AERO-GRAMME #10

The Alternative Education Resource Organization Newsletter
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516 621-2195 FAX 516 625-3257 Spring, 1993

IVAN ILLICH AND BILL CLINTON WRITE TO AERO!

The exciting thing about doing AERO-GRAMME is that we never know what connections can be created or who might respond. I still believe that we, all of us, have the opportunity to change education to a more humane, relevant, and effective form which truly meets the needs of children and adults. One idea, one connection could begin the process to make that happen.

We have much to report in this issue. In October we were delighted to receive a contribution and the following letter from world renowned educator and educational philosopher Ivan Illich: "I am impressed by the AERO-GRAMME #9 you sent me; and full of joy seeing the variety of alternatives and proud to discover you behind it. Thanks!"

I met Illich in 1989 at the Fourth World Conference in Toronto, which was sponsored by the School of Living. I didn't expect him to remember me. Leopold Kohr, Illich's teacher, was also at that conference. Kohr also taught Schumacher. It was at that conference that I first connected with the School of Living.

The communications from President Clinton came about as a result of discussions we were having on the Prodigy network with homeschoolers. Several people were concerned about what Clinton's stand would be about homeschooling and alternative education. In one post I wrote, "For the children of America, the big question is: What does Clinton's election mean for the creation of educational change? We need to get together to help create the answer to that question."

Ann Cabanas-Brown a homeschooler from TX told us an amazing story about her children's involvement with the Clinton campaign:

"Jerry, last March Konrad (then 12) decided that he wanted to to work for Bill Clinton. Okay, we said. We didn't realize that he actually meant it. He looked up the Harris County Democrats, called them up, and since it was so early in the political season, he got right in with the delegates. He started off making phone calls, made lots of friends and by May he had already met Bill and Hillary. He went to the Conference of Mayors where he sat and talked to Clinton, and a few weeks later, they talked about allergies. He almost went jogging with him, but didn't have shorts, so he passed. Along the way he worked daily at the party office. By July he had (younger brothers) Anson and Mars working with him, doing everything from answering questions about Clinton policies to faxing confidential stuff all over the country....I was shocked the first time I walked in and found Marcel at the front desk! I can't tell you what positive press homeschooling has gotten in this process."

(P1, Hillary Clinton, Konrad, Bill Clinton) (P2, Jesse Jackson with (l-r) Konrad, Amelie, Mars and Anson)

They had a luncheon with Governor Ann Richards, of TX, who had heard what an asset the kids had been, and asked if they could help in her campaign. They had pictures taken will all of them. Even Jesse Jackson insisted on having one. They also spent some time educating people in the party about homeschooling. Gil Brown, their father, said that the kids were often there from 9-6 or later. Ultimately, they were invited to the inauguration, given VIP passes to the While house, and even appeared on "CBS Sunday Morning and McNeil-Lehrer, MTV, and local media a dozen times. Sacha even spelled P O T A T O on the 10PM news. That's all the glamor-but the fact is, they worked very hard. The adult volunteers looked to them to answer questions. Mars was in charge of the Clinton-Gore store and directed the adults who worked. Konrad was the right hand for the coordinator of over 3000 volunteers. The Clinton-Gore folks were tremendous mentors, maybe would have made Ivan Illich smile."

Ann suggested that I send her my niece, Jenifer's Goldman's book, My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler, as well as AERO-GRAMME and a directory of alternative schools, so they could get it directly to Clinton.

We sent them, and in January we received a letter from Bill Clinton which said, "Thank you so much for sending the books. I look forward to reviewing them. Although my schedule is hectic, I still find time to read. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Sincerely, Bill Clinton."

The following is a letter which I sent to the New York Times Op Ed Editor. They didn't print it, but one nice thing about being the editor of AERO-GRAMME, is that I can.

Op Ed Editor New York Times 229 W. 43rd St. NY, NY 10034

11/18/92

Dear Sir:

Despite lip-service by the Bush administration to "choice" in education, alternative education has seen little governmental support for the past 12 years. But there is reason to fear that Clinton may do no better.

Surprisingly, most alternative schools have never expected much of the Bush Administration, although he talked about the potential of vouchers to support them. They doubted that vouchers would come into being, and furthermore, some independent alternatives were concerned about the strings and bureaucracy which could be attached to a voucher system. In fact, the very survival of the alternative school movement through the conservative 80's is impressive. They had to become very low profile to do it. We estimate that there are still at least 7500 alternative schools in the country. These include community schools, Montessori and Waldorf schools, and public choice and at risk schools. We are compiling a directory of such schools, and just completed a listing and description of 350 in New York state alone.

Some homeschoolers are panicking. These are parents who have taken the dramatic step of removing their children from school and teaching them at home. In one form or another, it is legal in all states. Homeschoolers felt that the Bush administration was supportive of them, and critical of the public school system for the same reasons which they were. They worry that Clinton will be too influenced by the teachers' unions, which strongly supported him. The unions appear to be threatened by the homeschool movement, and have taken stands against home education. With homeschooling families at an estimated 500,000 and growing, the unions fear that homeschoolers are taking resources from the public schools.

Clinton's election comes at a time when public alternative schools are under great pressure because of the ailing economy and budget cuts. One of the most successful of such schools, High School Redirection, in Denver, was closed down last year because of such cuts. But the parents, students, and teachers at the school were determined to keep it going, and it has reopened as a private school, according the the former Principal and founder, Arnie Langberg. They will depend upon private contributions. Ironically Langberg, after 36 years as a pioneer in public alternatives, is now in the private sector.

When they think of alternative education, many people think this is only for students who have had "problems" with the school system. But an increasing number of parents, teachers, and students have begun to realize that the problem IS the system, a school system which is no longer meeting the needs of most of its students. On the computer bulletin boards, many homeschoolers have announced their intention to write to Clinton to exhort him to support home education. We also sent him a letter, offering to help connect him with the world of educational alternatives which is surviving and in some cases, thriving. These schools can serve as models of education which really works. Film maker Dorothy Fadiman recently made a video about alternative schools which aired nation-wide on PBS called "Why do These Kids Love School?" Dave Lehman, Principal of Alternative Community School, a public alternative in Ithaca, NY, said that alternative schools "could be a useful resource in fulfilling his agenda for change."

We're afraid that with the teachers-unions in his ear, he may not hear of the existence of all of these educational alternative which exist now and need support. Our hope is that, working together, we can "do away with alternative education," as Ted Sizer of the Coalition of Essential Schools once said. "What alternative education offers should be available to all students."

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION IN RUSSIA: THE EUREKA AVANT GARDE SEMINAR, CHRISTMAS 1992: Now is the time for our support

(P3, Jerry Mintz at Eureka Avant Garde)

We went to Russia at Christmastime to support the fledgling alternative school movement in the former Soviet Union, participating in our second Eureka Avant Garde Seminar, sponsored by the Eureka Free University, the first private university in Russia. This was our third trip to Russia. Alexander Tubelsky, Principal of a 1400 student experimental public school in Moscow, wrote us a letter asking for help for materials and supplies and "to make our search for new forms of teaching open to the colleagues-innovators in this country and abroad. We would like to find

partner schools in America which understand the idea of the free, creative personality of the child." We had already received urgent requests from other schools, such as the parent-run Stork Family School, in Vinnitsa, Ukraine. Tuition there is now 2000 coupons (new Ukrainian currency) a month, about \$3. But family income is only about \$15 per month.

When a grant proposal which we made to help these schools was rejected, we then called alternative schools all over the United States, and received contributions to bring with us when we went to Russia on December 18th to participate in a seminar designed to introduce Russian teachers to alternative educational approaches.

(P4)(Lena Lubnina in Moscow flat)

We were met at the Moscow airport by Lena Lubnina, a good friend of Alla Denisenko, who worked with her at Tubelsky's school, and has since emigrated. We had a package from Alla for Lena, who wound up taking us to her house when the Eureka group got the arrival time wrong, and missed us. We then took Lena's family to the huge Moscow McDonalds. The cost for 7 of us was less than \$10 (4500 roubles).

(p5), A demonstration of developmental learning at Eureka)

At the seminar there were a hundred Russian teachers who paid 11,000 Roubles (\$22) to attend the 6 day conference, and 25 children from three alternative schools from the FSU, whose expenses were paid by the Eureka Free University. Included in our group were a home educated student from Texas, Brad Jackson, and Gabriel Wondrausch, a student from the Sands School, a democratic alternative school in England which we visited on our way to Russia.

(p6, Gabriel and Brad with Gabriel's grandmother at Heathrow)) (p7, A meeting at Sands School))

The people from the Stork Family School greeted me like a long-lost relative. I had met them in August of 1991 at the First New Schools Festival, dramatically held in the Crimea just days before the coup, and they deliberately brought the same students to the seminar, along with others. My grandmother was born Kharkov, in the Ukraine.

P8, The Stork School celebrates Brad's birthday. Sergei plays Brad) (P9, Stork English teacher Oleg Belin with student)

Lamborn Valley School, an alternative school in Paonia, CO has agreed to become their partner, and a contribution, and English language children's books were presented to them by our group. Most of the students at the Ukrainian school speak and write English. I was amazed, as parent-teachers and students worked together long into the night to create wonderful songs, plays, and artwork for the seminar. In fact, as part of their presentation at the seminar they sang English songs, and awakened people on Christmas morning with English, Ukrainian, and Russian Christmas carols at their doors, gathering them to serenade others around the Russian-style hotel. It is in the town of Polajaiky, about two hours northwest of Moscow. The Christmas carols were reconstructed from the childhood memory of Oleg Bellen, an English teach at Stork. Since he

could not quite remember the words, Silent Night's second line was sung, "All is dark. Save the light." They also made up a play to celebrate Brad's 18th birthday, on Christmas, one I'm sure he'll always remember.

Toward the end of the seminar, I went with key Russian alternative education leaders who were called to Moscow by Tubelsky for an urgent meeting at the Ministry of Education. They presented their concern that the new Russian Education laws discriminate against public alternative schools, rather than supporting them. Deputy Minister Luba Kazina assured them of support, and made an appointment with them to start working on the problem.

(P10, Alexander Adamsky(l) and Tubelsky(r) at Ministry of Education)

During the seminar, we demonstrated a democratic student meeting, with the Russian, Ukranian, and western children. The students with us did presentations about their homeschooling and alternative schools, which were very well received. I also demonstrated bingo and had a benefit auction for the Eureka Free University to present methods used in the west to support alternative schools. The proceeds were to set up a transportation fund for participants. We gave all the students money to bid with which was donated by American students. Some of the Russian children formed consortia to pool their funds in order to bid on prized items. Many of the items we brought with us from New York, like sets of colored markers and audio tapes. Some were donated by the Russian and Ukrainian schools. We raised 30,000 roubles, but with travel prices scheduled to double starting January, this would now pay for only one participant, traveling from Siberia.

In their meeting, Kazina pointed out that under new Russian laws, homeschooling is now a legal option, as is creating private alternative schools. We also met with Dr. Elena Lenskaya, head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Education. She helped us design a grant proposal to support Eureka.

After the seminar, we were interviewed by Russian television and expressed support for the movement in the FSU, as well as describing western educational alternatives and home education. The taping was at Tubelsky's School of Self Determination. At a previous ceremony there, the school was presented with funds raised for them by the Jefferson County Open School (\$250, by students at a bake sale), and High School Redirection, both in CO. Letters between students of all schools were exchanged.

We returned home on New Year's Eve, determined to continue our support from here. As Tubelsky said, "If we are to have a democratic society, we must have democratic education." I second that proposal.

(P11 Gabriel at Moscow Flea Market) (P12, 13Polajaiky woodcutter built this fantasy camp in woods near the conference, using only an axe and dead wood)

Postscripts: In a recent fax from Alexander Tubelsky, he said that they are in the process or organizing an International Festival of teachers and students from innovative schools from August 17-22. They would like 10-15 from the USA. 105484 Moscow, Sirenevy bul. 58a,

School of Self-Determination, Tubelsky A. Phone: 0117095 461-06-23. FAX 461-08-45. Contact AERO for details.

Katherine Adams, who had raised funds, mailed and faxed pen pal letter from Jefferson County Open School, wrote back after we sent her the return letters from Tubelsky's School: "My kids enjoyed the letters from Moscow greatly and I am now sending them a package of answers and other letters. The teachers' letter to me was very interesting and beautiful English. We would love to see the video of your presentation ceremony. Our students are excited by this whole idea. I'm so glad the trip and seminar were such a success. I know that if you are able to take anyone from our school when you go again that there would be many eager people."

A Final note: It has been a source of great frustration not to be able to get publicity and support here for the dramatic changes in education which our compatriots in Russia and the Ukraine are making. It would seem that people should be interested in these innovative and democratic schools as examples of the real changes, not theoretical ones, being made in the former Soviet Union. We applied for help and were turned down by the Soros Foundation. We have come close to getting good publicity: I got a call directly from 60 Minutes producer Don Hewitt, and they had a staff assigned to cover the Estonian Seminar. But they decided that they already had enough Russian stories. They missed a bet. Then NBC Nightly News was interested in doing a story on the one this Christmas, and the Russian crew was ready to cover it. But they couldn't find an American affiliate interested in buying the Christmas day story, so it was scrubbed. Earlier, Vice President of CNN Jay Suber had expressed interest in a story as did National Public Radio. But none came through. I must assume that these near misses were a result of my inexperience in dealing with the media. I don't know what the reasons are. If anyone out there has an idea how to get financial support or publicity to help this valiant new movement, before it becomes impossible to do, please let me know. I do want to thank High School Redirection, Lamborn Valley School, Jefferson County Open School, Ron Miller, Harris Sussman, and Rabbi Petakowski of Temple Sinai in Roslyn Heights for the total of \$1000 which we did give to the Russian and Ukrainian schools

See International section for Russian and Ukrainian pen pals.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING: A FATHER AND SON MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME

Gabriel Wondrausch is a 14 year old student from the Sands School, a democratic school in Devon, England. He volunteered to go with our group to Russia, to make a presentation about his school and to participate in the Eureka Avant Garde Seminar in Polajaiky, Russia. His presentation, as we noted above, was very well received.

While in Russia, he mentioned that his father was American, but that he didn't know where he was and had never met him (since he was a 1 year old). I suggested that perhaps, if he could come to the United States some time, and we would help him find his father.

Not long after he returned to England, he organized a trip for himself and a friend from Sands, and raised funds for airfare. He and Tim Welch, also 14, joined us on a trip to the southeast in which we visited Bob Ferris of the New Orleans Free School, the Pensacola Learning Skills

Center, the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education (Fairhope, AL), Grassroots Free School (Tallahassee, FL), Horizons School (Atlanta, GA), Blue Mountain School (Floyd, VA), and Community School (Roanoke, VA). We also taped a radio show on the Russian trip and alternative education on WBAI in NY.

(p14 Shiloh Moates (l) and students at Grassroots Free School)) (P14A, Tim, Gabriel, and Shiloh at WBAI)

When we returned to NY, we made a series of calls around the country, using suggestions from Gabriel's mother. A year earlier, an attempt by her had been aborted because she found that the father's wife was dying of cancer. Now, a call by a family friend in CA was made to their home in PA. Surprisingly, the wife answered. The father was sleeping. It turns out that she had survived a risky bone marrow transplant, and was now doing well. She knew about Gabriel and said she'd tell his father in the morning. But 15 minutes later, Gabriel's father called for him, and they talked for the first time. He called him "dad" and said it was the first time he had called anyone that. Gabriel was almost literally bouncing around for the next hour. The next day his father arranged to come up from PA and meet us in NY. We met him at AMTRAK, and had received permission from Gabriel's mother and Tim's parents for them to go back to PA with Gabriel's father for a couple of days, before they came back to return to England. The visit went "brilliantly," Gabriel met dozens of relatives, got lots of presents, and is invited back next summer. Now that's networking!

(p15, Gabriel meets his father for the first time)

NEW BAY-PAUL FOUNDATION GRANT AND ADVISORY BOARD

The Josephine Bay Paul and C. Michael Paul Foundation has awarded AERO a \$15,000 grant to help continue its work. As part of the process of developing the grant, an AERO advisory board was created. Some of the members who have agreed to serve include: Patrick Farenga, President of Holt Associates, Publisher of Growing Without Schooling, Cambridge, MA, Jeffrey Kane, Dean, School of Education, Adelphi University, Editor of Holistic Education Review, Garden City, NY, Albert Lamb, teacher, consultant at Summerhill School, editor of a new book of A.S. Neill's writings, Leiston, England, Fred Bay, Chairman of the Bay and Bay-Paul Foundations, Londonderry, VT, Arnie Langberg, founder of the Village School, NY, Jefferson County Open School and High School Redirection, CO, Evergreen, CO. John Scott, Professor, alumnus of the Modern School, President of the Friends of the Modern School, Albany, NY, Dan Greenberg, founder, teacher at Sudbury Valley School, Framingham, MA, Ron Miller, founder of Holistic Education Review, co-founder of the Global Alliance for Transforming Education, Piedmont, CA, Tim Seldin, Headmaster of the Barrie School, k-12 Montessori School, Silver Springs, MD, Mary Ellen Sweeney, Editor of Changing Schools, Denver, CO, Mary Anne Raywid, Professor of Education, Hofstra University, Dix Hills, NY, John Potter, founder of Somerset School, Washington, DC, New School of Northern VA, Vienna, VA, Ginny Greene, Editor of Green Revolution, Secretary of the Board of the School of Living, Cochranville, PA. (Also included are other SOL board members and members of the education committee), Ann Barar, founder of Cascade Canyon School, San Leandro, CA, Candy Landvoigt, Co-founder, Highland School, expert and lecturer on John Dewey, Highland, WVA.

,Patrick Seery, Founder, Director of Grassroots Free School, Tallahassee, FL., Dr.Robert Ferris, Founder, Principal of New Orleans Free School, a public magnet school, New Orleans, LA.,Wayne Jennings, Editor of Mind-Brain Review, educational consultant, St. Paul, MN, Richard Thomas, lawyer, President of Board of Shaker Mountain School, Williston, Vt., Gregory Packan, lawyer, Director of Children's Legal Service, Burlington, VT, Harris Sussman, Educational Consultant, founder of Workways, Cambridge, MA., Alexander Adamski, founder, president of Eureka Free University, Journalist of the Year, Moscow, Russia, Eleina Shepel, Dean of Eureka Free University, Kharkov, Ukraine, Nick Zienau, Educational Consultant, London, England.

CODE CRASH IS A HIT!

As I mentioned the AERO-GRAMME #9, I developed a technique for teaching the Morse code for people who were interested in getting their amateur radio license. For example, one of the first people I taught was David Browde, who is now a newscaster on NBC. A homeschooler on one of the computer networks heard about this and asked if I could make a videotape of it, which I finally did. The results have been pretty spectacular. With this technique, people can learn all the letters in less than 25 minutes! In fact, the tape consists of my teaching two 12 year olds in less than 20 minutes each. Ben and Sylvia Olson who got a prototype tape wrote an amazing review of their experience with the tape for the Seven Seas Cruising Association Bulletin: "The results were nothing short of astonishing: both of us, after watching 20 minutes of the video, "Code Crash," knew the code for every letter of the alphabet. If you want to learn the code, we highly recommend the "Code Crash" video." From that recommendation we received over 75 orders for the tape. Another man got the tape for his daughter. He mailed a note to me: "Jerry, it really works. My daughter learned the entire alphabet and all the numbers in a single sitting—then started sending me code faster that I could take it down.." We're selling the tape for \$22 postpaid, and looking for a possible distributor.

MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Bob Helms heard about our connection with the Modern School Movement on PEACENET, and ordered two of the videos we made featuring Nellie Dick, the 99 year old alternative education pioneer (see order sheet). He wrote: "I absolutely loved the tapes. Everyone in them is so downto-earth and sincere. How is Nellie Dick these days? I hope I stay that sharp if I ever get to be that old. (Queens College Prof.) Paul Avrich impressed me as a man who works for a living, without a snobby bone in his body...I'll be showing the tapes at the A/space." The Modern School Movement was based on the work of anarchist educator Francisco Ferrer, who was shot in Spain in 1909. His last words were "Long Live the Modern School." Helms said he is reading The Life, Trial and Death of Francisco Ferrer, by Wm. Archer, 1911, and would "like a copy of The Adventures of Nono! that was the children's reader used by the Esquela Moderna." In a recent conversation with Nellie and her son Jim, they said they will celebrate her 100th birthday on May 15th with former students coming from all over. Next September's Modern School reunion will also honor Nellie. They have heard from many more of her students since the New York Times did a story on her. The videos are available through AERO at \$25 each.

(P16, Mary Leue, Nellie Dick, and Jim Dick at the Modern School Reunion)

Speaking of the Modern School, they had another well attended reunion in September, with John Marionopolis, Mary Leue and myself as speakers. Nellie Dick made sure she was in the front row, so she wouldn't miss anything. She will be 100 soon. Mary Leue, founder of the Free School, in Albany, and editor of SKOLE, the Journal of Alternative Education , has released a book of reprints of the best of SKOLE. It is called Challenging the Giant, and contains articles not ordinarily seen in typical educational journals. There is an article by Dave Lehman challenging Gardiner's ideas on multiple intelligences, and others on the work of Wilhelm Reich, for example. For information on the book or SKOLE, 72 Phillip St., Albany, NY 12202.

Dr. Carlos Bonilla of International Consulting Associates sent us some of his materials on school reform. "I thoroughly enjoyed reading your essay, "View From the Fringe (SKOLE, Summer 1991)... In view of the continued failure of the nation's public school bureaucratic system shouldn't this type of school be undergoing tremendous growth and renaissance in the '90's? For the sake of this nation's children, please do not fail." 1020 N. Commerce, Stockton, CA 95202.

I met Burl Waits at the GATE conference in CO. His Foundation to Promote Positive Learning Processes is vigorously organizing for educational change in the Sacramento area and beyond. They are designing an information network for Northern California. He continuously sends tapes, transcripts, and abstracts of the activities of his group. The latest I heard was that W.Edwards Deming, founder of the "Quality Movement" in business was a featured presenter at a conference they had in February. I look forward to a report. 1340 Florin Rd, suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95831. 916 428-3103. Fax: 428-6780.

I met Phyllis Emigh at the Folk Education Association of America meeting in Washington, DC. She heads the Study Circles Resource Center, which is dedicated to "advancing deliberative democracy and improving the quality of public life in the United States." They believe in small group discussion as a vehicle for encouraging participatory democracy. Their newsletter, Focus on Study Circles, is usually provided free. They also have an annotated bibliography of Study Circles, Collaborative Learning, and Participatory Democracy. Route 169 PO Box 203, Pomfret, CT 06258 Phone 203 928-2616 The address of the Folk Education Association is 107 Vernon St., Northampton, MA 01060 (413 585-8755). The address of their newsletter editor is 5326 Amity Place, Charlotte, NC 28212. It is called Option.

Bob Knipe reported that he had made contact with several people as a result of his mention in AERO-GRAMME #9 of the out of print book, The Learning Community, based on the school he used to attend. He is still trying to track down the teachers from the school. He said that SKOLE had also reprinted some material about the center. "I wrote a thank you to (SKOLE Editor) Mary Leue. I told her it brought tears to my eyes." I believe he is still making reprints of the book for those interested. 40-18 21st Ave., Astoria, NY 11105.

Professor John Lawry of Marymount College called to tell us about a group of people which has formed in his area to work for change in education. The group is called the Temple of Understanding. He subsequently sent a reprint of an article in College Teaching magazine which he wrote entitled Caritas in the Classroom, and subtitled The Opening of the American Student's Heart. Psychology 57, Marymount College, Tarrytown, NY 10591-3796.

Bob Lefkowitz, always a source of interesting information, sent us a copy of The Brilliant Stars, which gives a general account of how the Baha'i' views religion. Education and teaching are key values for Baha'is. "As there is no priesthood, formal or informal, education is the sole source of sharing and exploring the faith." I did stop by briefly at the international Baha'i gathering in New York, where I got together with Sue Kutches, a former student of mine, and her family. I met with her brother Travis Williams, who has been traveling in Russia and has made an album of songs about peace, etc. He will soon marry Katya Byelogrudova, whom he met in Russia. In the latest Pinewood School News, Sierra Van Manen, a homeschooler enrolled there, wrote about the Baha'i Conference, having raised the funds to travel there from CO: "As Baha'is we believe that there is only one God and all religions are one. We also believe in the equality of men and women, mankind is one, the earth is but one country and mankind its citizen."

We received a copy of Teaching Tolerance. It is "mailed twice a year at no charge to educators. It is published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which founded Teaching Tolerance in 1991 to provide teachers with resources and ideas to help promote harmony in the classroom. In this issue there were articles about mediation, sexuality, art, multi-cultural education etc. 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104

Bob Vincent is the director of the Second Foundation School, a democratic school in Minneapolis, MN with non-compulsory class attendance. In sending in his renewal he wrote, "Our school keeps going along, with about 40 students. Good luck with all of your various projects."

Sales of the book about Ralph Borsodi, Reshaping Modern Culture, by Mildred Loomis, have been encouraging. This was a limited printing by the School of Living, about its founder. He was also known as the Father of Decentralism, and pioneered in alternative education, home education, land trust, consumer protection, and environmentalism. The book is \$17.50 from SOL, RD 1 Box 185A, Cochranville, PA 10330.

In the Fall 1992 issue of Green Revolution, the Newsletter of the School of Living, there is an article called "Consensus-a Mini Guide," by Mark Shepard. It is printed in conjunction with an article about Arthur Morgan School, 1901 Hannah Branch Rd., Burnsville, NC 28714. It operates on a consensus model. It is a boarding school for 7th-9th graders. In the latest issue there is a nice story about Artie Yeatman and Ginny Green and their underground home, Birthright Center, where the SOL office is located. The annual meeting of the membership of the School of Living will be at Heathcote, in MD, from April 23-25th. AERO-GRAMME readers may subscribe to the Green Revolution and become a member of the School of Living for half price, \$10. Send to us, or directly to the School of Living, RD 1 Box 185A, Cochranville, PA 19330, mentioning AERO.

(P17, Heathcote, in MD, sit of SOL Annual Meeting)

Claudia Berman of the School Around Us is on a research committee which "seeks historic information on small, private, parent-run cooperative schools or director run cooperative schools that have been around for 20 years. We are interested in comparing notes with whoever may be out there." 207 985-6896, RR1 Box 1968, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Sudbury Valley School began a formal public relations campaign in 1985 to tell people about its "self-directed curricula, student freedom and responsibility, democratic operations, elected staff, and age-mixing...One recent result is widespread interest in the formation of new schools that are similar to Sudbury Valley and the adoption of the principals of Sudbury Valley by existing schools." They also created a "New School Starter Kit." There are nine existing schools and four in formation in their circle. In addition, they have shipped several dozen kits in just the last year. Also, Sudbury Valley, through Mike Sadofsky, "has been exploring the use of electronic information systems...as a means to more efficiently support discussion, idea exchange, and exposure to alternative schools such as ours to others who might be interested." They are on Compuserve @75460,1112, Prodigy @TJTJ72A, Delphi @ MICHAEL424, Fidonet @ the Natick MA BBS, (1:322/385)." Contact Mike at 424 Sudbury St., Marlborough, MA 01752. Sudbury Valley School is at 2 Winch St., Framingham, MA 01701.

Alla and Sergei Devisenko asked me to come to Boston to find and introduce them to alternative educators in the area. They were also looking for an alternative school for their 14 year old son, Mischa. Sergei now is working for a computer company there. Alla headed the language department at a public alternative school in Moscow, and was our interpreter for the February-March trip, before they emigrated. While there, we visited my niece, Jenifer Goldman(who wrote My Live as a Traveling Homeschooler) and her father, Harley Goldman, Harris Sussman, an educational consultant and head of Workways, Ray Shirtleff, Principal since 1971 of the Pilot School, a public alternative high school in Cambridge, Len Solo, Principal of Graham and Park, a public alternative elementary and middle school in Cambridge, School Within a School, a public alternative which is part of Brookline High School. We also met with Susannah Sheffer at the Growing Without Schooling office, and we were hosted by Vera Nordal, who has taught at the school for many years at the Shady Hill School.

Skipping Stones with Arun Narayan Toke editor, has put together another remarkable edition of their children's magazine with the Winter/Spring 1992-3 issue focusing on Indigenous Societies and people of the rainforests. This followed their issue on Native American societies. If you haven't read an issue, this is a good one to start with. PO Box 3939, Eugene, OR 97403-0939.

Ron Miller, founder of Holistic Education Review, is beginning to organize a new catalog which will present to a wide audience information about hard to get books and videos on educational change and alternative education. He is looking for suggestions for books and videos to include in the catalog. Contact him at 802 865-9752 or write to 11 Overlake Park, Burlington, Vt. 05401.

(P18, Alexander Adamski and Eleine Shepel of Eureka)

Ann Evans of Cascade Canyon School will be having a major international conference featuring leaders of Russia's Eureka Free University from June 26th-30th. It is called Dialogues in International Education, and will feature Alexander Adamski and Eleine Shepel, and Sergei Kurganov from the Eureka Free University, and others from Russia, England, and the Netherlands. This will be the first time that the work of Eureka, pioneer in humanistic education, will be demonstrated in the USA. Vigotsky, Rogers, Deming, Piaget, Biblier, and Montessori methods will be modeled. Ann and her daughters went with us to the Eureka Avant Garde

Seminar last February. Also, Cascade Canyon is looking for a another teacher for their school. Call her at 415 459-3464 (school). PO Box 879, Fairfax, CA 90930.

Congratulations to Dorothy Fadiman on her recent nomination for an Academy Award for her video, "When Abortion was Illegal." Previously, She did the PBS video, Why do These Kids Love School, for which we helped a bit as a consultant. Whatever happens, you know that she is always our winner. Actually, I received the news of her nomination when I was at Bob Ferris' house on a swing through the southeast, visiting alternative schools. Bob and his New Orleans Free School were featured in the video.

Shauna Lancit, a 16 year old student at an alternative school in Toronto wrote: "My dream is to start an alternative school one day." After she graduates she plans to travel around the United States, visiting educational alternatives. She would like to know about such schools, "especially student-run education...Thanks for being around." The Revolution Factory,183 Hillhurst Blvd, Toronto, Ontario M5N 1P1.

Fleur Weinstock is a high school student in HI. She heard about AERO through the National Directory of Internships. She said, "AERO-GRAMME is one of the most valuable items I've ever read." She will represent her school, Hawaii Preparatory Academy, at a State Student Conference. At there school there is an interdisciplinary learning project called "Naked Minds" which she and the students liked very much. One discussion theme was on "the nature of the mind as seen through linguistics." "Are there traditional curriculum high schools attempting anything like this?" She is also looking for an internship at an alternative school from 1993-4. PO Box 428, Kamuela, HI 96743.

Dave and Jocelyn Kovaka, former staff members of Shaker Mountain School, with Jocelyn having graduated, wrote to announce the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie. Jocelyn "has her RN and is working on her MS." Dave is teaching and doing career counseling in a federally funded program. They also enclosed an interesting article which appeared in Esquire about Deep Springs College, a small alternative college near Death Valley, in Bishop,CA.

Joyce St. Giermaine is the editor of a new publication which could become a powerful force in alternative education. Working with Tim Seldin, retiring head of the Barrie School in Silver Spring, MD, Tomorrow's Child has initially been sent to any interested Montessori School free of charge. It has Montessori roots, but is open to stories on all forms of educational alternative. The costs are being covered by advertising. The first run was 15,000. The next will be more than 25,000. The first issue had articles parent burnout, an experiment in educational reform in Burmuda, kids cooking, and several on Montessori. "Although Tomorrow's Child is a publication of the Montessori Foundation, editorial content will not be limited to Montessori Method, but will recognize the strengths and achievements of all educational methods and programs that are founded on the values of respect, encouragement, and excellence." I suspect they will send free copies to any school which requests them. Montessori Foundation, PO Box 6874, Silver Spring, MD 20916. 301 598-6715.

For those who have lost contact with Nat Needle, he is now teaching at Clonlara School, In An Arbor, MI. "My work work at Clonlara, nestled into the nitty-gritty of non-coercive, democratic

education, is highly rewarding...I have 15 students in the campus high school program. Two of them are Japanese...As I peel away all conventional notions of what it is to be a 'teacher,' new ways of being a 'student' emerge from them too." Clonlara is also well known for their Home Based Education Program, with over 1000 families enrolled. "AERO is a source of inspiration, as are you. Say hi to any friends I still have out there on your travels." 1473 King George Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

I received a call from Ralph White, Director of New York Open Center, who had heard about our involvement with alternatives in Russia. The NYOC is a non-profit, holistic learning center which features a variety of well known lecturers, adult workshops, trips, etc. They, too, have been working to set up a holistic education center in Russia. I visited Ralph at the Open Center, in New York, and he asked me if I could do a presentation on educational alternatives. We are set up to do one on Friday, July 9th. 83 Spring St., NY, NY 10012. 212 319-2527.

GATE, the Global Alliance for Transforming Education, continues to do its work, despite reduced operating funds. On March 21, I attended a regional seminar in Norwalk, CT, organized by Judy O'Brien, featuring Phil Gang on leadership training. Last September, there was a GATE meeting in Sweden. Phil Gang has recently done conferences on Leadership for Transforming Education, in Hawaii, and several other sites. Another will be held in West VA which will feature a tele-conference. In the GATE newsletter, Gateway, a new Institute on Holistic Education in Japan was announced. They have about 150 members. Their address is 3956-18 Shimotsutuma, Yamoto-shi, Kanagawa Japan 242. GATE's address is 4202 Ashwoody Trail, Atlanta, GA 30319. 404 458-5678.

Mark and Helen Hegener have finally published the second edition of Alternatives in Education. There are segments in it from John Gatto, Dan Greenberg of Sudbury Valley School, Pat Montgomery of Clonlara, Katherine Houk and Seth Rockmuller of ALLPIE, and even one about AERO. The first version was a small press best seller. This one is even more comprehensive, touching on the spectrum of educational alternatives. Helen said in a recent conversation that because of some family problems, they hadn't yet had time to push the book, but that it has already sold thousands. Box 1083, Tonasket, WA 98855.

In the latest issue of Joyful Child Journal, the question "Do We Need Public School?" was debated by juxtaposing articles by Dave Lehman, from The Exhasusted School (yes), and excerpts from John Gatto in Dumbing Us Down (no). Either way, Gatto's books get publicity, since he put out both of them. Also, there was an article about a Joyful Child Preschool, in Albuquerque, and one about children as healers, by Virginia Essene. She is actively looking for examples of the phenomenon (408 245-5457). The address of the Joyful Child is PO Box 5506, Scottsdale, AZ 85261-5506.

In November I went to the conference of the Institute of General Semantics, in New York. Steve Allen was the featured speaker, and moderator the next day. General Semantics is the study of perception and communication. I gave Allen a copy of Jenifer's book, and he said he would read it and give it to his grandchildren, and try to think of ways to promote it. At the conference I also met Benno Schmidt, the former President of Yale, who quit to take over Whittle's Edison Project (planned to start 200 alternative schools by 1996). At one point he said, "We'd like to

have no grades and get away from the traditional curriculum, but no one knows how to do it yet." Of course, my hand shot up, and I told him about several thousand schools already doing it. I asked him about participant control of his schools. He stammered a bit, and then I realized that if these are going to be profit-making schools, they probably can't be participant-controlled. I'm still waiting for his answer.

At the Semantics seminar I met Lois Holzman of the Barbara Taylor School. The school is based upon the work of Russian Lev Vygotsky's "discovery of the Zone of Proximal Development--that learning is in advance of (not dependent on) development. The BTS students work/play together shaping the environment into one where they relate to each other as readers, writers, geographers, artists, etc., well before they "know how" to." The school is activity centered rather than curriculum centered. We connected them to some similar schools we encountered in Russia. 2032 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10035, (212) 996-0339.

Eric and Corinne Joy and family have left Arthur Morgan School to start the Global Friends School, Box 429, Blairsville, GA 30512. They didn't plan to start so soon, but found that there was a lot of interest in their traveling school. They are looking for a new base location, and we gave them some suggestions. Phone: 706 745-5701.

We received a sample copy of Cooperative Learning from the International Association for the Study of Cooperation in Education. This seems to be another one of the parallel universes. I didn't recognize the names of any of the writers. The magazine is fairly academic in approach with such articles as "Using Evaluation in Group Investigation: Case Study on the Environmental Problems of Lake Ontario." Box 1582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1582.

Dr. Patch Adams, who has been pursuing his dream of creating a free hospital and community in West Virginia, has published a book about his work. The book, called Gesundheit, "is an upbeat statement of medical philosophy, stories of fellow dreamers, some history of the project, and an enthusiastic encouragement to live a passionate life." They also intend to have an alternative school in connection with the hospital. The book is \$14.95 w/postage. HC 64 Box 167, Hillsboro, WV 24946. 304 653-4338.

In a related story, Jeff Glassman has organized a "Summer School for Designing Society 1993" to be held on the grounds of the Gesundheit Institute, near Hillsboro, WV. "We are a group of composers, performers, engineers, teachers, instructors, professors working toward starting an alternative school for students high school age or older." They will start this project with this summer program. They will explore the question, "What would I consider a desirable society?" All participants will live cooperatively, sharing in work. Ages 14-94. June 13-July 10, July 18-August 14. Box 5043 Sta. A, Champaign, IL 61825. PH: 217 344-6583.

The Life Sharing Foundation has been going for three years. It supports a series of homes in which people with disabilities live and work. The Stanton family has been instrumental in its development. Part of their approach follows Rudolf Steiner's ideas. By the way, some of you may remember Jeremy Stanton, who did a lot of traveling with us when he was a "self-schooler." He is now in the CIA (Culinary Institute of America), the best school in the field, studying to be

a master-chef. In a recent letter, he said things were going very well. The LSF address is: 205 North Plain Rd., Great Barrington, MA 02130.

Almost three years ago I was hired to go to Missoula, MT to help a group which wanted to start an alternative school. We organized the school in three days of meetings. My niece, Jenifer Goldman, who was then 11, went on that trip, and wrote about it in her book. Missoulla lawyer Tom Trigg, who participated in those meetings, has kept up informed of events: "Shining Mountain School, which you helped to found, and Avalon, an offshoot of Shining Mountain, are both still operating, with roughly 20-30 students each. They are leasing space at the local fair grounds...Sussex School, where you made your original presentation, won a national award from the U.S.D.E. for innovation in education."

Nancy Gruver, who we originally met on *P*, has helped to start a new magazine called New Moon, subtitled, "For girls and their dreams." It is for girls 8-14 and is international. They want writing, artwork, dreams and ideas. 424 Lakeview Ave., Duluth, MN 55812. 218 728-5507.

In the Winter issue of A Voice for Children, the lead story is by Orson Bean, who founded the 15th St. School, based on Summerhill, in New York in 1964. He talked about how he raised his kids, and what they are doing now that they are adults. One example: He thought that, given free choice, kids would pick healthy food. "It was Captain Crunch until they became adults. Maybe other people's kids are broccoli. I don't know. So we gritted our teeth and suffered, allowing culinary self determination. It worked out OK...The kids grew up into fine, healthy adults and it was another lesson for us to learn about staying out of expectations. Food is a loaded issue for parents." 1622 6th St, Woodward, OK 73801.

Don Knight wrote to tell us about his school. Schole is a small alternative boarding school which runs programs during the school year and in the summer. They take students from 8-16, and give courses in Native American lore and crafts. They also do biking, hiking, and camping. Forest Glen, RR #1 Box 10, Margaree Valley, N.S., BOE 2C0.

Gene Lehman puts out an offbeat education publication called LUNO. In his last issue he included a note looking for people interested in developing and marketing effective education materials and programs through an Open Network of Independent Learning Centers. 503 663-5153. 31960 SE Chin St., Boring, OR 97009.

Robert Theobald's new book, Turning the Century, is now out. He is a futurist who keeps in constant touch with people for feedback. He founded Action Linkage, and I met him at a Face to Face conference. The book is subtitled "Personal and Organizational Strategies for Your Changed World." In it he speaks of the new "Compassionate Era." We hope he's right. Knowledge Systems, 7777 West Morris St., Indianapolis, IN 46231.

Tatiana Pigoreva wrote to us about a program being pioneered by Michael LaBrosse. It is called Imagine Me, and is a pain and distress management program for children which has been effectively used for severe migraines and other chronic distresses. This program has been successfully used in Russia, also. They sent testimonials, and other articles about Whole Mind

Learning by LaBrosse. Their group is called Innercare. 100 West Franklin, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 53404, (^12) 872-6622.

HOME EDUCATION NEWS

(P23,Long Island homeschooler and AERO intern Michael Lepore (l) visiting Ukrainian family in Brooklyn which had been part of Stork Family School)

The Home Education League of Parents (HELP) puts out a monthly newsletter called Mentor, with a different theme each month. One issue, appropriately, was about finding a mentor. By their definition, "a mentor guides his protege in exploration, while the goal of apprenticeship is to acquire a specific skill through assisting an individual in his work." Their new address for correspondence is PO Box 131, 3208 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Los Angeles, CA 90068. Or 800 582-9061. In a more recent issue, they reprinted an article about giving children the space to grow, from the International Home Educator, PO Box 454, Te Awamutu, New Zealand.

Sherri Raynor, 12, has reviewed Jenifer Goldman's book, My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler, in her own newsletter, To Kids For Kids By Kids (11,119 Pucket Pl., Midlothian, VA 23112. In her review she said, "What really caught my attention about this book was that the author is one of US! Jenifer was really able to express what it is like to be 11 years old and homeschooled. I found it very exciting to read all of her experiences while traveling with her Uncle Jerry, both good and bad. The photos that she included really made you feel like you were right there with her. I really admire Jenifer and greatly enjoyed her book. I consider this a MUST READ for every homeschooler."

Jim Jackson of Amarillo, TX, ordered Jenifer's book by inter-library loan. This was partly in reaction to the Long Island Libraries' unwillingness to stock the book, because they felt it wasn't fair to public schools! They finally got it from the Cayahoga County Library. He says, "The good news is that this is a MUST READ for hmsc kids." Jim also organized the Amarillo Alternative Education Alliance, PO Box 19941, Amarillo, TX 79114.

Liz Wertheim, of HI, ordered Jenifer's book, and subsequently wrote this letter to her: "I enjoyed your book a lot and am glad you wrote it. I think you and Jerry need to write a book together, that outlines and describes the components of alternative education. I, for one would like to know a lot more about meetings and rule-making, what are the qualities of a good teacher, what are the minimum resources needed, etc."

The Drinking Gourd is a new homeschooling publication emphasizing the experiences of African American homeschooling families, but not limited to those families. The editor is Donna E. Nichols White. Their address is PO Box 2557, Redmond, WA 98073.

Homeschooler Kay Crowley of TX writes that, "I think you're doing a tremendous service with the AERO-GRAMME. I keep a copy of it in our support group resource book so that hmscrs can look at it (and hopefully subscribe). I think it's vital that we keep the lines of communication open between alternative educators around the country and the world." Kay is a coordinator of the Houston Alternative Education Alliance, 11702B Grant Rd., Suite 112, Cyprus, TX 77429. PH: 713 370-3756.

The Moore Report International, edited by Dr. Raymond Moore (Box 1, Camus, WA 98607), reports on research in homeschooling and alternative education. There is a conflict within the Christian homeschool movement between those, like Moore, who want to be inclusive of all homeschool groups, and others whom Moore called "exclusivists," who limit their groups to those who accept a specific dogma. He reports on some of this conflict in the November/December 1992 issue.

Tony Cardo wrote to say that he has started a business to help homeschoolers start their own businesses, as well as academic tutoring, and career counseling. I met him and his wife at the ALLPIE conference, when they were just thinking about it. Kew Resources, 79-12 154th St., Kew Garden Hills, NY 11367. 718 969-3454.

We've been receiving quite a few samples of new homeschool magazines and newsletters. Here are some: Home School Advantage, a new learner centered magazine for Christian homeschoolers, PO Box 8190, Phoenix, AZ 85066. Mary Pride has started a new magazine, Practical Homeschooling, which she will send to 50,000 homeschool families. 1731 Smizer Mill Rd., Fenton, MO 63026. 314 225-9790. Homeschooling Today: Practical Help for Christian Families, PO Box 956, Lutz, FL 33549. Homeward, a newsletter for south Metro (Minneapolis) homeschoolers. It is unschooling-oriented, and non-discriminatory. Editor is Joan Torkildson, 17020 Hamilton Dr., Lakeville, MN 55044. Not trying to be too confusing, another new homeschool newsletter is Homeword, a publication of the Southeastern Wisconsin Institute for Teaching Children at Home (SWITCH). Arlene Fiebig is the editor. It is Christian oriented, but open to other homeschoolers.

In the Greenhouse Report, a North Carolina homeschool newsletter, they reported a Florida study which compared the social development of home educated with public or private school educated children. While finding no significant difference in self-concept or assertiveness, they found fewer behavioral problems with the homeschooled children. 204 North Person St., Raleigh, NC 27601.

There was an interesting dialogue on the Prodigy network about the connection between the kind of educational experiences they have and the kids of jobs they do. It occurred to me that the vast majority of people in this country are in jobs they don't like. I wondered to what extent people put up with jobs they don't enjoy because they were used to going to schools they didn't enjoy. Conversely, I know that most of the students who graduated from Shaker Mountain School are in jobs they do enjoy. They realized that they could enjoy their "work" while they were learning. I suspect the same may be true of students who homeschooled or went to other alternative schools. Does anyone know of such a study?

Maria Hidalgo Dolan wrote to tell us of two groups. One is the Manasquan River Area Homeschooling Support Group, which is forming. The second is her interest in setting up a Spanish speaking play group, to reinforce the Spanish which she speaks to her son. PO Box 431, Allenwood, NJ 08720-0431.

Lane Martin-Lynn and her 9 year old, Ashley, are looking "for a neighborhood with homeschoolers (including older ones in good numbers) and vegetarians (not all but some). 87 Clinton Rd., Bedford Hills, NY 10507.

Mary Foley wrote, updating her legal battle with the state of MA. She had been homeschooling for years, but hadn't filed with the local superintendent. She ended her letter quoting Thomas Jefferson: "The security of democracy depends on an educated populace. As long as government is allowed to control intellectual development, our education threatens democracy." I have since heard that she won her court case.

Judy Garvey sent a nice book she wrote called How to Begin Homeschooling. She is also working on another book, about "homeschooling for children who have already spent three or four years in school, quite a different prospect than homeschooling children who have never been to school at all." Her children have recently had very interesting apprenticeship experiences. They are planning a trip to Spain this spring, staying in a 15th century farmhouse estate in northern Spain. They will get free lodging in turn for caretaking work, and would like to be joined by a person with carpentry skills (207 374-2437). RR 1 Box 240H, Surry, ME 04684.

The 1993 New England Homeschool Conference will feature John Saxon, creator of Saxon Math, and Martin Luther King III, who will speak on "the importance of family in the education of our children." Six state departments of education will also send reps. I attended last year's conference, in which there were nearly 1000 attendees. After that session there was a meeting of the Home Education International, at which I was named a trustee. They will meet again at this conference, organizer Steve Moitoso just said, in a phone conversation.

Shiloh Moates, a homeschooler in VA, wrote to request a chance to travel and intern with AERO. He did some internship work at the office, and became part of a group which went on a 3000 mile trip to the southeast, visiting 7 alternative schools and homeschool resource centers. Two students from the Sands School, in England, Gabriel Wondrausch and Tim Welch, also went on that trip. One stop was at the Learning Skills Center, in Pensacola, FL. They are a tutorial center which homeschoolers convinced to open up during the school day. There are now 40 homeschoolers coming into the center every day. This seems to be something which could be done all around the country, since there are thousands of these centers, and they don't generally open during the school day, when students are "traditionally" in school.

Debby Brown wrote to ask for "information of the subject of social life and play of the homeschool child in the elementary grades." 170 Tamarisk, Redlands, CA 92373.

Teresa Royer leads a homeschool support group of 30 families and are interested in any information for their resource tables. 1120 W. Whiskey Run Rd. NE, New Salisbury, IN 47161.

Ken Lipman-Stern and his wife, Liz, are part of a homeschool group of 12 families. "For me it's exciting and sometimes scary, making a move so far away from the mainstream." They follow John Holt's philosophy, and are interested in networking with other groups. 341-C Crowell's Rd., Highland Park, NJ 08904.

Cindy Chandler has helped organize the Home Education Resource Center, 505 East St., Pittsfield, MA 01201. They are oriented toward "unschooling." They would like to be listed and contacted by other resource groups. "Also, I personally have 8 children and would be glad to act as a contact person for large families."

Marty Grist is part of a homeschool group with "a good-sized group of 11-16 year olds" interested in internship and travel. "How can kids get involved in something like what you're doing in Russia? I'm having a time trying to teach critical democracy right here in the good old USA." 1724 Azalea Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403.

Brad Jackson, the homeschooler who went with us to Russia over Christmas, has written a two page paper about his experiences. One example he gave concerned an alternative school in which asked its students if there were "any questions," with "the intention of using their questions as an integral part of their curriculum." For a copy of his report, write to Brad at 4908 Parker, Amarillo, TX 79110, or write to AERO.

Laurel Springs School is a homeschool program where students meet three days a week, with two devoted to academics, and a third to creative expression. They made a video, "We Can Make a Difference," which has aired on a national Public Broadcasting special, for which they received the 1990 Global 500 Award, given by the United Nations. It is part of the Laurel Springs Educational Foundation, founded by Marilyn Moseley and Ellen Hall. PO Box 1440, 530 W. Ojai Ave, Suite 201, Ojai, CA 93024.

Emanuel Pariser of the Community School has done a book about the graduates of the school, an independent which works mostly with "at risk" older students. It is one of the few books to document the results of an alternative school program. They are looking for a publisher. PO Box 555, Camden, ME 04843.

Michaelia Morgan has quit her public school job and is organizing a new alternative, Summervalley, in Ashland, OR. "Freedom will be at the core of this school. It is based on Summerhill, the school in England started by A.S. Neill, but will be a day school only." She plans to start the school small and let at develop. She is looking for help and suggestions. 75 1/2 Alida St., Ashland, OR 97520.

For those interested in intentional communities, 25 year old Twin Oaks Community will have a Communities Conference on June 4-6. The cost is \$20-\$100 on a sliding scale. Rt. 4 Box 169, Louisa, VA 23093.

Pioneer Christian Academy ran into financial and logistical difficulties and temporarily suspended its operations on January 4th, 1993. They have retained a few students and staff to help reorganize the school for full opening next school year. They are a Christian school which believes in education which is participant-controlled. Marshal Fritz is the Director. They are interested in connecting with people who would like to become involved with their endeavor. 4665 N. 1st, Fresno, CA 93726. 209 228-1776.

Abapa Freer, an underground newsletter is paying \$5 each for reports on states and areas and their favorability for freedom in general. "Is there much hassling there of home schoolers, small unlicensed businesses, or of unorthodox housing arrangements?" They publish a list of 20 places which seem to have the most freedom. POB 759, Veneta, OR 97487.

PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

The 23rd Annual International Alternative Education Conference will be held on the U of CO campus in Boulder, CO, from June 24-27. It is entitled "Weaving the Future." Although open to any educational alternatives, historically this group has consisted mostly of people in public alternatives, "choice" and "at risk." Some of the strands will include "Learner Centered Education, Becoming a Teacher, Curriculum and Environment, The School in the Community, Educational Systems and Futures." Contact Joy Jensen or Mary Ellen Sweeney at 98 N. Wadsworth Blvd, #127, Box 191, Lakewood, CO 80226. 303 458-4313.

Denny Shapiro edits the Public School Montessorian. We will now be doing a publication exchange with them. He says there are now more than 120 public Montessori Schools, and perhaps 2500 private ones. As we talked about alternatives in his area, I mentioned that one of the first alternative schools I had heard of was called Minnesota Summerhill, founded by a former Goddard College student, Court Smith. He told me that Smith is now a media specialist at a MN public Montessori. JOLA Publications, Box 8354, Mineapolis, MN 55408.

Don Glines, who heads the Educational Futures Project and works for the CA Dept. of Education, sent me a very interesting videotape which documents the history of the Wilson Campus School, a very remarkable public alternative which Glines had directed in the 1970's. He is also a pioneer in year round schools. For more information about the tape and other projects, write to Don at PO Box 2977, Sacramento, CA 95812. PH: 916 393-3604.

The National Coalition of Educational Activists will have their annual conference, entitled "Building Bridges." from July 29-August 1 at the NEA Conference Center, Washington, DC. The NCEA consists largely of teachers working actively for change within the public school system. The organization is one of the most culturally diverse educational associations. Membership and conference fees are on a sliding scale. PO Box 405, Rosendale, NY 12472.

Jim Murphy, a teacher at West Side Alternative High School, a public alternative for "at risk" students in New York, is interested in networking with people on the "concept of discipline (what a harsh word) regarding leadership and student decision-making" 54 White St., South Nyack, NY 10960.

Carol Meixner of Oasis High School, a public alternative in MI, sent a copy of a survey which they have completed of public alternative schools in MI. They found 350 of them, and analyzed the data they received. The result is in their Michigan Alternative Education Organization's magazine, Alternative Press. It is also in Changing Schools, edited by Mary Ellen Sweeney (98 N. Wadsworth Blvd. #127, Box 191, Lakewood, CO 80226). In her conclusion she made a plea for unity of purpose: "It is imperative that alternative educators join together with determination to use our expertise to lead the way toward more truly responsive, quality choices for all

students." In a personal letter, she said they plan to compile students' writings and drawings into a book to be published. 310 W. Michigan-Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

In that October 1992 issue of Changing Schools, there is also an interesting checklist from Mary Ann Raywid of the Center for the Study of Educational Alternatives. It outlined what makes a successful alternative school, and what can kill a new alternative school from the start.

Elizabeth Quigley, who has organized the PA Alternative Educators Association said there is much interest in networking there. They also help a grant writing workshop, and they are planning their first alternative educators conference in the spring. "Every time I receive AERO-GRAMME, I set at my computer a write a half dozen replies to the people who write to you. AERO-GRAMME is a valuable resource for me." 299 Jacksonville Rd., Warminster, PA 18974.

Michael Mann, a parent of a student at St. Paul Open School, also helps the students put out an uncensored poetry magazine. He sent me a copy which I lent to Jenifer, and she loved it. She said she'd send them some of her poetry. Mann is helping the school find a new principal, hoping to revitalize the pioneering public alternative. 1405 Fairmont. St. Paul, MN 55105.

When we were in Boston, we had a very interesting visit with Len Solo, and a tour of Graham and Parks, the public alternative he has directed since 1974. Solo has done interesting political work to solidify the educational innovations he has instituted. There are several schools and programs that are spin-offs of their school. I remember Solo when he was running the Teacher Dropout Center in Amherst in the early 70's. After meeting with him and Ray Shirtleff who has been principal of the Pilot School since 1971, I realized that not only do we need teacher-training in alternative education, but we need to train the leaders of schools for the next generation. Len Solo is at 15 Upton St., Cambridge, MA 02139.

(P19, Students at Graham and Park in front of mural)(20, Jerry with Len Solo)

Ironically, High School Redirection in Denver is now a private school. Arnie Langberg, one of the pioneers in public alternative education, is not part of a public alternative for the first time in decades. I discussed this with people who commented on the Prime Time Live show which featured Denver public school kids with guns. The Denver school board people never backed down. The new private school has about 40 people. The public school ended with its first graduating class. Graduates of High School Redirection helped christen the new school. They are looking for funding to keep the new school going.

Ronnie Solomon got information from us on homeschooling her son, as they left NY and traveled to the west coast. I received a letter from them about a public alternative school in Seattle, A.S. #1. They are ecstatic about it. In their mission statement A.S. #1 is described as an educational partnership of students, teachers, parents, and community which fosters mutual respect and a love for learning. Through experiential education, students develop the skills and attitudes they will need to become responsible self-directed learners." Ronnie will send a free copy of their newsletter, A.S. #1 Newsbriefs, if you send a self-addressed envelope. 4228 Francis Ave., No., #203, Seattle, WA 98103.

TEACHERS, JOBS, INTERNSHIPS

School Around Us seeks interns for 1993-4, full-time or part time. Democratic, child-centered, parent-run cooperative school, 30 children, K-6, small stipend. Call Louise, 207 676-5826 or write: RR1, Box 1968, Kenebunk, ME 04043.

The Fayerweather Street School, founded in 1967, is looking for a new Head of School, to start July 1, 1993. The school has 155 students, through 8th grade. It is "child-centered, exploratory, developmental and individualized." They are "committed to a richly diverse student body...Admission and financial aid policies support this commitment." Send resume and references to James McGovern, 74R Fayerweather St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

The School in Rose Valley, a progressive elementary school through grade 6, is seeking a new principal. Founded in 1929, it is located in suburban Philadelphia. The position is "open to those candidates whose experience may be unconventional, but whose strengths offer compelling support for their candidacy." Sanderson Caesar, The Search Committee, School Lane, Maylan, PA 29065. 215 566-1088.

The Miquon School, founded in 1932, near Philadeliphia, which goes through 6th grade, is also looking for a new principal. It has 162 students. "The school's ten acres are in a wooded valley through which a creek runs." They are looking for a progressive educator with strong management skills. Harts Lane, Miquon, PA 19452 (215) 828-1231.

The St. Paul Open School is searching for a new principal, beginning with the 1993-4 school year. "This person will work within the context of a school-based shared decision-making setting." They are looking for someone with enthusiasm for progressive education. Dr. Phillip Penn, 360 Colborne, St. Paul, MN 55102.

In Floyd, VA, there is a community newsletter called A Museletter, which reports on alternatives in the area. In the last issue they mentioned a Robert Own Foundation, which encourages the establishment of cooperative communities. 60 Lowther, Toronto, ON, Canada M5R 1C7.

Sara Greenberg is "very interested in securing a high school English teaching position at an alternative school after receipt of certification in the state of Wisconsin. 1910 East Park Place, #3, Milwaukee, WI 53211

Peter Senderowitz is a "certified Spanish and social studies teacher in NY and has taught at Seward Park High School. He is looking for "alternative educational options within and outside of the public school system. I am fed up with the factory school!" 122 High St, Monroe, NY 10950.

Sunny Onyiri is a PH.D. candidate in Business Administration/Financial management. at Union Graduate School, with much business experience. He is looking for an internship. 37 King Arthur, #13, Northlake, IL 60164. (708) 652-8377.

Sarah Selk is a student at the University of Iowa. She will finish next fall. She has had experience in preschool, and working with handicapped and special ed children. She is familiar with Summerhill "and this has been the closest " to her own philosophy. She is in a self-designed program, would like to be more involved with alternative education and homeschooling, possibly incorporating Hatha Yoga. 522 Grandview, University Heights, IA 52246.

Jessica Piekielek is interested in learning more about alternative education, possibly in an internship. UWC, PO Box 248, Montezuma, NM 87731.

Polina Shklyanoy is a freshman at Northwestern University, majoring in languages and linguistics. She is interested in an internship in an alternative school. 8040 Floral Ave. #303, Skokie, IL 60077.

Heather VanDerwater is a SUNY Genesco graduate with a BA in psychology and minor in studio art. She has had some classroom experience, and is looking for employment or an internship. 7290 Willowbrook Rd., Victor, NY 14564.

Charlie Aughenbaugh is "interested in becoming a teacher/educator, but not so interested in the conventional school system that prevails in this country." He has a liberal arts BA. 9700 Penfield, Chatdworth, CA 91311. (818) 885-1343.

INTERNATIONAL MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

UKRAINE

The Stork Family School "was founded by 21 families. It started on September 1, 1990. Our purpose is to create conditions for self-realization of each child, each teacher, each parent." They do this with a "family spirit in the school environment, creative work, art, and learning activities emphasizing the good and the beautiful...The life of our school is formed by the creative efforts of children, teachers, parents." My comment on this is that the Stork Family School is successful in living its philosophy. I was amazed, as parent-teachers and students worked together long into the night to create wonderful songs, plays, and artwork for the Avant Garde Seminar.

(P21, Gabriel with young Stork student)

Here are some pen pals from Stork: Nika Yegurnova, Ukraine 286032 Vinnitsa32, PO Box 3441; Khlapov, Sasha, 286018, Ukraine, Vinnitsa, ul. Sverdlova 186/2; Jane Ignatieva, Ukraine, Vinnitsa, 286014, Sverdiova Str 172/152; Vic Belaya, Ukraine, Vinnitsa, 286001, Kotsiubinski Av. 11/97.

RUSSIA

Here are some other pen pal addresses: A12 year old boy from an alternative school in Siberia: Russia, Tomsk 634055, Akademechesky pr. 13, 54, Rozhdestvensky Zhenya (Eugene).

Here is an English teacher in Siberia, anxious for exchanges: Vladamir Smirnoff, PO Box 13, Mirnyy-4, 678170, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Russia. He has "students in 7th, 10th and 11th grade who would like very much to correspond with American schools of similar ages" as well as some 7-8 year olds.

Here are teachers in Rostov, Russia (wonderful singers) who have alternative school students who would like to correspond: 344000 Kulinchenko Peter, Komarova Str 9/5, Rostov-Don, Russia; 344000 Balashova Tatyana, Turmalinovskaya Str. 60, Flat 73, Rostov Don, Russia.

(p22, Tatyana Balashova with guitar (we have video of her playing)

Popov Gregory, Gregorovitch Botoy, senior research workers of the Institute of National Schools of the Sakha Republic, teacher in the gymnasia: The Sakha Republic, 678230 Verhnevilusk district, Verhnevilusk Settlement, Petr Alekseev St., 41.

ENGLAND

As a result of my exchange of letters with David Gribble, retired Head of the Sands School, we visited there on our way to Russia, and one of their students went with us to the Eureka Avant Garde Seminar. We have a video of the Sands School for those interested. It is a democratic, with non-compulsory class attendance. There are about 30 students. I had send Gribble an article I wrote about the evolution of our democratic meeting at Shaker Mountain School, which I had founded and directed for 17 years. Upon reading the article, Gribble wrote: "Thank you for the article on Shaker Mountain Democracy. It sounds as though you might have got it even better than we have it at Sands." He went on to talk about the Conference of Children's Rights, which he had attended at Exeter in September. "It was very good indeed as far as content goes; whether it will have any influence remains to be seen. I gave your address to Stuart Hall of Indiana University. He is doing interesting research on the importance attached to children's rights by children, and the degree to which those rights are established. He teaches around the world. The other really important talks I attended were about "The Voice of the Children" and the children's hearing at the Rio Summit...Many of the adults were in tears through much of its presentation...If you are interested in making contact with this group, contact Kristin Eskeland, Langes Gate 4, 0165 Oslo 1, Norway. Gribble's address: West Aish, Morchard Bishop, Crediton, Devon EX17 6RX.

(P24, David Gribble, founder of Sands School)(25, Sean Bellemy (I) Head of Sands School, at meeting)

David Gribble gave me two of his books. One is from alumni of Dartington Hall, where he taught before Sands, which closed after sixty years. It is called, That's All Folks, Dartington Hall Remembered. The other is called Considering Children, A Parents' Guide to Progressive Education. Also, the latest issue of Lib Ed Magazine has an article by Gribble about the Chlidren's Rights Conference, as well as a review of Albert Lamb's The New Summerhill, now available here, published by Penguin. Lib Ed is at Phoenix House, 170 Wells Rd, Bristol, ENGLAND BS4 2AG.

(The article about democratic education at Shaker Mountain School is in the latest issue of SKOLE, 20 Elm St, Albany, NY 12202, or can be ordered from AERO for \$3. One aspect of that system is that it was not a simple "tyranny of the majority," but, influenced by the Mohawk Indians, developed an approach which protected minority rights.)

GERMANY and CZECH REPUBLIC

Eginhard Fuchs, Speaker of the European Forum for Educational Freedom, has sent us a stream of information about the work of his organization. They are trying to involve all forms of educational alternatives, although many of their members are from the Waldorf School movement.. They have members from virtually every east and west European country. They will have their eighth Colloquium at the Charles University, in Prague, in the Czech Republic, from June 2 through 6. The opening address will by by President Vaclav Havel. They have invited me to attend, and there is a slight possibility I could do that on my way to the Democratic Education Conference in Israel, from June 6-10.

ISRAEL

Daniel Bar-Tal, a professor at Tel Aviv University has organized one of the most ambitious and perhaps one of the most important educational conferences. it is called the International Conference on Education for Democracy in a Multicultural Society, and will take place in Jerusalem, from June 6-10, 1993. They expect many hundreds of participants from all over the world. The gathering is sponsored by The Berteismann Foundation, the Jerusalem Foundation, the Adam Institute for Democracy, and the New Israel Fund. Some featured speakers will include Alexander Adamski (Russia), Michael Apple, Howard Gardner, Daniel Greenburg, and Deborah Meier (USA), Bar Tal, Uki Maroshek-Klarman, and Itzhak Galnoor (Israel), Theodore Hanf and Hartmut Von Hentig (Germany) among others. In one of his letters, he said, "I am happy that we established contact..because of our mutual deep interest in democratizing schools. We will all be very pleased if you could come and organize a symposium on how to implement education for democracy in schools." He asked if I could "organize a group of educators who will combine a tour of Israel, visits to Israeli schools, and participation in the conference." I will be working with Yaakov Hecht, the Director of the Democratic School of Hadera. They will cover the cost of my participation, and it will be my first visit to Israel. In a more recent letter, he wrote, "Alexander Adamsky agreed to come to Israel, and I thank you for your help. At present the list of participants is steadily growing and the conference is raising a lot of attention in Europe and the USA. We have brochures with detailed information for those interested. They indicate that the conference will attempt to answer several key questions, including, "How should education for democracy in a multicultural society cope with various political, societal, economic, and technological problems in the 1990's? What forms and directions should education for democracy take, and what are the conditions that facilitate or inhibit it? What are the strategies and methods that schools can/should take?" I will be working with Yaakov Hecht on a symposium, "Is Democratization of Schools a Condition for Education for Democracy?" For more information, contact AERO. We will organize a small group of students and teachers to participate in the conference.

AUSTRALIA

Another Australian alternative education publication now joins Connect (12 Brooke St, Northcote 3070, Victoria, Australia). It is called Australian Homeschool Journal. I guess it has been around for a while, since I have been sent issue 31. Articles in this issue include homeschool basics, like the law, socialization, going to school part time, resources, and even a reprint from Home Education Magazine. PO Box 420, Kellyville N.S.W. 2153, AUSTRALIA.

JAPAN

As we go to press, the first Pacific Rim Conference will be happening in Hawaii. There are about 50 expected to attend, from the United States and from Asian countries of Japan, Korea, and others. Dayle Bethel has organized the conference, with the help of Liz Wertheim, who lives on Maui, in Hawaii. Ron Miller will be attending and networking for AERO. We'll report on the results in the next AERO-GRAMME. I had hoped to attend, and had costs covered, but an exciting prospect has developed here, which we must attend to, and also hope to report on in the next issue.

John Potter, a former staff member at Summerhill, continues to study alternative education and teach at a college there. He is also involved with the Kinokuni Children's Village, started by Shinichiro Hori. The school is now at a maximum 95 students. "Most of them board at the school during the week and go home on weekends. The school is the first of its kind in Japan that has been recognized by the Ministry of Education" and has come under a lot of media scrutiny. "Unfortunately, there have been some early problems with the staff and following disagreements, four have left the school. It is to early as assess the effect this will have." He said he spoke on Summerhill at a weekend seminar on A.S. Neill last summer. He was about to attend a weekend meeting at Kazu Kojima's Global Free School. He send several articles including a well written 9 page one on Homer Lane which he would be interested in having published. 6-18 1-Chome, Kitano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650, JAPAN.

CANADA

In the latest issue of Our Schools/Ourselves, there is a review of a new book called John Dewey and American Democracy, by Robert B. Westbrook (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991). The review indicated that the work of John Dewey has been undergoing a revival of interest. There is also an article which indicates that the North American Free Trade Agreement "will be a disaster for Canadian education." 1698 Gerrard St. East, Toronto, ONT, CANADA ML4 2B2.

FRANCE

We exchanged a series of faxes with Roget Auffrand, Editor of a directory of French alternative schools. In one, he indicated that the expansion of French alternative schools had been slowed by the fact that virtually all schools in France are free, "And all the left--even libertarian teachers are not so foolish to leave their status (guaranteed pay, holidays, pensions) to create new or alternative schools." Agence Informations Enfance, 29 Rue Davy, 75017, Paris, FRANCE. fax: 42 26 60 12.

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TEACH This is to involved 25 Russ workshor Russia, Garde S	IER TRAIL the video of ment of 7 A sian childre tops given by and a bit of Seminar, Cl	NING SEMINA f one of the most American studer on, 125 Russian by our students, f Summerhill at hristmas, 1992.	st amazing seminars we have ever experienced, with hts, including 3 homeschoolers, 4 alternative school teachers, teachers, our presentations of democratic decision-making, trips to Tallin, the capital of Estonia, and St. Petersburg, the end. Also available is new tape of the Polajaiky Avant
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The 1990 Modern School Reunion: Features a 45 minute talk by Nellie Dick, at 97, and a talk by author Professor Paul Avrich, who wrote The Modern School Movement\$25 The 1991 Modern School Reunion: Features a slide show/talk by Edgar Taffel, a Modern School alumni who apprenticed with Frank Lloyd Wright, and wrote a book about his work. Also, a talk by octogenarian Zack Shaw, a former Modern School student and teacher, who now teaches at Peninsula School, in California\$25
Two WPIX TV shows about Homeschooling and Alternative Education In the first, Jerry Mintz introduces alternatives in the tri-state area, with on site visitation of the Long Island Homeschoolers, and Manhattan Country School. In the second, Jerry and two homeschoolers are grilled by WPIX interviewer in the studio. One homeschooler started because her son had cancer, and the schools refused to teach him. She homeschooled, and when he was cured, returned to find he had passed his class. If you want, we'll ad a five minute interview with 12 year old Jenifer Goldman on Cable 12, in which she discusses her book \$25
The National Alternative School Directory: A list and description of hundreds of alternative schools, in the United States and other countries, as well as homeschool resources, alternative boarding schools and colleges, etc
DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS: A two hour tape of demonstrations of various democratic meetings, including one at Summerhill, a meeting of Russian students at the New Schools Festival in the Crimea (translated into English), a demonstration meeting with Long Island homeschoolers, age 4-13, a meeting setting up a democratic system for an "at risk" public high school alternative, and a democratic meeting at a public "choice" high school. \$25
CROP CIRCLES: A 25 minute tape of a close-up inspection of one of the mysterious "crop circles" or "corn circles" which we encountered in England, after our visit to Summerhill. Includes fascinating interviews with the farmers who own the land. \$15
CODE CRASHFor quickly learning the Morse Code. This is a tape we made at a homeschool learning center with two 12 year old homeschoolers, a boy and a girl, who each learned the Morse code by our unique method, in less than 20 minutes. People interested in getting their amateur radio license will be amazed. \$20
BACK ISSUES of AERO-GRAMME 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, \$5 each. \$
HOMESCHOOL RESOURCE CENTERS A video of a homeschool resource center, featuring the Snakefoot Education Center, at Common Ground Community. This is a group of families that created a center in which 15 homeschooled children meet three times a week. They also hired a resource person\$20
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