "Most Americans have no idea what really good mass transit is like!" commented an ICA colleague; we agree.

Since coming home, we are looking with new eyes at people and places nearby. For instance, what if our city took its history as seriously as Luzern does? Both flaws and heroism were part of the tour spiel, and delegations of school children were in a museum we visited, learning about the past of their city. We might take our history back to the times when native Americans lived in communities not far from here, and face both the heroism and the greed that brought us to where we are today. We view Europe differently too; the Italian struggle with the Mafia, the Czechoslovakian split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia and the economic changes throughout Europe have come alive for us. Finally, we have a new respect for the skills and energy required when people are put into strange situations, with unfamiliar language, money and modes of doing even the simplest things!

Janice enjoys being an announcer and classical "disc Jockey" at WSKG-FM, our public radio station and Abe is active in church and as a volunteer. Both of us are on a strict diet, doctor's orders, to lose about 20 pounds. Weighing and measuring everything and chopping huge quantities of vegetables take time and care but health is worth a lot so we are happy to be on our way with about eight pounds each off since December 1.

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The Wests

Donnamarie and George spent last year in three countries, Peru, Mexico, and USA>

In the USA Donnamarie enjoyed a lengthy visit with her son while she promoted the Creativity Centre and The Space Between program for Mexico and Guatemala. George enjoyed working with John Gibson in his Tournament of Training and facilitating with Jesse Clements. We had the good fortune to be present for the Chicago Area yearly retreat and so to visit with many of our old friends. We made brief visits to family in Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama and friends across the USA.

In Mexico we camped out on Jorge's beach lot in the camper donated by Washington ICA while we got to know the ins and outs of beginning the West's contribution to the Centre for Creativity. What this centre will be is not clearly defined; the nine families venturing on this investment all have similar but different goals and images. Rod, for instance, wants it to be a place for global think tanks of specific focus; Donnamarie is interested in the arts. Rose is setting up training programs across Mexico from her new office at Litibu beach; others are thinking long range.

While camping on the beach we hosted our granddaughter, Kathy Cawthon, for six weeks. This was our first opportunity to get to know her well. As this letter is being written Dm is in Mexico finishing the first phase of construction of the cottage which we are offering for rental "donations" to finance the project.

In Peru we are in a new mode of operation in that almost all the social demonstration projects are in the hands of the Peruvian staff with the exception of reopening the worker-owned cheese factory. The Peruvians have three foci: personal and economic development for women in twenty villages, potable water in two villages, and street children in two locations in the Lima metropolitan area.

The gringos (Hamje, Moore, West) are occasional consultants for the Peruvians and beyond that we are focusing our time on training and facilitation in the development and business communities in Peru and Bolivia mostly, but occasionally in other surrounding countries.

Donnamarie is continuing her interest in intercultural encounters with The Space Between program, but is frustrated by the political and economic instability of Peru which makes people afraid to visit Peru. (This situation is improving in that we have had a year of low inflation and the leader of Sendero Luminosa has been captured). In the interim she launched a probe with extranationals living in Peru which was a one day consciousness-raising event in our training center in the village of Azpitia. She also involved herself (and me) in the annual "Noche del Arte", a gala affair hosted by the US ambassador and his wife, and displaying the work of Peruvian painters and sculptors.

I am involved in the reopening of the cheese factory in Villa El Salvador, a marginal area of 300,000 residents on the outskirts of Lima. The worker-owned plant closed when the government imposed a shock treatment to the economy and the cost of production went up four times. We are now working with the University of Lima's department of industrial development to reopen the factory as a general food processing plant. The United Nation's director of UNIDO is serving on our board of directors of the new business. We

are forming it as a fully fledged corporation in place of the corporation of limited responsibility. In this organization the workers will be shareholders rather than owners. The ownership will be spread over a larger body of people and, we hope, involve more of the population of Villa El Salvador.

A facilitation contract with the World Bank gave Judy and me the opportunity this fall to visit Venezuela and some of my friends there and the people of Cano Negro. The village of Cano Negro is in a new era with the lifting of governmental price control on the sale of cacao (chocolate). The community is reorganizing and ICA: CARACAS is assisting in the process. We had the pleasure of meeting Rita Melo and Miriam Balbela who are in charge of the ICA office in Caracas.

The book of the year for me was/is Covey's *Seven Habits*. I am currently reading his *Principle Leadership* book and teaching a pedagogy course based on the *Seven Habits* book and RS-1. I find him very helpful in these days of missional reorientation.

The event of the year for me was teaching in Indianapolis.

I think for Donnamarie it was the time with her family - granddaughter and son.

The answer is Yes and No.

Best wishes to all.

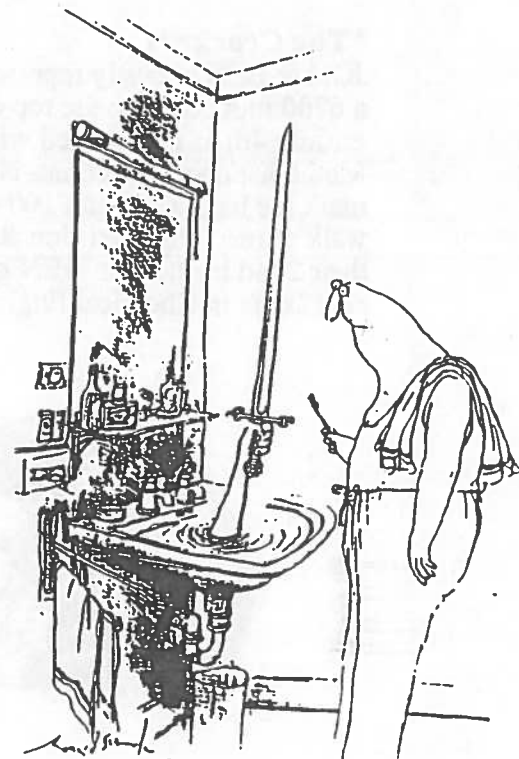
STOP PRESS: *New ICA Books In The Works*

Jim Troxel is serving as general editor for two books describing the results organizations have benefitted from implementing participative approaches. The current title for both is *Participation Works*. The first book will include 10 international business cases and will be available in the Fall of '93. Another book highlighting examples

from the public and human service sector is planned for the Spring of '94. While we are well down the road with the first book in this new series, we are still soliciting case studies of human and public agencies that we have worked with over an extended period of time who have put into place a culture of participation. If you know of such cases, please contact me.

Miles River Press (MRP) of Alexandria, VA, is the publisher. MRP is providing us with complete services from preliminary book plan work to printing, marketing and book fulfillment. The firm, with nine years of organizational transformational niche publishing experience with its *Transforming Leaders* and *Transforming Work* books, is recognized around the world as the leading edge publisher in this arena.

However, with the new book(s), we are trying to reach a much broader market and will rely on MRP's capacities to take us into a new orbit. Therefore, the price we will be paying for our copies of this new series will be slightly higher to cover this marketing cost.



Thunder, Thunderation!

No, we didn't shrink or blow up the kids and pets in the January issue. We cut them out! It was done to keep that Node within a 50 gm. limit. Now we want to insert these important excerpts in this issue.

*** from Beret & Ron Griffith**

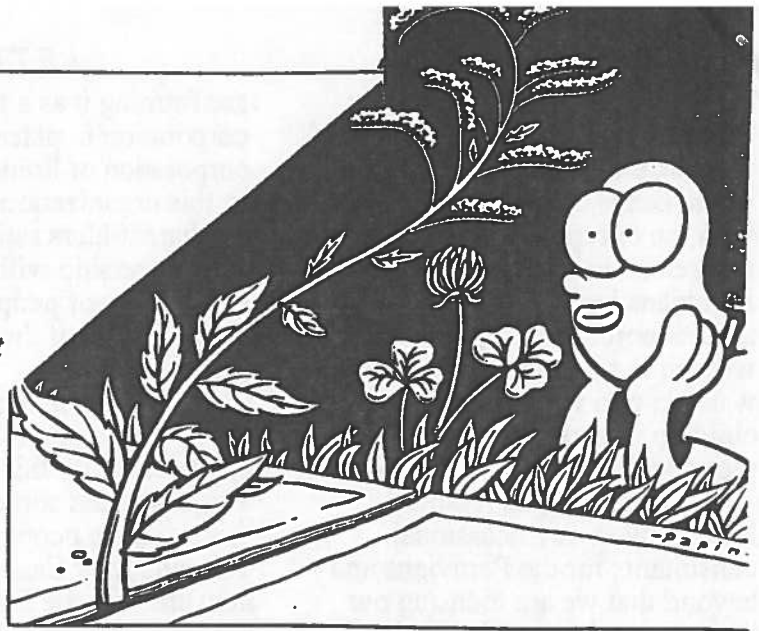
DANA, MAGRID & new granddaughter, EVEA DINORAH KALDAS, visited for Christmas; last July, Ron & Beret visited BENJAMIN & GRETA in their 4th floor walk-up in the East Village. (*The Node* has since heard from Greta in Portugal where she's working with the ICA in the Montemuro region). CHRYSTINA moved to Chicago to begin her graduate work at the Chicago Art Institute School of Art.

*** The Bishop family**

REBECCA's emphasis on inner exploration and working for various aboriginal enterprises such as the Committee to Defend Black Rights; PETER is well advanced in computers at the Commonwealth Bank as a systems analyst and is a keen drummer in his spare time; CATHY is a solicitor for the Commonwealth Government. She sings with Sydney Philharmonia. Her husband John is a photographer.

***The Crockers**

JON & BEN robustly represented the family in a 6700 foot climb to the top of Mt. Washington on July 4th as they joined with others in United Methodist churches across New England to mark the beginning of a 100-day 2500 mile walk of reconciliation. Jon & Ben celebrated their 22nd birthdays. BEN graduated *magna cum laude* in Chemical Engineering from Tufts



University and had summer employment at BIOGEN Inc. working on the development of new therapeutic drugs. He visited Kaye Hayes, his godmother, who is currently working with the San Juan Southern Paiute people in Tuba City, AZ. He has begun graduate studies at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, where his team has been working on a cadaver, affectionately named "Faith".

JON graduated from Amherst College, receiving his degree in Neuroscience and Spanish, and senior prizes for chemistry, Spanish language and literature. He flew to Paris with Amherst College Concert Choir for a three-week concert tour, the highlight of which was singing in Chartres Cathedral. In August he left for a year as a Watson Fellow in Nicaragua where he is conducting a public health research project among the campesinos in the greater Managua area and the Meskito Indians in Alamikamba on the Atlantic Coastal plains. He is also working as an adjunct to an indigenous clinic. Joh plans to attend medical school on completion of his fellowship.

*** The Gilbert "Kids"**

LUKE passed the 21 mark and celebrated by getting the kind of license that identifies him as a responsible alcohol user. His curriculum in Engineering Computing is going well and he works weekend evening shift with one of his friends; AMARA is waiting for responses re college selection. She enjoys the great variety of options in her Senior year and is well settled into a network of friends. Her parents were pleased to learn that she was selected as an Illinois State Scholar. GERGIO is a Brazilian exchange student living with the Gilberts this year. His energy is focused on karate and he anticipates his black belt. He really enjoyed the



season's first snow. RYAN is pleased to have grown significantly & is now taller than Amara. It looks like he intends to read every Science Fiction & Mythic Legend book in the Champaign Public Library and after - who knows.

*** The Hahns**

SHELLEY & SCOTT moved to Bloomington, Indiana, January 1. Shelley is doing research for a physician "headhunter" firm owned by ANN ST. JOHN AND MICHAEL MAY. Scott will be completing a degree at Indiana University. They are looking forward to living in a house (not an apartment). MARSHA, ROY and ERIN bought a house on Chicago's far North Side and have a new dog, Pablo. They are enjoying the joys and challenges of home ownership. Marsha is temporary director of Rogers Park Montessori School and pondering whether to take it on permanently. Roy still works for DuPont, spending half time in SE Asia. Erin is having an outstanding second grade year at Rogers Park Montessori. He also plays Little League, likes to ice skate and is taking swimming lessons.

*** The Hamptons**

LIS is at University of Mary Hardin Baylor which is small and human scale. Lis's roommate

*** The Hoffs.** David entered the middle school at HKIS this year ('92). He is in the 6th grade and loving it. He takes band during school and trumpet lessons outside on Tuesdays from a high school student. David is well into basketball, on a team with boys in grades 6-8. He is learning a lot and his team is doing very well. This year David is in Cotillion. His class is a group of 20 boys and 20 girls who are learning to do ballroom dances like the slow waltz, tango, quick step and jive. In addition to dancing they are learning about good manners. David got his first suit for these lessons and on December 12, the three classes of 120 6th-8th graders had their first dinner dance. David is also doing well academically. He is an avid reader and enjoys math and science particularly. This summer he flew to Texas to visit his cousins and grandmother for two weeks before we came. In August he went to Bangkok to visit his best friend, Jarrid, who moved there two years ago.

*** The Mead/Schrijnens**

MAX's discovery this year has taken him

towards playgroups with his little friends and the gentle art of getting people to do things for you by making funny faces. He is also a fearless fighter, a stealthy mess maker, and a cuddly bear.

PATRICK, who has grown into loving school, particularly his friends, his teacher and maths. He seems to understand instinctively what's important in what he's taught - he came back from school one day saying that "sinners are people who don't know God". Patrick is content within himself, sure of what he likes and dislikes, both affectionate and unwielding. STEFAN does well at school, loves fighting Paul and enjoys his various activities--Scouts, chess, football and clarinet. He is very tender and patient with Max and has learned well how to tease his parents. This year he is preparing to make his first communion and we have all been moved by the profound education he receives about being part of the family of God.

*** The Morrills**

EILEEN and GEORGE and our granddaughters KATHRYN and JENNIFER are still in Toledo, Ohio. George continues with the trading company and Eileen is now a legal assistant in her company. Her real expansion has been with her singing. She recently was in *Nunsense* and is now playing the lead in *Sound of Music*. Both of the girls have also been in several productions with her. Jennifer is presently in *Sound of Music* also. Eileen also teaches voice along with continuing her own lessons. ANITA, SAM AND COURTNEY are in Tacoma, a bare five minutes away. We just had a celebrative breakfast at their house. As well as it being Thanksgiving, today is also my 60th birthday! (Justin also marked his 60th this year.) Courtney is now 2 years old and a beautiful and charming child. Of course, she, like all our granddaughters, is brilliant too. Anita and Sam are still with the Tacoma School District, only now in administrative positions. Sam was just reassigned to a new position within the system, which he is trying to adjust to and Anita is a consultant to other teachers, as well as a manager of certain grants. GENEVIEVE continues to live with us for awhile. She wishes to eventually make her way to Los Angeles, but in the meantime is quite active with a new repertory company in Seattle. She is still avid about acting. In her 6 years in Chicago she acted in several plays and directed two as well. I think she was pretty lonely here at first. Also, it's been hard to find much going on here for her in professional

acting. But she seems to have discovered a number of friends and the acting is beginning to open up to her.

*** The Nichols/Lush Family**

JACK LUSH is in his third year at Jersey City State College and has declared a major in Media Arts with a minor in Theater. His job on campus is working in the theater doing lighting and sound for the productions at the college. JULIE, having turned 5 this September, has begun Kindergarten at Mustard Seed School. Thus far she loves it, but when we have our first parent/teacher conference we will be informed as to how she is actually doing. She is quite a vocalist and enjoys her tap dance class immensely. JO was 3 in August and can spell her name. Though not yet writing the entire name, she does write "oj" with the "j" upside down. He school has moved her into the pre-K class but we told them this was ok as long as they didn't expect her to begin Kindergarten at the age of four. Her interest is in painting and she also loves to sing.

*** The Lanphears**

With BOB, NINA and our delightful grand-daughter, ILARIA, we have the unique experience of connecting with them on a daily basis as we share our lives in community. Their year has been exciting as Bob has launched a "going" business as a creative graphic designer



and Nina is pregnant with their second child. With BRUCE, NANCY and our other delightful grand-daughter RACHEL, we had a wonderful visit in Cincinnati in June just before they moved to Rochester, N.Y. They are both enjoying their new positions at the University of Rochester Children's Hospital. With SANDY and PAUL KRAUSE, who are engaged to be married in June 1993, we are able to get together almost weekly and share with them their activities and plans for creating their new family. Sandy is enjoying her work and looking forward to a new role as manager at the Greenlake Veterinary Clinic, and Paul is immersed in his college studies.

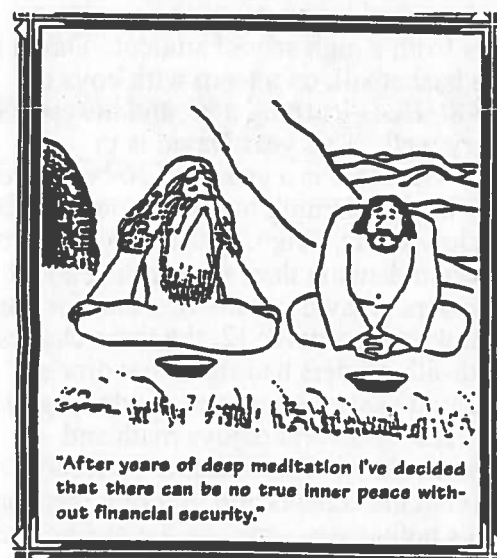
*** The Obergs**

LUCY, the demanding cat, has established herself firmly in the Oberg family, although maintaining her clear understanding that we are here mainly to serve her needs. Somehow this arrangement seems to be acceptable, and Her Catness bestows enough of her favor that we often can maintain the illusion that she is *our* cat. She has met her match, though, as the dog population has mushroomed again around Woodside, and limits her journeys outside to staring matches near the door where a dignified retreat can be quickly made when needed

Hawaiian Prayer

*May the earth
continue to live
May the heavens above
continue to live
May the rains
continue to dampen the land
May the wet forests
continue to grow
Then the flowers
shall bloom
And we people
shall live again*

— from Lanphear's letter



Kenneth Boulding The Completed Life

We celebrate the completed life of colleague, mentor and friend, Kenneth Boulding, who died Thursday, March 18th, 1993.

Boulding's books, *The Image* and *The Meaning of the Twentieth Century*, shaped the early thinking of the Institute and remained an inspiration for all of us as to a better understanding of our collective mission.

Jackie Cress The Completed Life

We celebrate the completed life of Jackie Cress, who died on February 4 of a heart attack in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jackie, who was 58, served with ICA in Alaska, Mississippi, and Washington.

She is survived by four children.

A Memorial Service was conducted for her at the elders home where she last worked at involving senior citizens in significant engagement.

Garnett Kroeger The Completed Life

We celebrate the completed life of long-time colleague Garnett Kroeger, mother of Dick & Amelia Kroeger, and John Kroeger, who died Thursday, January 28, 1993, in Norwich, NY.

We remember Garnett for her enthusiasm and diligence in recruiting and enabling RS-1 courses in the Binghamton and Syracuse Metros, and in orchestrating several of the Town Meetings in New Jersey and New York. She was key to working out a shortened version of the Song, Story, and Symbol workshop which was used in four-hour Town Meetings in our area. We treasure her leadership in Metro studies and other gatherings. Other colleagues may remember her for her participation in ICA summer programs.

She was among the first in the "Rochester Region" to catch the vision of local churches becoming renewed and serving the world, and helped many others to dare to dream that every human being could have a chance at a full life. She was perceptive and realistic about how the world and people really operated. Yet with all the dark side she could see, she always maintained hope, which sustained her and many others who were not so strong. To the end she was eager for news of the kind of new life she found in the Institutes.

We know no person lives forever in this life; yet Garnett was such a Rock that somehow we thought she would always be there. So often we drew upon her understanding, her strategic sense, her courage, her humour. No matter what the difficulty or discouragement, Garnett would always find a way forward. We shall sorely miss this great lady--truly a Warrior from The Other World in the Midst of This World.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

— Janice & Abe Ulangca

Election 92

by T. C. Wright

Cold
 logic
 in the
 numbers
 spilling
 into my
 consciousness
 flowing
 like a
 river
 gorged
 within
 unstoppable
 storm
 building in
 crescendo
 slowly
 but with
 persistence
 showing
 the death
 of hope
 for some
 and a
 glimpse
 of new
 possibility
 for others
 until the
 main event
 comes to
 focus
 and the
 race
 of numbers
 is won.

What is
 the zing
 in this
 zany
 exercise
 of personal
 individual
 rights
 and the
 mechanism
 carefully
 wrought
 to bring
 billions
 of opinions
 onto a
 tiny screen
 in ordered
 pronouncement
 casting
 some in
 some out
 with
 god-like
 impunity?
 by the world's
 What
 sub-branch
 of the
 Mystery
 have we
 lassoed
 to power the
 implementation
 of our
 collective
 will?

This
 frenzied
 frenetic
 dance
 of the
 populace
 will be
 repeated
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 moons
 with all the
 enthusiasm
 of a
 soccer
 match
 but with
 each person
 kicking at
 the ball
 no spectator
 sport.

We have
 here a
 national
 treasure
 cherished
 people
 held in
 awe
 by all
 whose
 lives are
 affected
 deserving
 the healthy
 respect
 of the elect.