

THE NODE

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January 1991

EDITORIAL

This is a fun time of the year for *The Node* because many of you write such newsy letters about your work and human journey as individuals and families. For the April issue, reflections on the decade of the 1990's would be a great addition. Keep the letters coming.

In this year that has started out so violently for our world, may the "hope beyond hope that does not disappoint" be yours.

Jeanette Stanfield

ARTICLES

MONEYS FUNNY!

By Nelson Stover from Brussels

In this rational, organized world we live in, some money transactions seem funny and unpredictable. Within the space of one recent week in my life, several occurrences have been juxtaposed in strange patterns.

To visit friends and family in the United States, I paid \$900 for a round trip airplane ticket. At the rate of pay I earn for doing the work I do, this means trading about 20 hours of my computer consulting time for 20 hours of flight on an airplane in the economy class—presumably a fair fare. The flight from Brussels to New York was fully booked so I was invited to sit in the Business Class at no extra cost. The champagne, free gifts, nice food and wide seats made a pleasant beginning to a month-long odyssey, though I wondered what each of the people in our section had paid to sit there.

On the return trip, I arrived at the regional airport to find that the trans-Atlantic portion of my confirmed booking had been cancelled (presumably because the plane was carrying troops to the Gulf) but that I had been ticketed onto another carrier. When I checked in for that flight at the New York departure lounge, I discovered that this plane, too, was over-booked and that the airline would pay me \$400 not to fly on the flight. If I were willing to spend another six hours in the New York and London airports, I would still get to Brussels, fly business class on the long flight across the ocean and could earn money toward my next flight. I accepted their offer.

Confusion often leads to confusion. On the Sunday afternoon when I arrived in Brussels, on yet a third airline, I discovered that my luggage had not come. The baggage-claim personnel were friendly enough and took down all the details about my lost bags. They seemed to feel confident that the two large bags would arrive on the next day's flight. When the bags had not been seen by Monday afternoon, I called to ask whether there was an allowance available for one who had not received his luggage. The person who answered my phone call, informed me that I could spend up to \$75 for personal effects to get me through until my bags came, and asked me no hard questions. In the next hour I visited two neighbourhood shops and spent \$74 for a new shirt, tie, and socks as well as miscellaneous toiletries which I knew could be used in the weeks ahead. As they promised, when my bags arrived on Tuesday, the airline reimbursed me \$75. Thus, I got back more money than I spent on the return portion of the trip, and still got to the States and back in the champagne section.

Economy has pluses and minuses; but ambiguity comes in deciding what equals what. Within seven days of my return to Brussels, I left the car parked on the wrong side of the street on the last day of the month when the legal parking side switches. The residents of our neighbourhood all know that cars left in the wrong places are promptly towed away by order of the police. This included mine, and since the work was done on a Saturday morning, the cost was double that of normal weekdays. Thus, my negligence cost me \$125.

In the course of the same week, I also wanted to transfer some of the Belgian francs, which I had accrued, to my bank account in the States. When I first looked

at the bank transfer rates on Thursday, the newspaper said that one American dollar was worth 31.5 Belgian francs. But, when I actually got to the bank the following Tuesday the rate had gone up to 32.5 Bfr. to the dollar. In the process of the fluctuating international money market, I lost \$60 over the weekend. Thus, a five-day wait in transferring money cost me half as much as illegally parking my car on a Saturday morning.

In this rational, organized world we live in, some money transactions seem funny and unpredictable. Often, unrelated occurrences become juxtaposed in strange patterns, and determining a balance involves ambiguity.

MORE THAN JUST PRETTY, HOUSEPLANTS CLEAN AIR

Now there's a great reason to love your houseplants — they help improve the quality of the air that you breath.

According to NASA, several common plants can effectively reduce levels of a number of noxious gases found in almost every home or office building.

Spider plant, spathiphyllum, English ivy, chrysanthemum, dracaena, philodendron, golden porthos and palms were among the common plants singled out for special credit.

NASA research suggests that 15 to 20 average-sized foliage plants can clean and refresh the air in an 1800 sq ft. home — approximately one plant per 100 square feet.

Environmental Focus, the Toronto-based environmental support organization, says modern energy-efficient buildings may save on energy costs but lack of



Completely fed up with the whole "New Age" thing, billionaire Bob purchases the entire state of Consciousness.

air circulation allows buildup of harmful gases such as formaldehyde, benzene and trichlorethylene. They come from such seemingly innocent sources as furniture, carpeting, building materials, household cleaning agents, paint, solvent and office equipment such as photocopying machines. The results are itchy eyes, drowsiness, headaches and lethargy.

**OZ REVISTED: DISCOVERING
THE NEW AUSTRALIA
By John Burbidge
(Published in the Australian
Expatriate)**

When people asked me what changes I had noticed in my seven-year absence from Australia, I usually went blank. My mind would race to things like fettuccine and cream of carrot soup on restaurant menus, American-dominated basketball leagues in every capital city and the Vietnamese hair stylist at our local barbers.

On second reflection, it wasn't the particularities that struck me as much as the way they wove together to create a new Australian story - a kind of mulligatawny variety, so different from that which persisted when I was growing up.

Certain themes in this story stood out beyond all the rest. One that quickly captured my attention was the current popularity of Aboriginal culture. I had heard of successful exhibitions of Australian Aboriginal Art around the world but this was something quite different. It was a down-home, middle-class love affair with things aboriginal - didgeridoo playing at the weekend market, T-shirts with tribal designs, aboriginal poetry readings, and most of all, books written by aboriginals.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in the phenomenon called Sally Morgan. I first heard of Sally when I read a review of her Book *My Place* in the New York Times Book Review. My response was, "I've got to find out more about this woman". I didn't have to try too hard. Every bookshop I entered in Australia featured *My Place*, along with Sally Morgan paintings and greeting cards. Every home I went into had a copy of the book on its shelves. I turned on the radio and Sally Morgan was being interviewed.

I couldn't stand it any longer. I bought the book and read it. It didn't come to me as brilliant writing, enjoyable as it was. However, its historical significance was immense. Here was a young part-aboriginal woman telling what it was like to grow up in a family that had denied its own heritage. Having to pry stories and information out of her mother and grandmother, Sally had put together a simple but stunning account of race relations in Australia, from the seldom-heard aborigi-

nal perspective.

I had studied aboriginal anthropology, protested for aboriginal land rights, worked in an aboriginal community and dated a young aboriginal woman for a time. But these were all secondary experiences. Here was the real thing; an aboriginal telling her story, as she experienced it. It was painfully honest writing; therein lay its power.

Not content with merely reading her work, I sought a meeting with Sally. Being in demand as she was, this was not a simple matter. I contacted an aboriginal acquaintance of mine, the 72-year old poet and playwright, Jack Davis. He provided me with the entree and I followed it up. The result was a very friendly and lengthy telephone conversation.

In between chatting with me, Sally had other matters to attend to. "Would you kids turn it down a bit. I'm trying to talk on the phone!" Then, apologetically, she explained, "I've got five of them with me today - three of mine and two of the neighbor's. You'll have to excuse me, John."

Just like her book, unpretentious, down-to-earth, real-life Sally Morgan. And she was Australia's best selling author. I was floored and, at the same time, deeply honored.

The rise in popularity of aboriginal culture has been paralleled by another significant development in Australian society - the realizations that the exploitation and conservation of precious natural resources can and must go hand in hand. Although aboriginal people have lived out of this ethic since their entry into Australia, more recent arrivals have taken a while to recognize its validity and plain common sense.

However, it was strikingly clear to me that the forces of environmentalism had claimed a substantial victory in Australia in recent years. There were many indications of this: the growing presence of the Green Party in Australian politics; the federal government's unwillingness to give into pressure from Australia's largest company to mine uranium in the Kakadu National Park; and intensified management of ecologically sensitive areas such as sand dunes.

At the very least, the issues were on the table. But the way governments and people were responding to those issues varied considerably. I was struck by two dramatically different approaches during my time in Australia. In Western Australia, the government had combined several former departments into one unit called CALM - Conservation and Land management. This unit was responsible for the design and implementation of a balanced land-use plan for the state, involving recreation, forestry, national parks, industrial and agricultural development. No mean feat for a state nearly four times the size

On the opposite side of the continent, the government of Queensland was being attacked by the media for selling off huge tracks of land in Cape York peninsula, for cattle grazing, tourism and a space launching pad. This might not have been such a reprehensible act, had this land been of poor value. It just happens to contain some of the finest rain forests in the world with a number of unique species of flora and fauna.

But of all the changes taking place in Australia, one which addressed me the most was the shifting attitudes and policies towards minorities. Australia's understanding of itself as part of Asia had taken a new turn. The Vietnamization of whole suburbs of Sydney, the international school for Japanese businessmen, Chinese investment in the newly opened Channar iron ore-mine in the northwest - these were a few of the clues that told me Australia had staked its future as part of the Asian hemisphere.

I remember, with some regret, missing out on taking Asian languages in high school in the early 1960s. Throughout secondary school, my options for foreign languages were French and German. The year I left high school, Japanese and Bahasa Indonesian were introduced on an experimental basis. Such languages are now a standard part of many school curriculum.

Australia's struggle to acknowledge itself as a pluralistic society is most apparent in its treatment of another less visible minority - gays and lesbians. Australia has a checkered history in dealing with its homosexual citizens, but their achievements are none to sneeze at. The greatest effort has been to persuade the government to allow foreign partners of Australian gays and lesbians to enter the country, work legally and eventually gain permanent residence. It leads the world in this respect.

The other "group" whose status seems to have improved significantly in Australia in recent years is women. Often treated by their male counterparts as second-class citizens, women have made a contribution to Australia's development that has been grossly underestimated. However, they have begun to command a new level of respect in many walks of life.

One of the first people I called on in Australia was a journalist friend from high school days. I'd keep running into her articles in papers around the world, from Harare to London to New York. She's a top-rate investigative journalist with a most personable style. Having been out of touch with Australia for so long, I was keen to have her reading on where the country was at these days.

"Shysters and crooks, the whole bunch of them," she said contemptuously, referring to the highly controversial business

dealings of the Western Australian government of the day.

In between nursing her baby, ordering a new set of curtains, dictating her weekly newspaper column over the phone and treating me to coffee and cake, she provided me with a wonderful introduction to Australia. It wasn't so much what she said but her compassionate, no-holes-barred approach to life that captivated me. Shortly after I had returned to the United States, I heard that the party in government which she had so acerbically described, had decided to change its leadership. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that they had elected a woman, Carmen Lawrence, as leader and state premier. For the first time in its history, Australia had a woman head of government. Things indeed had shifted.

As I mulled over the changes I'd experienced in my brief interlude in Australia, one image kept inserting itself in my mind. It was that of a kaleidoscope of shifting values, attitudes and life-styles that were forming and reforming into something brand new. Aboriginal culture, minority rights and environmentalism were three of the more visible parts of the pattern, distinct yet intricately related.

This experience was capsulized for me in one short phrase. Painted in large, rusty brown letters on an abandoned woolshed on the outskirts of Fremantle were the words: Land Rights for Gay Whales. I couldn't have said it better!

In the midst of this emerging new design, Australians were adjusting to the changes taking place

in their society and in the world at large. There was a buoyancy in the air, an optimism not always associated with those from the Land Down Under. A story in the national news magazine, "The Bulletin/Newsweek, conveyed this new spirit. Its headline read "Why Australia is the best place in the world to live".

It began: "We're not perfect, but sometimes we forget that we have plenty to be proud of in this country. Let's stop knocking ourselves for a minute. We're creative, we're tolerant and we're humane. We're better fed, better educated, better organized, and better entertained than at any time in our history."

Or, as they say in Australia when expressing strong approval for something, "Not bad, mate."

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"HARMONICALISM" AND THE VECTOR PATTERN By Bill Edwards

(Bill is in the process of writing a book on this subject. He has made available to us a paper from which this excerpt comes. If you wish a copy of the paper, please request it.)

(opening of paper) One evening in August 1988, I had a kind of "vision" in which everything in the room was surrounded by a halo of light for no apparent reason. I then began to think about the number 9, and discovered that the sum of its integers on multiplication always equals 9. Perhaps most people learn this at school; not I. It came to me as an interesting revelation.

The Power of 9

On the matrix of 64 squares, I plotted the numbers 1 through 9, multiplied by 2 and with their integers added. Then I joined, line by line from each axis, the resulting points on the grid. Thereby was created a pattern of 4 "vectors" (the use of this mathematical term to describe the figures may be inaccurate, but it is fairly descriptive), ascending in size from 1, through 2 and 3, to 4. In other words, it was in effect an inverted picture of the Pythagorean Tetraktys or Decad $(1+2+3+4) = 10$. Each vector has a top angle of 67.5 degrees, "wing" angles of 25.25 (and with the joining of the tips of a vector 56.25) degrees. If the tips of all four vectors are joined and the lines joining them are extended beyond the 64-square grid, they end in an angle of 37.5 degrees.

It was while I was painting the pattern in a number of different design contexts that I began to notice a phenomenon: the pattern contained some remarkable numerical relationships, both internally, in the sense of its own interconnections, and externally, in its connections with certain constants and formulae.

(closing of paper) Dr. Oliver Sacks says: "...mathematicians have always felt number as the great mystery and the world as organized, mysteriously, by the power of number."

We are talking here, I have no doubt, about the power which at times seems to evince a studied inattention to our personal and petty issues and at other times to respond with just what we have in some way indicated to it is our present need. But, with all respect to Sacks, it is not only mathematicians who experience the world as organized by the power of number. Others of us, from among the great body of the innumerate (in whose van I

proudly stand), may also be affected by this "harmonical sensibility". For it is, after all, not mere "numberness" itself which (to most of us) becomes significant, but the "teleology" of a given number: what it does, what its purpose is and where it seems to fit into what may be a broader scheme of things, a system of order. (From the account of The Twins, it is true that their interest in, for example, prime numbers may be more "pure" than I am here suggesting). Mathematical ability as we understand it may not be a particularly important attribute or prerequisite for spontaneous numerical "harmonicalism", and, indeed, may hinder rather than encourage its appearance.

If, as Sacks suggests might be the case, "the need to find or feel some ultimate harmony or order is a universal of the mind," and if we are coming to know that to be so, we may not be awestruck to discover that, in patterns like that of the vector, there are relationships which point toward ultimate order, ultimate harmony. It will be natural for us to find such patterns, for the "need to find", by this point of time in our evolution, will have developed amongst us the corresponding "sensibility" to satisfy that need. Rare, as Sacks says, may that sensibility be, yet, perhaps, the incidence of its occurrence is increasing. Or, maybe, the little leaven in the bread will be sufficient.

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REPORTS

THE ICA AND LENS INTERNATIONAL INC. JAPAN

(Exerpts from the 1990 program report)

1990 has begun to reveal the dream conceptualized in 1987 for the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program in Japan. The work began by creating a signal Rotary District in Saitama where George Kawai, ICA board chairman, is the district chairman for youth exchange.

George and Joan Knutson have been creating curriculum for the training of out-bound Japanese students, international in-bound students and the returned Japanese Rotex students. The program has gained the attention of other districts. In June, George and Joan began training four other districts in the methods and curriculum they have developed.

Work with women this year included being asked to be a speaker in the field of education at a Career Day for Foreign Executive Women in Tokyo. Joan also did a strategic planning for Japanese

Women's Cultural Exchange Group.

For the past three years, Joan has been working with a group called Japan Psychological Services who we met through Jean Houston's work. The group has been studying *The Possible Human*, and has moved on to *The Power of Myth*. This unusual group is keen on incorporating the methods and ideas into their work in Japan and has begun this pioneering work.

A highlight of this year was participating in the Earthwise Learning Series in Chicago this summer and teaching in the New Image of Learning Module. During the week teams refined the work of the past year on the four existing modules.

LENS International Inc in Japan saw the year of 1990 as a year of positioning in the vast marketplace of Japan. We kept a low key emphasis on marketing, and focused on deepening our relationships with emerging partners in organizational transformation: Kanematsu Personnel Services (for medium and large business), Osaka Sanai (for retail networks), and NOMA (for local government development and training). We also relied upon colleagues to market and facilitate LENS in their special interest arenas.

Our second downbeat in positioning was to experiment with a variety of designs, materials, and methods, becoming more responsive to the particular needs of the Japanese market. In particular, we created detailed participant workbooks which guided them clearly through the process, and which could be used as a simplified resource for their use of the methods within their organization.

Thirdly, we chose to position ourselves in the international development market, creating an ICA International Partnership Program. During this year, we arranged and delivered a forestry technical expertise and financial assistance program to Miisi, The Philippines, in cooperation with ICA Manila; arranged for a water development grant, and a cattle development technical expertise and financial assistance program for the Malegaon Cluster in cooperation with ICA Pune. Initial dialogue for programs for 1991 were begun.

Our recent discussions with two of our marketing agents project a three fold increase in the number of programs they expect to arrange in 1991. This creates a grand challenge for us to provide the structures and trained human resources necessary to enter our expansion phase, while developing new programs, and expanding the Partnership Program.

(A listing of LENS programs done in 1990 up until October 31 revealed that 10 events were held with the Business Sector, 12 with the Local Community and Local Government, 2 with the Religious

Sector, 2 with the Education sector, and 3 International Partnership Programs were completed or in process.)

ICA PHILIPPINES NEWS

1990

(Excerpts)

Our development work is with both rural and urban poor communities. Our focus has been : project planning and facilitation, liaison work with government offices, proposal writing, designing and setting up conferences and workshops, researching markets for locally-made handicrafts, and documenting the impact of programs through interviews and reports.

On going activities have been related to Bicol Region Community Development, Basilan Provincial Community Development, and Mandaluyong Urban Poor Community Development program.

In the Bicol Region project, we have set up livelihood programs at the barangay level and created reforestation projects. Livelihood activities in eight barangays of Tiwi and Albay include: organizing agriculture demonstration plots, tree planting, handicrafts, education and information dissemination on health, sanitation, nutrition, and pre-school curriculum.

In reforestation in the Bicol Region, a 100 -hectare of land at the foot of the Mayon Volcano has been committed to a reforestation program for the next three years. It has been duly approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and involves funding which amounts to 1.6 million. Joint efforts of ICA Philippines and DENR got the cooperation of the Mi-isi Mayon Farmers Association, three Japanese foresters and our local foresters in Mi-isi. Recruitment of the Japanese technical staff was initiated by ICA Japan and co-sponsored by the Association for Internal Cooperation of Agriculture and Forestry of Japan. The project is aimed at reforesting government lands in Mi-isi. Supporting the worldwide thrust on environmental conservation and management today, the project seeks to restore ecological balance of the watershed and further prevent the degradation of the said hectareage.

In the Basilan program, ICA works with provincial agencies to coordinate programs. Implementation is executed at the barangay level in different municipalities. There are two projects: the Balagtas Potable Water Project and the Maloong-Legion Deep Well Project.

In the Mandaluyong Urban Poor Community program, the project involves upgrading living conditions of a community situated at the back of the municipal cemetery. There are 1100 residents. The

site used to be a swamp area of less than 1/2 hectare. To date, the public faucet systems have been converted to individual housing faucets, duly approved by the Metropolitan Water and Sewage System. In place is a community drainage system, cemented walkways, a minipark, house facade improvements, a basketball court, increased community involvement, a community clustering system in which there are 12 family cluster care teams and a community youth awareness program. There has been community exposure to government and business linkages.

In relationship to the future, we look forward to expanding our work in the Mandaluyong area and in the Bicol region. In Backside we are currently implementing a commercialized individual housing water system, in coordination with the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System. In Bicol, we are currently negotiating , at DENRs invitation, fruit tree produce and rattan cultivation in the forest . In other regions of the country such as Cebu, Zamboanga, and Davao, plans for reforestation projects are being seriously considered.

In July, 1989, ICA Taiwan recruited Taiwanese to come to the Philippines for a six day tour. ICA Philippines served to facilitate this exchange program. We arranged hotel accommodations, dining at famous seafood restaurants, tickets for cultural dance presentations and fire walker religions ceremonies, shopping trips, and provincial trips to famous beauty spots in the country such as Taal Volcano, Hundred Islands, Baguio City, Sagada Banaue, and key spots in Metropolitan Manila. We would be glad to arrange similar tours for others. Please contact Jose or Zenaida Armas, 603 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong 1501, Metro Manila, Philippines. Telephone (632) 78-00-71 to 76, Fax (632)- 78-00-74, Telex 45434 Attn. J. Armas. (ansbk PEN PM).

We continue to encourage volunteer workers from the country and outside, to support us in our projects in the Bicol Region and in Basilan. We require our volunteers to shoulder their own travel expenses to and from the Philippines and to contribute \$200 per month to cover food and lodging.

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES From the ICA Brazil Newsletter

The economic dimension of life here in Brazil is a never-ending challenge and full of surprises. Last year for instance, inflation reached 50% per month, with a yearly total of 1765%; and yet business profits were the highest of the decade. Also, last year the US dollar exchange

rate was very high and kept up with inflation.

This year has been totally different. Inflation reached 84% in March, and then dropped to zero with the "Collor Plan" initiated by Brazil's president, and has remained relatively low since then - about 12% per month. The plan seems to have enough teeth in it to keep hyper-inflation under control and hopefully to reduce the 12%.

All this is good for Brazil and the ICA in the long run. Nevertheless the plan has had an unexpected side effect. The value of the US dollar fell by 50% and its purchasing power has stayed at that level ever since. The effect on our short term finances has been dramatic, since virtually all of our project income is in US dollars and our program billings have been based on that dollar.

The end result, after minimising expenses, is that we must raise an extra US \$43,000 to complete the year - \$31,000 for Rio Bonito project and \$12,000 for consulting services. Needless to say everything possible is being done to fill the gap, and any and all help is more than welcome.

We are tempted to join the throng with cries, gnashing of teeth, despair, hopelessness. Yet we know that this would be to act out of immediacy and not out of faith. Dark days come and so does the sunshine. While responding to the objective crisis before us, can we maintain our internal equilibrium? We have lived long enough to believe that a way will be found.

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"I belong," declared Fernando Collor de Mello, new president of Brazil, "to the generation that cried out in warning against the development model that was geared in the direction of destroying, or exhausting, life on earth... My government will be in the forefront of the rational and balanced treatment of the ecological questions".

Quote from *World Watch*.
(Reprinted in Pacific Waves, magazine of ICA Sydney.)

WHOLE SYSTEMS EXPERIENCES IN RURAL MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

By Jan Sanders

Several of us who are part of the ICA network have returned from a week in Venezuela participating in Whole System Transition Think Tank. The think tank has emerged over the years to be a place to deepen our thinking and processes on the emerging civilization. Twenty five people have committed to reflect and document there own change personally and organizationally. The think tank has provided the place to deepen that thinking and provide processes of visioning outrageous thoughts.

We were invited to BocoNo by Jose Elias Graffe and Teresita de Bocaranda. Because the think tank is planetary in scope they felt it was essential to gather outside the North American setting. They were right!

BocoNo is a rural mountain village about 300 miles southwest of Caracas. The setting provided us with majestic views from which to peer into the future and the past. The mayor and his friends hosted a reception upon our arrival in an old hosienda overlooking the valley. The team was joined by Tony Beltran, 2 other ICA board members and 3 colleagues of Jose and Tersita.

We balanced the days between sharing our work of the last few months, and exploring BocoNo. It seemed that at every turn the village had something to share with us about Whole Systems. One evening we visited a local TV station run totally by children 4-15 years old. They were doing the interviews, the programming and the tapes. One afternoon in an ancient church we explored chaotic time with an ancient drum used in the Christmas parade. We called this an instant multicultural celebration. Another evening provided the opportunity for dancing in the village square. It wasn't until later that we learned that the villagers hadn't danced in the square for hundreds of years. Perhaps they too felt that it needed to begin again.

Part of our time together focused on upcoming projects. Jean Houston will continue to write a book on Whole System Transition with our input on experiences; we currently have enough raw data for several books! The second meta-project is exploring a three year school of WST. An initial launch date would be Summer or Winter '92. Each one of us will also continue with our own application of WST. Most of our project work is falling into several major categories-- education, health, organization change, multi-cultural/spiritual exploration, the judicial system, homeless and battered women, and the environment.

Each one of us took from BocoNo a sense of the deep spirit/social journey we are on.

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REFLECTIONS

CELEBRATING MY SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY

By Joe Slicker

I had no idea that a wonderful surprise was in the air. Bill and Phyllis, Joanne and John, and John, with Anne did everything without my ever suspecting a thing. Needless to say I was overwhelmed as well as overjoyed.

At a family meeting over Thanksgiving they each gave me a gift which I anticipated. Then they presented me with this huge album. I still didn't know what was taking place. As I opened and began to thumb through it, it dawned on me what many of you had done.

As I went through the album, each card, letter, and picture presented me with a kaleidoscope of images. Memories and accompanying emotions swept over me as I again recalled each of you and what you have meant and still mean to me. Your names, references and pictures swirled the past and memories of experiences we had together in a way that sent me into ecstasy. I had to go through the pages slowly, however, for a person my age can only stand so much pressure on the heart.

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The following three reflections are occasioned by the *Our Common Future* Conference held in Taiwan in November, 1990. For more complete reports of the conference, please see ICA and ICAI newsletters.

SOME REFLECTIONS FROM EAST TO WEST

By Karen Troxel
(Excerpts)

"the salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than in the human heart, in the human power to reflect, in human meekness and in human responsibility."
" Vaclav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia.

Since returning from three weeks in Asia, I wrote these reflections, which I wish to share with you.

The Preparation. In 1988 at the ICA's "Our Common Future Conference" in Mexico in 1988, there was a workshop topic on "The Year 2020" where visionary images for the next thirty years were discussed. Since then I have been a part of a "2020 Team", seeking effective strategies in the 1990s that will support a healthy planet. As the Taiwan "Our Common Future Conference" approached, I saw it as an opportunity for revisioning, reflection and brooding on the future.

Japan. On an overnight layover in Tokyo I had dinner with Joan Knutson, the Ellsworths and the St. Johns. There was a quiet tone of excitement as everyone talked about their programs. More programs were held in Japan this past year than in any other year. They treated me to a "Flower Dinner" - the most exquisitely beautiful and delicate meal I have ever tasted. It was a reminder that in Japan the visual beauty of the food is as important as the tasting of it. Visiting the ICA residence was a sampling of the elegant simplicity of the Japanese culture.

Malaysia I spent one week with Ann and John Epps, Evelyn and Larry Philbrook, Edna and Philip Anandan and Josephine, a Dutch volunteer. Three major images: First, Malaysia's development as a nation is obvious. It's energetic economy is growing more than ten percent a year. Second, Ann Epps hosted a "High Tea at the Hilton" to discuss education and the development of ICA's Earthwise Learning Series. It was a delightful interchange with women passionate about education: Evelyn Philbrook, an ICA delegate at the Education for All Conference in Thailand; Audrey Fernando, a school teacher who practices every creative method she can discover, and Fatima Hadan, who has just retired as Dean of Education at the University of Malaysia. She has a vision for starting the first free university in Malaysia. There was great enthusiasm for developing the Earthwise curriculum as these women discussed the possibilities of module research and testing in Malaysia. The third image was the strength of the ICA and LENS programs in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. I felt honored to help facilitate a Caltex Customer Service programme in Indonesia. The residential space and newly acquired LENS office are quite lovely and comfortable. I particularly enjoyed our reflections together about the future.

Hong Kong. An overnight visit with colleagues in Hong Kong made me wish I had time to visit the International School where Mary Hoff is principal and Sue Oberg teaches. I wanted to see the edge curriculum they are demonstrating. Early in the morning I trekked up a mountain and exercised with some Chinese people and went to get my visa

to the mainland.

Canton. By 8:00 P.M. I was on a streamliner into China, arriving in Canton at 7:00 A.M. I spent the day walking through the city parks, temples, markets, and museums. It reminded me of living in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in 1975: the dust, the population density, the architecture, the motorcycles and bicycles and very little English spoken. Memories of Tiananmen Square made me cautious about discussing any political views with Chinese students eager to learn English at the train station.

Taiwan. On arrival in Taipei one sees four lane highways with the same green signs marking US highways -- again the Western model of development is being imitated as quickly as possible. The stories about the future of rapid development are devastating however. Reports like "Taiwan: From Economic Miracle to Ecological Debacle" state that 20% of the land is poisoned from chemicals and industrialization, 30% of the rice is contaminated with heavy metals, and most of the rivers are ecologically dead. At the present accelerated rate of development, Taiwan will be uninhabitable by the year 2000. The cloudy days and general haze are a daily reminder of the pollution issues.

In contrast to the deteriorating environment was the mountain across the street from the conference center where the "Our Common Future Conference" was held. There were more than 300 steps up to the Buddhist Temple. Up there the mountain took on new life. People climb the steps daily to have tea or breakfast at their clubs, to take Tai Chi classes, play badminton games, do their exercises, or sell their wares. The first morning, sweating and exhausted by the climb, I was offered a cup of tea. The teapot looked like a cup and the cup was about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. I still experience the wonder of enjoying that cup of tea. It reminded me of how little is really needed to quench the thirst. This gets forgotten in the world of my daily experience: the world of much. A daily mountain trek became my reflective time, experiencing the individuals and small groups encountering the day and each other in a celebration of good health and chattering interchange. It was a step away from the urban congestion into a world of community spirit.

Our Common Future Conference. After attending the "Our Common Future Conference" I had several reflections. The Organizational Transformation Network and the Lifelong Education Network over this past year seem to be in strong alignment with each other. Both are raising the question of what is the journey that empowers vocational commitment beyond local engagement. Both are building curriculum which reflects a

holistic perspective, sharing tools which enable effectiveness, and providing spirit reflection that creates new awareness, motivity and responsible action.

A uniqueness of the conference was its pioneering effort as an electronic conference. As a result every participant was able to have the conference results home on a disk vs. taking home 'a tree's worth' of paper. Interspersed throughout the conference were Tai Chi lessons, a demonstration of awesome Chinese acrobatics, visits to the ICA office, the night markets, hot springs and the museum. Taiwan's Department of Interior honored the ICA by hosting a luncheon at the Grand Hotel, providing a collegial atmosphere to celebrate the conference and the future.

The ICAI Board reflections on their commitments for the next two years was a highlight of the finale.

The Return. When one touches down in seven nations over a three week period new consciousness is part of the experience. Jet lag may enable the dynamic of reverse culture shock: the new and unexpected awareness one brings back to the familiar, causing one to see in new ways. I began this trip hoping for a renewed vision and returned with a sense of 'emptying my mind' and "letting go". At the same time I am aware of hearing and seeing with new perspective. There is a drive to create a unifying image.

I find myself mulling over a global vision shared in the Organizational Transformation Network. The economic acceleration experienced in the East is a unifying force. The West is experiencing unifying political relationships in Europe and between the USA and the Soviet Union. Now the need is greatest in the South in Africa, Middle East and Latin America. Deep cultural tensions often become confrontational. What would it look like if we focused attention on the South? What difference could we make in the 90s relative to global stability if we turned our collective attention there? What if we came into the 1992 conference in Europe with fresh ways of directly participating in the cares and needs of the south? How could North America link with Latin America in new ways?

Since my return from Taiwan, I am trying to practice several new habits (as talked about in Stephen Covey's book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*). Watching the sunrise each morning in Kuala Lumpur has inspired me to watch it rise over Lake Michigan. I am also taking more time to "stop the world". The conference stopped the world and seemed to nurture a new interior rhythm. Part of it was the awareness that fast-paced acceleration as modeled by the West is not the direction for creating a stable global future. There is a challenge to create another response. Being in the presence

of colleagues who themselves model a deep reflective posture enabled this awareness. The image of "living lightly on the earth" is a reoccurring theme. I am doing this by bringing more simplicity into space, having a cup of tea with colleagues, and following Peter Hu's advice: "only fill your stomach 60% when eating if you want to live a long life". I am also "walking the stairs" instead of taking the new automatic elevators in order to remember the mountain climb and participate daily in healthy exercise. Walking to the 8th floor is not as far up as the mountain climb was. I now can walk it without too much panting. Finally, I am "allowing nature to be a teacher".

Thanks to global hosts, the Taiwan Team and Asian Network, I returned home with a renewed global perspective. I believe more than ever that shaping the cultural images in the West for the 90s will strongly influence the globe. It is good to be shaping the future direction of the Institute of *Cultural Affairs*.

DO YOU LIKE BEING A CATERPILLAR?

By Shirley St. John

If this conference hadn't been "in my backyard", I might not have gone. Obviously, many people chose not to come and under the financial rationalization, I could relate to the fear that this might be the final funeral of the ICA. As the conference unfolded, my consciousness of the wonderful, subtle changes began to form. In our metamorphosis, we haven't become butterflies yet, but we are definitely healthy caterpillars eagerly munching the new and transforming it and ourselves into a new reality.

Specifically, what did I see? From the symposium to the network meetings, it became clear that there was a balance among all four networks, and an inextricable relationship among them as well. In Mexico, the Economic Network seemed to be dominant with Education second, and Development and Environment/Spirit some place behind them. In Taiwan as the meeting began, the Economic Network articulated their growing awareness of the inter-relationship by saying, "We are all one network." As the meeting evolved, we saw four strong networks each of which informed all the others. The networking among the networks was a window into what networking really is. (Those industrial images are hard to get rid of.) It felt like four large capacity computers that were linked and all four were inputting and interchanging constantly.

In terms of methods, it was interesting for me to realize that the place where the

mood rose and excitement developed was where we were stating the objective and then reflecting on it. For example, the displays by each local ICA stimulated much interchange and enthusiasm as did a ritual which led us to decide where we were in the change process and a conversation with others who felt they were in the same place. In contrast, the mood went down when we tried to vision the future and project actions from the vision.

It seems to be the time of the Artform Method.

In the midst of a paradigm shift, one of the most distressing things for me is that my old stories don't fit my new realities. In Mexico, I started telling the story that we have always been a research, training and demonstration group and that we are now beginning a new research phase. My problem was I couldn't articulate what it is that we are researching. In Taiwan it became clearer to me. We are researching how to learn in this new paradigm. This means that we recognize our planetary oneness, and the urgent responsibility we have to create ecologically sound systems. However, we also recognize the overwhelming amount of data in the information age and the need for new ways to process information. In this new swirl of possibility how do we learn to learn effectively for a life of 80+ years? Not only is that a challenge worthy of expenditure, but it builds on our previous experience. In the first cycle of the spiral, we developed the social methods and intellectual curriculum for the renewal of the local church. In the second cycle of the spiral we developed the methods and intellectual curriculum for the awakening and renewal of communities in various forms of development. Now, in the third cycle of the spiral, we have the opportunity to focus on *How to Learn* for a life time in an ecologically sound, planetary society.

In the midst of the growing awareness that there are many spirit sensitive people in the world looking for linkages, it was interesting to notice what we did and did not talk about. We did not talk about the Order which was a big issue in Mexico. We did talk about what is the ICA? This question went from "Ho-hum, not again" to an intense resonance when it moved toward issues like an alliance of spirit colleagues and away from "who is a qualified...what is an adequate percentage...etc." Maybe the image of a global servant force for the planet committed to enabling all to learn how to live in balance in this new paradigm is a worthy invitation to the next cycle on this spiral. Funny thing. We are becoming our name: The Institute of Cultural Affairs.

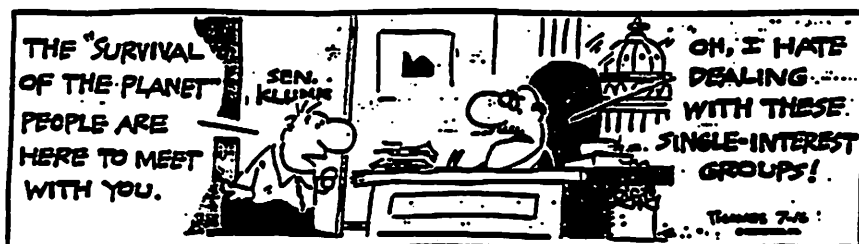
We owe great thanks to our colleagues in Taipei for their courage in persevering in the face of limited support and for the refreshing experience they created through the presentations of an exciting group of Asians who are being the best of the new paradigm.

JOURNEY TO THE PACIFIC RIM

By Terrence C. Wright

Our journey to the Pacific Rim was a rewarding one. Being greeted by a two-day symposium of experts on Asia was an invitation to explore the depths of our understanding of human sameness and differences. We heard of a social model of planned change, a nature-seated basis for determining architectural use of a site, East-West medicine, a low-energy future, orientative philosophy (as opposed to cognitive), and a proposal to import labor to Taiwan. The 21st century was pictured as a time of neo-order. Eastern

Frank & Ernest



Europe wants not just another political system but a whole new paradigm based on communal sharing. This explosion of images confirmed that the winds of change are global and revolutionary indeed. The overarching theme seemed to be one of coming together, merging, the interpenetration of life with life, and life with reality.

ICA business was conducted as usual at these gatherings. One major difference this time was the presence of ICAI as a proven viable companion in the task. In some cases it plays a legitimizing role in the situation, in others the role is that of valuable resource. Its Board met at the conference and in its reports showed wisdom and insight into the complexities of our working body. The networks: Organizational Transformation, Sustainable Development, Life-long Education, and Planetary Ecology - worked very hard to report, and then to analyze and plan. If Oaxtepec was a time of reunion and resolve for me, then Taiwan can be characterized by such images as intensity and mastery. The aim was to get to the heart of the matter - what makes a program tick, what Earthwise must do in the next fourteen months, what the Europe '92 meeting needs to be. Good solid articulation was the result.

One of the four networks of ICA is a fledgling and yet it is the oldest of the four. EI/ICA has been about consciousness-raising since mid-century. Now we have a name and a network for it: Planetary Ecology. We awaken people to an ecology of cultures, an ecology of human awareness, an ecology of environmental concerns. The Planetary Ecology Network offers us a frame of reference which can pull these efforts together in a significant way. In many ways the coming into its own of this network is a key, impressive product of the Taiwan conference.

(Editorial Note: We will gratefully receive any further reflections participants in Taiwan may have on the conference and on visiting countries in Asia.)

PEOPLE

Frank Bremner
Adelaide, Australia

I am thinking of applying to do one of the University of Western Sydney courses next year. They look like a good opportunity to reflect and integrate. I'm teaching two year 9 maths classes at Wirreanda High School this term. In Term 3 I went to a series run by the Catholic Adult Education Service called

The Cosmic Christ. It was run by theologian/pastoral worker Father Dennis Edwards for about 40 people of very mixed backgrounds. They covered the work of Teilhard de Chardin, Fox, Berry, McFague and Rahner. (Edit. Note: Frank has one of the most comprehensive OE/EI/ICA archive systems in Australia.)

**Joseph, Marilyn,
Jon and Ben Crocker**
Winthrop, MA, USA

This year for Joe has been an investment of time, energy and passion in the continuing ministry to First Church of Winthrop, United Methodist. The community and congregation are a great gift - a paradox in their classic "New England reserve and prudence" on one hand, and their generous spirit and outreach on the other. An enlivening sign of the congregation's growing commitment to relate to the world is Dr. Belinda Forbes. She is a young, talented dentist and leader in many capacities of the church, who has decided to take a year's absence from her dental practice in East Boston to serve the poorest of the poor in a barrio of 65,000 in Managua, Nicaragua.

As for Marilyn, after a 25 year hiatus, she is eyebrow-deep in full-time doctoral studies at Boston University's School of Education in the Administration, Planning and Policy Program. She also has the good fortune of working as an assistant to Dr. Mary Shann: key B.U. educational research and experienced consultant in educational systems for developing nations. It has been stimulating and reassuring to be invited to use practical life experience from the village, the corporation, the church and EI/ICA as grist for current course projects. Her consulting work in planning and organizational development has continued, but on a greatly reduced basis.

Jon is in his third year at Amherst College, double majoring in neuroscience and Spanish. In addition to serving as a resident counselor for his dormitory, he sings baritone in the Amherst Concert Choir and in the male a capella group, the Zumbeyes. Last summer he received a Hughes scholarship to work on campus with his chemistry professor and then completed the vacation period with two weeks as a volunteer counsellor at Paul Newman's *Hole in the Wall Gang Camp* for children with cancer and blood related diseases. He continues to enjoy his photography.

Ben is surviving the regimen of third year chemical engineering at Tufts University and also continues work in the area of gene cloning for research in inflammatory diseases at Biogen, Inc, in Cambridge, last summer's place of

employment. He sings bass with 12 other Tufts men in an a capella group called the Beelzebubs, and has maintained a schedule of weekend "gigs" that have covered many campuses in the northeast and mid-west. They'll be singing in Paris this spring. Ben enjoys playing his violin in duets and continues to develop his gift of writing.

Several key events have enriched our lives. Joe and Marilyn attended a seminar on *Creation Spirituality* this summer, at which Matthew Fox, Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry were leaders.

Later, in various combinations, we relaxed on the coast of Maine, went white water rafting, and vacationed with extended family in Nova Scotia and Cape Cod. Jon and Ben were reunited with many of their colleagues from the Student House last summer and fall and continue to treasure the renewal of ICA Youth friendships.

We, like you, are now under the current shadow of war. The events which seem to be leading to military conflict are not just distantly located in the Persian Gulf, they are present with us here daily. The exploitation of other people, the depletion of the earth's resources, the inclination toward violence, personal and societal, increasingly call into question our way of life. We as a nation and as a people face new decisions and the challenge to make deep alterations to our values and lifestyle, now more than ever before. We pray for peace. We hope for peace. Beyond that, we as a family take a specific stance for peace and against offensive military action, no matter what the cost.

We recommend several books and publications that have spoken to us this year: *Iron John*, by Robert Bly, *Time and the Art of Living*, by Robert Grudin, *The Dream of the Earth*, by Thomas Berry, *Writing Down the Bones*, by Natalie Goldberg; and *Conversations*, ed. by Nancy Griffin.

Hubert, Kay
and **Dara Fulkerson**
Phoenix, Ariz. USA

This has been a remarkable year for the Fulkersons. We have continued our journey with the community in Phoenix. We have symbolized our faith most recently by attendance at the *Casa* run by the Franciscans. We have continued our endless educational efforts. We have created and enjoyed new friendships.

The sustaining of our family economically has improved and evolved over this year. I am currently employed by Honeywell as a software engineer. This is an excellent job with an apparent no-end to the challenges faced in producing flight

management computers for the major aircraft builders and the airlines. As well, it is a significant improvement to our income. Kay has continued her career in financial planning including a summer sojourn working on the Phoenix City employees benefits investment programs.

Dara has entered the fourth grade and the band as a flute player. She continues to do well in math and science and works hard on her reading and writing skills.

I made a solitary journey to Taiwan to get the Asian Perspective on the 90s. There was a heavy focus on environmental issues coming out of rapid industrialization and increasing population.

Our family out of faith and personal experience have come to value peace as being of unmeasurable benefit to people. In the countries that we have traveled to and worked in where there is peace, the people enjoy the abundance of life more fully than do those where war drains their energies. We pray for the nations that are in various stages of war like Ethiopia, Mozambique and Kuwait.

Bob and Muriel Griffin Family Washington, DC, USA

Could you believe our 32nd year has been one of "Settling In"? We're ready for you to visit us. Our apartment in the Whitecroft Cooperative has been remodeled and we've added extra cupboards in the kitchen, a window ledge for flowers in the living room, a storage wall in our bedroom, ten feet of book shelves and cabinets in the hallway to our second bedroom, refinished our maple chairs and reupholstered two living room chairs. We have a lovely view of trees and sunrises and cozy space needing little artificial heat. The opportunity beyond our four walls is building community with those in the 29 other homes along these halls.

Anytime is time for celebration and we remember the big celebration for Muriel's 60th birthday held in the spacious basement room here. What a surprise! Our five daughters created a delightful drama of the journey on "the yellow brick road" to the Land of Pos (not OZ but possibility). Muriel loves surprises! She also deeply appreciates relief from arthritis, after a few months of acupuncture/acupressure treatments along with Chinese herbs in late 1989 and early 1990. Foundry Preschool is still Muriel's work and her delight. The children's roots are in 16 different countries with a predominance of Latin American and West African countries. Many families have a hard time finding work and a home. We are happy to provide quality child care. Muriel continues to work hard learning Spanish, taking 3-hour classes on

Saturdays at Georgetown University. If you speak Spanish, or any second language, she thinks of you with great respect.

Bob's work with *Organizing for Development*, an international institute has included facilitating three workshops in Virginia and Massachusetts and making preparations for work projected for Thailand, Hungary, Botswana, the Ivory Coast and Colombia where more participatory ways of organizing are sought by funding agencies, government structures and local communities.

And now we anticipate Carol's return on December 17 from study in London where she has spent this first semester of her senior year - with graduation from Ithaca College coming up in May. Also in 1991 there will be the first two weddings for our family as Margaret will marry Dennis Martens in March in Des Moines and Debra will marry Stephen Bishop in July near Boston. What a year to anticipate!

Beret and Ron Griffith San Carlos, California, USA

We have had a wonderful, challenging and very full year. I began a year's work in The Four Fold Way- Cross Cultural Shamanic Training with Angeles Arrien last January. We met every other week and went on two vision quests. The essence of the training is to Show Up, Pay Attention, Tell the Truth, Let go of Attachments to Outcomes, and Be open to any outcome. Sound familiar? It has been a wonderful reminder and deepener of my life work.

Lela Campbell Jahn and I discovered that our birthdays in June were close together so we celebrated our 50ths doing a Maori sand drawing ritual on a beach at the Pt. Reyes seashore. Ron asked Claudia Cramer to create a quilt for me. It was an adventure working with Claudia. The quilt is a beautiful, wonderful piece with bits of material contributed by family, close friends and many women in the Seattle area.

I took 14 credits this quarter (9 is full time), so I have really focused on school. As a part of life at school I went on three retreats this fall. At one we did a Council of All Beings ritual where each person took on the essence of a living thing and spoke about the environment using the masks that we each created. I was a crane. I also worked with three other women doing an independent study on circlemaking this quarter and at our department retreat we did a welcoming circle for the new members of the department using the Northern European tradition.

Ron is loving his job at Unisys and is

relieved to have left AT&T a year ago. He is now a Group Director of System programming and is responsible for about 100 people in Salt Lake City and about 125 people in San Jose. Work is like play for him so he's really having fun.

So much has happened across the face of the planet that we feel more than ever the gift of relatedness to people who self-consciously care about the future.

Mary, Mike and David Hoff Hong Kong

David turned nine on February 25.

Mike turned 47 on the same day. David comes up to Mary's eyes now. He is in the fourth grade, in the 4/5 combination cluster where Sue Oberg teaches and is unit leader. This has been the year that David developed a love of reading and music. He started reading biographies of baseball players and now there's no stopping him. As for music, it's basically all popular with a bit of country western and folk. He plugs in his earphones on his walkman and tunes out everything else on the bus coming home from school and at home in his room. He still plays soccer and Mike continues to coach but the Inters have not won a single game this year. They have tied two games and still enjoy the fun of playing.

Mike and Barry Oakley, as ICA Associates, have facilitated a number of the basic Leadership Skills for Young Managers under the sponsorship of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. They have facilitated two advanced seminars. Barry is currently looking for full time employment in Australia and so will probably not be returning to Hong Kong. This is sad for us because Mike has really enjoyed working with Barry as a colleague and friend. All of us at Woodside have appreciated Barry's presence and his news from Margaret, Liza and everyone in Australia. The good news is that John, Thea and David Patterson are probably moving to Hong Kong from Delhi. John went with Mike to visit the Chamber of Commerce a couple of weeks ago and together they have signed an agreement to continue the Leadership Skills for Young Managers seminars for another year. Thea was interviewed by the deputy headmaster of Hong Kong International School in Bangkok on December 28. We are hoping everything works out for the Pattersons to move to Hong Kong.

Mike worked with Daniel Lam, a graduate of one of our first courses at Woodside, *Skills for Civic Responsibility*, to train about 15 leaders to facilitate a rather in depth leadership training experience with the Overseas Graduate Association. The preparations went on for

weeks and the course itself was five evenings and two weekends.

Mike is also continuing to manage Woodside. After five years of a rent free lease from the government we were granted a one-year lease at a monthly rental of HK\$50,000 (US\$6400). This is actually not much by Hong Kong standards and since we can divide it among 15 families, we all want to stay. In June of 1991, the lease is renewable quarterly. We have heard that the government does not plan to redevelop this area in the near future, so we are in the process of trying to extend the terms. We are reluctant to put much money into the house since our future here is so tentative. However, we recently had the yard cleaned, trimmed, etc, and all the interior public spaces painted. This was in preparation for our annual Woodside Open House on December 8. The weather was beautiful, the many guests were delightful and the food was wonderful. We each prepared our specialties. We all had a terrific time.

Last June Mary was appointed principal of the elementary school at Hong Kong International School (HKIS). She signed a three year contract. There are 850 students in grades K-5, with waiting lists in three grades. The Hong Kong government has done a survey of the years leading up to 1997 and the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong. They have found that Hong Kong will need to provide about 600 more places for students desiring a North American education. The estimated increase is based primarily on projections of returning immigrants who have already secured their visas to live and work in Canada or the U.S., the increase of Americans to serve on the faculty of the new University of Science and Technology and expertise needed to build the new airport.

HKIS is in the best position of any established school to expand. So it has submitted a proposal for a new school site to the government. The government have already offered a HK\$60 million ten-year interest free loan and the use of an old school as a temporary facility to handle expanding needs, beginning next August.

The expansion will include building a new middle school and renovating the existing middle school and elementary school buildings to provide facilities for two elementary divisions- early childhood and primary. These are exciting times in which to be an educator, especially in Hong Kong and at HKIS. The opportunity is here to develop our vision of an excellent school. Mary is working hard and loving the challenge. She has great colleagues to work with, both in the administration and on the elementary faculty. It is especially wonderful to have David and Mary Jane Elliott, Sue Oberg, Grace Pongasi and now maybe Thea Patterson, all long-time ICA/Order

colleagues, working in the same school.

We have joined the Church of All Nations, the Lutheran Church connected to the school. The congregation is a fine community. We are currently in an exciting search for a new pastor. On December 24th, our family and several others lead the family Christmas Eve service. As a part of it we did a small drama. David was the innkeeper.

As we think about 1990 and all the global shifts in relationships, we believe the moves toward peace far outweigh those in the other direction. We continue to hope and pray for a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Middle East.

Joan Knutson Tokyo, Japan

This has been such a special year in my life and it is too soon to get any perspective on it as I am still deep in the grieving process. On August 22, Kent died of an overdose of his anti-depressant medication and we will probably never know for sure whether it was suicide or accidental. All I know is that he is gone and that is what I care about. The time following his death was such a vivid time and I was so aware of almost every moment how perfect everything was. The dimension of care and concern shown to me and my family was far beyond anything I had ever experienced and touched me deeply, leaving me never to be the same again. The outreach of people I hadn't heard from in many years and from around the globe was wondrous. The gifts of memories, poetry, stories and art that came my way will be lifelong treasures. I've gotten a beautiful Japanese decorated box to keep all the messages in. A rose bush was planted at the Fischer Mental health Center in Detroit in Kent's memory and a pear tree was planted at the Residential Learning Center of the ICA in Seattle, also in his memory. Friends and relatives sent memorial gifts to the Fischer Center where Kent had spent the last four years of his life in struggle to recover from schizophrenia. I had been with him the week before he died and have many good memories from that visit. We had some really fine conversations I'm grateful for. Much healing took place during the time our family was together for the funeral. Frank, Kristen, Kyle and I will go to Minnesota next summer and scatter Kent's ashes at Lake MilleLacs, a place he loved during his growing up years.

At the end of November the ICA decided to move out of the house we were renting. We have been renting a house and two apartments. I have been living in the house and I really loved this beautiful space, so it was hard to leave and move

across the street to one of the apartments. My new address is 9-1-5 Seijo #103, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 157. Also on January 1, all of the seven digit telephone numbers changed to eight digit numbers so my phone is (81-3)-3483-7558.

Margaret and Barry Oakley Adelaide, Australia

Barry is off in Hong Kong. This is his last trip to work with Mike Hoff on the Leadership Training Programme and he is sad about that; they are a good team and have a good course. Now it is time to look for fulltime work nearer home. We are looking seriously at either an administration position or parish work with the Uniting Church. The avenue of service seems right; we feel rested and have a new desire to be part of the spirit and caring of human community. Now we must see what unfolds with the new year.

No. 15 Rednall Street has become home for us this year. The house is not large; yet there is lots of room for us and a guest room for welcome visitors. Barry delights in the garden and we have had some home grown fruits and vegetables on the menu of late. Liza shared a Chinese proverb:

If you want to be happy for an hour, get drunk. If you want to be happy for a day, roast a pig. If you want to be happy for a month, get married. If you want to be happy for a lifetime, learn to be a gardener.

So we are learning.

My recent creative project has been to make my interpretation of a patchwork quilt, with colours, texture, shapes to complement a near 100 year old dressing table, handed down through my family. Another learning experience but very pleasing.

Our two grandsons now 18 months old are lively, inquisitive, lovable and learning at a great rate. Some knitting and sewing for them has been fun. All our family is well and vibrant. Geof and Chris cycled from Sydney to Ayer's Rock in April and May and surprised us all with their fortitude, enthusiasm and wonderful photographic record of such an outdoor adventure.

Diane, Isidro and Aidan moved to Melbourne in June and are settling in well to new jobs and environment. Diane is expecting their 2nd child in March, maybe a granddaughter! Kathy, Grant and Kylan live only five minutes away and are wonderful to us. My dad is doing well. He is 84 years old and just now retiring from farm life.

A sustaining part of living in Adelaide is the monthly *Round The Table* gathering of about 20 colleagues. We meet about 6:30 P.M at someone's house, share

some drinks and a meal. Often we have a conversation to introduce ourselves to visitors and to share highlights, concerns, and celebrations. Usually someone shares notes on a seminar, book, or a trip. People attending include: Bruce and Helen Martin, David and Sue White, John and Gwenda Rees, Brian and Rhonda Robins, Yvonne Myers, Joan (Priest) and Michael Firkins, Frank Bremner, Jim Mayfield, and Steve Ashley. Many of us attended Jean Houston seminars either in Sydney or Melbourne so we have a fresh common experience to feed our spirit deeps. Two books that have really impressed us have been Deepak Chopra's *Quantum Healing* and *Perfect Health* ..

I had two away from home treats. I attended the Jean Houston seminar in Sydney along with 120 others including four articulate aboriginal people. It was a very powerful experience. Secondly, I spent two weeks with Liza Tbd in Melbourne, talking through her writing projects, hearing stories, entertaining Roy Stansbury and Raymond Spencer and Tina Valedéz as they passed through Melbourne. What a delightful time. Of course I spent a few days with Diana as well.

Barry has continued his writing interest. He has completed the first draft of a novel and has a company interested in publishing his book of visualisations. He attends a local writers group. His most unusual job this year was ten days in his brothers shearing shed. Whew!! He used to shear sheep as a 20 year old. He enjoyed the challenge and he enjoyed working with his family.

We are both well. I am learning to pace myself all over again, to maintain my physical strength. We are thankful for our many blessings and try to remember Mary Chow's advice: Laugh a lot and always have an open heart.

Soon after we moved here we hosted a colleague gathering and asked people to bring a blessing for our home. We were deeply touched by the poetry and would share this with you.

Come in --
relax, recreate,
restore and renew
And when you leave, go
Feeling that our time together
Has been enriching,
enlivening and enthusing.

Jim and Sue Oberg Hong Kong

We continue to live at Woodside, a beautiful old colonial mansion located on the edge of a mountainside park on Hong Kong Island. 1990 has been a full and engaging year for both Jim and Sue, with Jim enjoying a new job as an International Financial Consultant and Sue continuing as a Unit Leader-Teacher at the Hong Kong International School.

In March, Sue enjoyed a week in Kuala Lumpur as part of an accreditation team for the International School. It was a chance to work with other International School educators and help the school towards the realization of its mission and goals in educating for the 21st century. Sue looks forward to being a part of another accreditation team in March to the Beijing International School in China.

April found Jim on his way to a two-week training course on the picturesque island of Guernsey in the Channel Islands. Since then, he has been busily building his client base among expatriates in Hong Kong. As a financial consultant, he assists them in building long-term financial plans for meeting personal and family goals, and then recommends appropriate investment strategies to achieve best results. Given the rather volatile economic climate that has prevailed during most of this year, this has offered no small challenge, but has proven to be very interesting and satisfying. He is looking forward to the coming year.

Sue continues to work on her graduate degree. She has now finished her course work and is researching and writing a paper on "Learning Styles and the Classroom." In April she had the opportunity to participate in a Learning Styles Training Seminar (4Mat) in Tokyo. She enjoyed her first opportunity to participate in the hustle and bustle of this great city and work with others in making the research on learning styles applicable to the classroom situation. In August, Sue participated in further training in the "4Mat" natural learning cycle method at an Advanced Seminar in Chicago. She is now an in-house facilitator for 4Mat training at her school.

Brian and Rhonda Robins Adelaide, Australia

"We are all meant to be mothers of God.
For God is always needing to be born."
Meister Eckhart

We must confess that Matthew Fox has been one of our great mentors this year. For his introduction to Meister Eckhart, Hildegaard of Bingen and a host

of others we are eternally grateful. We are also grateful to him for deepening our grasp of creation-centred spirituality and the four-fold path.

We passed over into this life through RS-1 for which we never cease to give thanks. I think the difference has something to do with the fact that then we were standing in our left brain, rational mindset and looking beyond that. Fox writes from the perspective of the right-brain, intuitive, unitive mindset. Is it not remarkable that such a transformation has happened in our life-time?

This letter is a little declaration of our bondedness to you. Time passes, faces dim but the spirit of the Order will continue to mould our contribution to this planet's creative effort. Surely one of the wonders of our time is the many faces of that contribution. The Order permeates society like we never dreamed.

This has been an interesting year in Australia. Many of our entrepreneurial heroes have gone down the drain. Christopher Skase went out like a light; Alan Bond is slowly having his life blood sucked away; Robert Holmes a Court died and Kerry Packer had a heart attack, but will probably live to tell the tale. Only Rupert Murdoch lives on and he decided to be an American anyway! Perhaps owning world class racing yachts, having your own polo team, and having the world's most beautiful women at your finger tips is not what life is about after all.

It has been a somewhat maudlin year in politics. Hawke and Keating seem to have lost their way - the sense of victory and "forward into the future" has disappeared and parliament has deteriorated into a series of compromises and calling your opponent naughty names.

One of the places where one senses some flickers on the Richter scale is among the Aboriginal people. Their paintings are now recognized world wide. In Queensland, of all places, two Aborigines recently won a discrimination court case on the grounds that they were refused a drink in a hotel bar. More and more, people are turning to the Aborigines for wisdom about care for the earth and therefore for themselves. Aboriginal skill was wonderfully demonstrated in the Jean Houston event at Geroa.

This is not to deny the horrendous struggle that lies ahead for these great people. The hopefulness lies in the rebirth of their own vision and a new selfhood out of the recognition that they know ways into the future that white people do not.

This has been one more grand and glorious year for the Robins family. Rhonda has continued to enjoy her work. After many months of word processing she found an opening in the finance department and has continued to broaden her

responsibilities there. Her colleagues are a delight to work with despite her boss who is a dinosaur from the 19th century. And, wonderfully, she has been our financial backbone.

Brian has been casting around now for two years. We decided about six months ago that we would give ourselves the rest of the year to decide the next step ahead for him. He has worked cooperatively with Ken Maher, a little, and with Barry Oakley a great deal. Thanks to Roger Marsh, the D.D.B. Needham Co. has used our facilitation skills from time to time and we have participated in some of their seminal work with both business and community structures.

Brian came back to South Australia with the missional desire to make a contribution to this State of his birth and heritage. A small voice which has really been there for a long time was finally heard. The place for his contribution is the church. There seems to have been so much learned over the last 20 years that can be applied. The Uniting Church, a phenomenon that has happened in our absence, has a liveliness and a political structure that seems to be a suitable host for such an unlikely galactic traveller.

Accordingly, Brian's status is being recovered and he has been offered a 6-month interim ministry in a sea-side town called Tumby Bay on Eyre Peninsula. So the wheel turns. We are going to be separated for awhile through this period until the future becomes a little clearer.

This has been a great year in our little house. We have hosted a number of colleagues like the Stanfields and the Spencers; we have improved our garden and have added a new back verandah. It is a bit hard to think that we may have to rent the place out in the near future.

What was once known as the "ICA team" in Adelaide is still a lively group and has grown to include a number of new faces as well as some new "old ones" like David and Sue White. A number of these were given a new vision of things with the visit of Jean Houston and her team. The visit of Jeanette Stanfield and Brian and the Imaginal Learning Lab was a very successful event with continuing reverberations.

Eunice, Sherwood and Robert Shankland Fairfax, Virginia USA

We are wrapping up a wonderful year of growing new roots in Virginia and nurturing our older roots in Asia. It is now over a year since we moved into our house in Fairfax and began a new adventure in homemaking. At the same time we've never travelled more. Our ICA Associates work has taken us to Nigeria,

Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, Jamaica, Washington D.C. and Chicago. We have been blessed with opportunities to work with many different colleagues, thus expanding our experience while developing new programs and supporting ourselves. "See ya 'round the network" has become our family by-line.

On October 31st, we celebrated Halloween at 35,000 feet over the Pacific Ocean, on our way to a month-long trip to Taiwan, Indonesia, and the Philippines. In Taipei we joined 70 colleagues at the biannual meeting of ICA International. We were shocked by the speed and magnitude of development in Taiwan and the accompanying specter of environmental destruction of Taipei. Surely in the 1990s we can rebalance our growth to be less violent toward each other and more caring for our Home Planet.

In Indonesia, we met with old friends and colleagues. It was great to see Pak The and hear about his work with transmigration communities, to be hosted by the Abidins and to work with Pak Soedjai and Pak Kisdarto at PTP XX, a sugar plantation in Surabaya. It was a pleasant surprise to find out how a small team from PTP and others like Meneth Ginting, Pak Toto Hananto and others have formed teams to facilitate LENI Seminars in Indonesia. The Dharma Wanita of PTP XX even gave Robert a Madurese outfit and he wore it at the closing celebration of the Leadership Conference. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Hussien Ibrahim in Ujung Pandang has also used LENS in planning sessions with some businesses in UP and other places. It was a great feeling of friendship and professional collegiality that we felt among those who are continuing to use the methods of participatory planning.

In South Sulawesi our "homecoming" was celebrated with a visit to the Sjamsul Bachri Family which included dinner with some hot-hot-hot Indonesian food, Yum! We then visited Bontoa and were pleased to see many families progressing in education, new jobs and improved health. There are still many things that could be done but the people are generally doing very well. The rice growing program started in 1978 is now a county-wide standard with hundreds of farmers using new varieties yielding two or three harvests per year rather than one.

Bali was a real treat. We hope to have more opportunities to visit.

Back on the home front, Robert is doing well in 6th grade and the local soccer team; Kevin is enjoying his high school art program in Dayton, Ohio and Shonna made the Dean's List in her first semester at the University of Cincinnati... Hurray!!!

Martha Talbott Atlanta, Georgia, USA (Martha has just returned from living and working in Venezuela)

The past five months have been ones of exploration of the city where I was born and grew up. It has been a great time of rediscovering people and places and also beginning to get in tune with the South of today. At first things looked familiar, but in fact, they have changed a great deal.

The main focus of these months has been looking for a job in some aspect of social service or human resource development. I realized early on that the best way to find out about jobs was going to be to get known in the network. So, as of this week I have visited with 41 directors of social service organizations in the metropolitan Atlanta area. I have met some very wonderful people that have given me a concrete feel after the "invisible college" as it exists here. I am currently interviewing for two jobs -- the director of an organization that renovates transition housing for the homeless and the director of community initiatives for United Way.

Time will tell which of these, or maybe something yet to be discovered, will be the one for me.

Through one of the people I met, I have been hired as a part-time instructor at Georgia State University for winter quarter. I will be teaching International Business. Although I find this to be a role I had not anticipated playing, I am looking forward to this opportunity and challenge.

Other avenues of exploration have included advancing my Spanish through conversational classes, playing some volleyball after a very long time, and going regularly to an inner city Methodist church. The great delight of this time has been spending a lot of time with my first niece. Margaret is now nine months old and has been a revitalizing presence for all of us.

As this year draws to a close, I find myself very grateful for all that has brought me to this point and a little awestruck at how this is a time of recreation in so many dimensions in my life. I also find myself very grateful for the deep bonds of friendship and collegiality that I know are present, even at great distances. As usual, the Mystery is moving in strange and wonderful ways.

Judi, Mike and Meg Tippet Chicago, Illinois USA

Last Saturday we all went to the circus. We had taken Meg a couple of years ago, and we noticed a big difference this

time in her attention span and her ability to focus. We bought a circus book with pictures of the performers, and a circus coloring book for Meg to look at, remember and color. There was a young man in a wheelchair next to Meg. He had been injured 12 years ago and reminded us of Meg during her first year and a half after her car accident. Although Meg's gains are small and slow, she is still gaining and we are very thankful for that blessing.

September 1 was the date of the Kit and Alex wedding. We, along with Meg's nurse, Angela, traveled by van to D.C. The ceremony was outdoors and very beautiful. The weather was wonderful - 80 degrees and very little humidity. Meg loved being there. Kit was a beautiful bride and Alex a handsome groom!

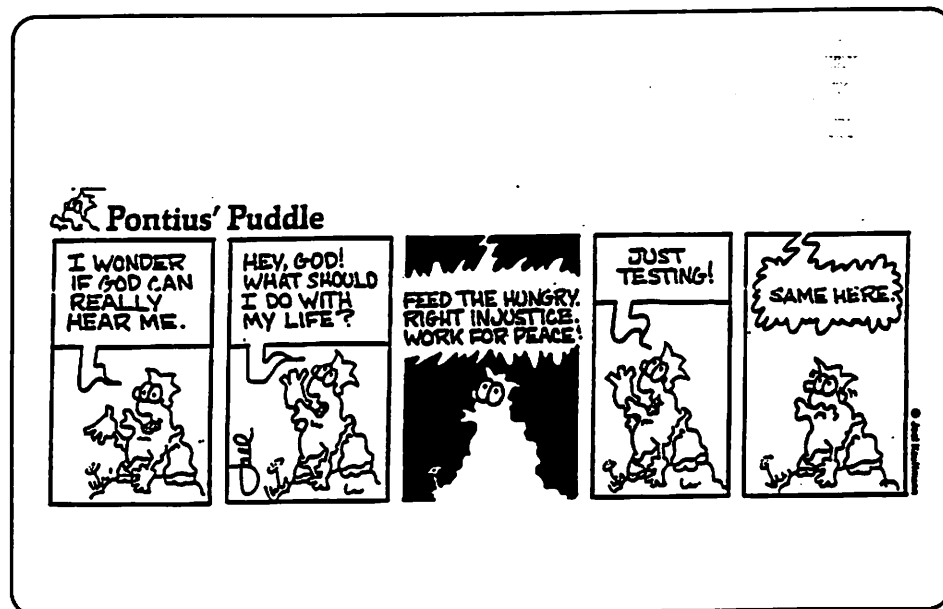
Mike is into the rhythm of full time chemistry teaching, although he says he feels like a first year teacher all over again. Judy is still enjoying working with the Latino Institute, contributing and learning a great deal about this gifted culture. Brook finished a course with a modeling school, fell down some stairs and tore the ligaments in her right ankle. She had to miss the modeling graduation and a modeling opportunity that is to be televised. Never a dull moment. At least she is able to continue to sing and she really enjoys her soloist role at a local Presbyterian church.

Jim, Karen and Jonathan Troxel Chicago, Illinois USA

This year the Troxel Family dispatched themselves along the four corners of the compass: Karen went East to Asia; Jim went South to Africa; Jonathan went North to Evanston; and the Family went West to Oklahoma.

Karen took her vacation journeying through Asia on her way to the biannual international ICA meeting in Taipei, Taiwan. This year she has been working directly with Chicago's school reform. This resulted in the ICA facilitating the creation of School Improvement Plans with 30 public schools. She also helped to coordinate the development of the Earthwise Learning Series, culminating in a ten-day think tank last August to refine and test the introductory modules.

In March, Jim was "loaned" for six weeks to Nigeria where he was joined by ICA staff from India and Zambia. Working with Nigerian staff, they facilitated



the creation of development plans for twenty villages and trained twenty five Nigerians in the process. On the home front his work with local groups, private companies and city government agencies has expanded. The one that was most fun was working all year long with the 100+ employees of the Children's Services Division of Chicago. This agency is responsible for funding most and licensing all the the day care, headstart and pre-school programs in the city. The agency asked the ICA to guide them through a transformation process to improve their public service.

Jonathan had three jobs this year: sports stadium usher, fast food restaurant counter-aide, and school librarian. He did a term at Truman Community College and this fall enrolled in National Louis University, formerly National College of Education, where he lives on campus in Evanston, first suburb north of Chicago. He passed all his courses and is gaining confidence in his career pursuit of becoming an elementary school teacher in social sciences. He finished the year taking a journey via Amtrack to see his cousins in New Jersey.

Each of us has a 10 speed bicycle and we enjoy the lake front bike path which takes us nine miles to Jonathan's school. As a family we spent time walking the path of the Amish in Nappanee, Indiana with Karen's parents and sister. We did the annual Snyder Family Christmas in October this year and will finish the year with Jim's folks in Oklahoma. We also enjoyed a weekend rendezvous with John and Lynda Cock from Virginia at New Harmony, Indiana in blustery February.

We are grateful for the great year we have had - with our work expanding in new areas and allowing us to add new

staff to keep up the pace. It is always a giving and receiving when we work with groups to train them in methods of participation and creative consensus processes. As the year draws to a close we celebrate with Eastern Europe the new directions they are creating; and our prayers are for a negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Cynthia and Robert Vance Miami, Florida USA

The event that most affected both our lives this last year was the discovery in October that Bob had colon cancer. On October 11th Bob had 3 feet of lower and upper intestine removed (no need for a colostomy). Luckily, it was revealed that it had not spread beyond the wall and fat of the large intestine. Bob is beginning a year of a low-dose chemotherapy as an 'insurance' against any spread and the long range prognosis is basically very good. In addition he is making some changes in diet and adopting some new relaxation approaches in his life. Bob did have an unusually severe reaction to the initial chemo dose, resulting in 10 days in the hospital. However, he is out now, feeling better and planning to continue chemo on a much lower dosage.

We discovered that having such a mysterious, complex and life-threatening disease literally rocks you to the very core of your being. It requires you to pay attention to your whole existence in a way few of us normally do. Both of us have been very grateful for the telephone calls, cards, and literature you have sent us, filling us with positive energy and wisdom to explore some new realms.

The environment came home to us this year. A couple of articles alerted us

to the reality of the worldwide extinction of many species of frogs. There seems to be no common factor except the increase of pollution across the globe. Frogs are no huge loss in the first instance, but scientists fear they may be the "canary in the mine" for huge numbers of species including human-kind.

The dramatic increase in the loss of habitat as well as the greatly varied increase in polluting factors creates frightening future scenarios. In this sense we feel challenged to find ways to slow down, stop and reverse the extremely complex trends before reversal becomes impossible.

We hope that this can be the opportunity our planet needs -- that this crisis will have a global unifying effect on civilization.

We delight in our organizational development work. For the third year we worked with every nursing unit at the Miami Children's Hospital. We have been delighted to see the progressive changes that have taken place in just one year. We've also consulted with banks, art groups, city governments, real estate firms, chambers, an oil company and many non-profits. Cynthia, Larry Ward and Carlos Zervigon anticipate their third year working with the Miami Police Department. It has been exhilarating to confront the different issues in these complex organizations and to see people grapple with making these entities more participative and productive work places.

Our challenge now is to continue to maintain a financially viable consulting practice and also stay on the genuine cutting edge. We are grateful for the opportunity that many of us long for in life -- the chance to do what you enjoy and are trained for and at the same time to have an authentic impact in society.

**Susan, Tim,
Gretchen, and Dietrich Wegner
Houston, Texas USA**

After three years of living in a rented house, last year's big family project was finding one to buy -- a step we never dreamed we'd take! However, in late May we signed on the dotted line as home owners for the first time. We now live in University Oaks, a tiny and neighborly community just across the street from the University of Houston. In many ways University Oaks is like a small town nestled close to Houston's center. Neighbors look after each others children and homes; there is a women's book club; and the civic club sponsors a children's street party on Halloween and a "break-fast on the bayou" to kick off summer.

People even make it a point to know one another -- sometimes a rare practice in an urban setting! Please note our new address: 4714 Rockwood Street, Houston, Texas 77004. Our phone number is (713) 747-7543.

One of our overriding concerns as a family is reprogramming our urban lifestyle toward more "earth friendly" living patterns. We intentionally have no dishwasher. We are outfitting both bathrooms with water conserving devices. We have survived thus far with one car thanks to convenient public transportation. We have our own compost pile out back and are a part of Houston's new pilot curbside recycling program. Of course, this is just the beginning of what is needed -- but we feel like we've made a start. Having our own house expands the potential scope of our experimentation.

So much for the "all family" news. Now, let's get personal.

Tim : After several years of thinking about the possibility, I have suddenly become an author. I have had an "on-line" (via a computer network) friendship with a group of programmers who have been working on "Fractint" -- a program that generates beautiful fractal images on personal computers. The program is free, and has been widely distributed around the world on various computer networks. A publisher discovered the program last September and decided to publish a related book. We signed a contract in October and the final draft is now done and the book is going into production. It will come out in March or April and be called "The Waite Group's Fractal Creations".

Susan : I, wear many hats: volunteer director of the Houston field office of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, freelance musician, database consultant, and general family manager. As ICA director I coordinate training and marketing for the ICA's Machakos Village Development Simulation Game, a team simulation of life in a self-help project in Kenya. I'm principal cellist of the Houston Civic Symphony -- the oldest community orchestra in Houston. My biggest personal treat is taking lessons again for the first time since college from an inspiring teacher and member of the Houston Symphony. With college approaching for Gretchen, I'm anticipating needing to be fully employed by fall and am toying with going back into teaching. Tune in next year!

Gretchen : After spending my ninth grade year in Germany and enjoying my sophomore year as a theatre major at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, I'm now well into my junior year. I was light crew head for our first show, *Amadeus*, a respectable position on an amazing production; am surviving a chemistry teacher from hell; and am in the National Honor Society. I'm also a

newly licensed driver, yeah! In 1991, I'm looking forward to being head of the sound crew for the all school musical *Lady in the Dark*, getting a part in *The Crucible*, embarking on a search for the perfect college, and launching my senior year in high school. I won't be bored.

Dietrich: Well, if you're wondering what I've been doing: soccer, Boy Scouts, cello, drawing, and science fair. Soccer was an OK season. We won four games and tied one out of seven games. I just became an official Boy Scout and since then I've gotten the Arrow of Light and Tenderfoot, the first ranking badge you can get. I've been experimenting with doing Beatles music on the cello. The first song I'm doing is "Maxwell's Silver Hammer". I am going to get a cello pickup to put on my cello to hook it up to an amplifier. At school I'm drawing comic characters on my math teacher's wall and other people are going to paint them. The science fair is coming up and I'm doing mine on hovercrafts and submarines.

**Rob, Mary, Benjamin, and
Christopher Work
New York, New York USA**

This past year, we returned to the USA from Venezuela. This was a time of not only leaving Latin America, but also of completing our full time work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs. We decided that it was the time in our lives to move into new arenas, building on our last 22 years. We found ourselves drawn to New York City as a global center of development and learning. Currently we are living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. This area has traditionally been home to the many waves of immigrants arriving in the New World, and after 17 years in the developing world, we feel part of that tradition. We have been happy to see here several of our dear friends from Korea, Jamaica and Venezuela, as well as our American family and friends.

Christopher completed 8th grade in a New York public school and is now a freshman at La Salle Academy, an all-boys Christian Brothers School in our neighborhood, and was in the top ten in his grade for the first term. His language ability continues to grow as he is now learning Italian and Latin after testing as a native speaker of Spanish and English. He is 6'3" tall and growing!

Ben graduated from San Francisco's Washington High School in June with great relief. He was on the wrestling and soccer team and received a school letter in wrestling. After much hard work, he entered the University of California Santa Barbara in September as a resident on full

scholarship. He is majoring in business economics and accounting and getting used to dorm life, parties, blondes, the beach, and tans.

Mary spent the month of April visiting family after a four-year absence. She then took charge of renovating our apartment which required redoing the floors, the walls, putting in a kitchen and bathroom, and getting furniture. She is currently working with the Mega-Cities Project at New York University.

Rob spent the spring and summer working part-time with the Mega-Cities Project at NYU, and now has a contract with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), working with the Urban Management Program. All of this work has led to a new awareness of the growing importance of the urban around the world as the crucible of major shifts happening in cultures today. He also enjoyed visiting Korea again after 12 years.

Both Mary and Rob are investigating returning to university for more graduate study. We have enjoyed working with Jean Houston on Whole Systems Transition research and sense that there is a tremendous surge of creativity bubbling these days.

We are renting an apartment in a building where others from the ICA are also living, which has provided us with much friendship and support in our transition. We also participate in St. Mark's Episcopal Church and greatly appreciate the Christian fellowship there.

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Brian Williams Toronto, Ontario, Canada

As some of you know Brian Williams has been diagnosed as having cancer. He has been in hospital since December 27th, 1990. It took several weeks before doctors would say what type of cancer Brian had.

Brian has considered a wide variety of the latest treatment options - as we would all expect he would. He is combining a number of the options and has a plan that will hopefully deal with the cancer. His decisions are based on the value of "quality of life." His mood is good and he is taking each day as it comes. He is a tremendous spirit to be with even in the midst of this difficult time.

Brian does have a strong support group of colleagues and friends around him. If you wish to write to him or find

out how he is doing, Brian has recommended that you contact Duncan Holmes at the ICA Canada office.

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EVENTS

First International Minoan Festival
September 23-28, 1991 in Greece. The Theme is peace through partnership.

This is the Crete conference some of us talked about in Mexico. The conference is being sponsored by Women for Mutual Security. They are asking for input and collaboration from other individuals and organizations. To share your ideas and get more information write to Women for Mutual Security, Minoan Festival, 1, Romilias Street, 146 71 Kastri, Athens, Greece.

ICA Global Conference in 1992.
Watch for further announcements on conference being planned in Europe. Hopes are to hold event in Eastern Europe.

CELEBRATIONS

Betsy Morton We stand present to the completed life of Betsy Morton, a global order member for many years. Her husband is David Morton. Marilyn and Joe Crockers wrote this reflection. "After years of struggle, creativity and courageous demonstration of responsible faith, our dear colleague, Betsy Morton died. We celebrated her completed life with her family and friends in Center Harbor, New Hampshire in October 1990. Our reflection at the time led us to declare that the cancer did not win the struggle: the Mystery that is in life itself, that gives and takes life in the context of creative love, won the day. And in that event all of us were the recipients of affirmation and hope and deep care."

centuries of darkness
Shattered by
A tiny spark.

Illuminated by
A light-
A birth.

Hope for
A new heaven and
A new earth.

Energized by this light -
We feel our power
Blessed by this light
We know our wholeness.
Loved by this light-
We stand forgiven.

May the joy of Christmas time
Be yours.
And may the peace that passeth
All understanding -
Be yours also
In this new year.

Kay Lush

A Special Haiku Treat

The Leaves ready themselves
They dress in vivid colors.
The time has arrived.

The mountain stands high
A river flows through his open arms
The leaves love to play.

The wind is falling
The trees reach out to catch her
They catch her gently.

The night is a cape
It covers Mother Earth now
The cape keeps her warm.

A tree has fallen
It is time to pass on life
It has time to rest.

The snow is diamonds
And it is a sign to all,
Rebirth is coming.

Robert Shankland (age 10)