

AERO-GRAMME #14

The Alternative Education Resource Organization Newsletter

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516 621-2195 FAX 516 625-3257 E mail: jmintz@igc.apc.com Winter 1994

#### MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRANET, the newsletter of the Alternative and Transformational Movements is including a series of 3CE (Coalition for Cooperative Community Economics) pamphlets on how-to-do-it procedures for the social innovations which empower people at the grassroots and promote community self-reliance. The November, 1994, issue included pamphlets entitled "Homesteading" and "Educational Alternatives." For more information on the pamphlets or TRANET, call or write them at Box 567; Rangely, ME; 04970-0567. Phone: (207) 864-2252.

The International Montessori Society is urging members to support International Montessori Accreditation Council (IMAC), a new, inclusive accreditation agency. IMAC is opposed to the petition for recognition of Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE), which they feel is non-inclusive and rigid. For more information, contact Lee Havis, IMS Director at 912 Thayer Ave., Suite 207; Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: (301) 589-1127.

The August, 1994, conference held by the National Coalition of Education Activist (NCEA) was held in Portland, Oregon. The theme was "Schools and Social Justice: Organizing for Change." NCEA's principles were amended to include a specific point opposing privatization of schools. Next year's conference is tentatively set for August 3-6 at MIT, Cambridge, MA. For details and other information contact NCEA at PO Box 679; Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

Jim Rietmulder of The Circle School wrote an article called "A Diary of an Accreditation Examination" which appeared in the November, 1994, issue of the Sudbury Valley School Newsletter. In it, Jim recounts his school's experience "under the microscope of four examiners from the Pennsylvania Assoc. of Private Academic Schools." They will find out in January when their case for accreditation will be heard. Good luck, Circle School! In the same issue of the SVS Newsletter, Daniel Greenberg's essay, "The Staff of Sudbury Valley: What Does It Do? What Is It For?" attempts to clarify and articulate answers to those questions. The Sudbury Valley School; 2 Winch St.; Framingham, MA 01710.

The First International Conference on Holistic Teacher Education for Educators and Community was held in New York by Global Alliance for

Transforming Education (GATE) in affiliation with Omega Institute for Holistic Studies. Topics included Ecological Literacy, Experiential Learning, Personal-Spiritual Transformation, Early/Higher/Elem & Secondary Education, and Parent/School Relationships and Homeschooling. John Taylor Gatto also lectured on school reform. The address for GATE is PO Box 21; Grafton, VT 05146. Phone: (802) 843-2382; Fax: (802) 843-2300.

The GAIA Education Outreach Institute will be holding its Geocommons College International Semester in cooperation with the University of New Hampshire this Jan-May, 1995. Participants will journey to Scotland, France, India, and New England to learn and serve in new, innovative communities working for a sustainable future and creative, compassionate lifeways and earn transferable credit. For more information, contact GAIA at Derbyshire Farm; Temple, NH 03084. Phone: (603) 654-6705.

A new journal geared to the family has just been introduced which has its roots in the Free School community. The Journal of Family Life's first issue included articles about family learning, kids and safety, apprenticeships and an interview with John Taylor Gatto. For information or subscription, contact ??????

We are saddened to share with you that Dr. Nancy McCormick Rambusch, passed away on October 27, 1994. Dr. Rambusch introduced the Montessori method to America, founded the American Montessori Society, and was Director of Staff Development at the Princeton Center for Teacher Education. Her family has authorized the formation of The Dr. Nancy McCormick Rambusch Foundation to honor her lifetime of service to education and the Montessori method, and has named the Princeton Montessori Society as interim trustee. Anyone desiring to contribute, please write to the Princeton Montessori Society/Rambusch Foundation; 487 Cherry Valley Road; Princeton, NJ 08540.

The International Alliance for Learning has announced its 20th International Conference on Accelerative Learning and Teaching to take place in San Diego in January, 1995. The Alliance (formerly called Society for Accelerative Learning -SALT) embraces a wide range of successful technologies aligned with current research on the brain and learning. Dozens of sessions are planned. For information: 1725 South Hill Street; Oceanside, CA 92054-5319. Phone: (619) 722-0348; Fax: (619) 722-3507.

Two new books have been published by Zephyr Press. The first, Mindshifts: A Brain Based Process for Restructuring Schools and Renewing Education by Geoffrey Caine, Renate Nummela Caine and Sam Crowell is a how-to book for educators who are interested in reconceptualizing the nature of learning and the hidden conditions that affect learning and change. The second, Every Child, Whole Child: Classroom Activities for Unleashing Natural

Abilities by Leslie Owen Wilson is a usable combination of holistic learning theory and aesthetic education. Activities are adaptable any education setting. For more information, contact Amy Myers; Zephyr Press; 3316 N. Chapel Ave.; PO Box 66006; Tuscon, AZ 85728-6006. Phone: (602) 322-5090, ext. 103; Fax: (602) 323-9402.

John Chodes sent us his article, "The Lancaster System: An Alternative to Public Schools." The Lancaster System was a private enterprise educational endeavor in the 19th century which taught poor kids around the world for a few dollars a year. The author feels that this system may offer a way out of the "mess" the public school system is in today. He also sent another article, entitled "State Subsidy to Private Schools: A Case History of Destruction," wherein he puts forth arguments against government subsidies for private schools. 411 East 10th St. #22-G; New York, NY 10009. Phone: (212) 677-4917.

The November, 1994, issue of Mentor, carried an article entitled "Enterprising Educators Meet in Madison, Wisconsin" by Bob Gustafson. In it, Bob describes the American Association of Educators in Private Practice (AAEPP) conference, the diversity of the attendees, and the national attention it received. The general sessions focused on charter schools; the special interest group sessions addressed a larger variety of interests. AAEPP; N7425 Switske Rd; Watertown, WI 53904.

In the same issue of Mentor, Dan Endsley wrote a review of the book Separating School & State by Sheldon Richmond. This book, endorsed by John Taylor Gatto, puts forth an argument for a free-market alternative to compulsory government schools. Mr. Endsley states that "This book may just shift the debate from 'how to reform government schools' to 'whether government schooling should be ended.' What a debate that would be!" To order or for more information: The Future of Freedom Foundation; Fairfax, VA. Phone: (703) 934-6101.

Holistic education is the subject of John P. Miller's book, The Holistic Curriculum, which was reviewed in the Fall, 1994, issue of Great Ideas in Education. This "groundbreaking yet very readable and accessible book...concisely describes how holistic thinking integrates spiritual and scientific perspectives...and offers dynamic, positive responses to the challenges facing today's schools." Great Ideas in Education is a publication of The Resource Center for Redesigning Education. For more information, contact them at: PO Box 298; Brandon, VT 05733-0298.

Membership in New Horizons for Learning now includes participation in the electronic network, accessible by modem. New Horizons is an informational network of people, programs, and products dedicated to successful, innovative learning. "The Building" is New Horizon's electronic support

network which can connect users to related organizations via electronic pathways. PO Box 15329; Seattle, WA 98115-0329. Phone: (206) 547-7936.

The Center for Living Democracy has been publicizing the book, *The Quickening of America*; in the process they discovered a real need for their newsletter, *Doing Democracy*, just introduced this summer/fall 1994. *The Quickening of America* tackles our country's toughest problems -- in education, human services, workplaces, housing and community development, and in relation to the media and government. The Center's address is: RR#1 Black Fox Rd.; Brattleboro, VT 05301. Phone: (802) 254-1234; Fax (802) 254-1227.

The Governor of Maine, John R. McKernan, Jr., has called for education reform, specifically the creation of apprenticeship programs that will prepare high school grads for jobs of the future. McKernan is also the chair of Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc., and is married to Congresswoman Olympia Snowe. Jobs for America's Graduates is a non-profit organization helping at-risk, disadvantaged youth to stay in school and to find jobs. McKernan's book, *Making the Grade* is available through Little, Brown & Company; 1-800-759-0190.

*Democracy & Education* is a magazine for classroom teachers published by The Institute for Democracy in Education; College of Education; Ohio University; 313 McCracken Hall; Athens, OH 45701-2979. Phone: (614) 593-4531; Fax: (614) 593-0177.

The October, 1994, issue of *The Sudbury Valley School Newsletter* ran an article by David Gribble, founder of Sands School in England. David visited SVS in the spring of 1994 and he describes his experiences at the school. His initial impression was one of bewilderment which gradually changed to admiration with the realization that the way activities were done at Sudbury was more in keeping with the way people actually learn. The same issue of the Newsletter carried a description of SVS's first conference by Hanna Greenberg. Hanna recounts the planning and preparation for the conference at the school which is the only democratic school more than 10 years old. Reactions of several participants were included in the article. Sudbury is located at 2 Winch St., Framingham, MA 01710.

Claudia Berman has written a book entitled *The School Around Us: 25 Years*. The book gives the history of the small parent-run school, a description of its principles, educational philosophies, practices and concerns. For more information contact the School Around Us Press; Kennebunkport, ME 04046.

Frances Moore Lappe and Paul Martin Du Bois, husband and wife directors of the Center for Living Democracy, have released a new book, *The Quickening of America: Rebuilding Our Nation, Remaking Our Lives*. This book reveals

that an "invisible revolution" is taking place all across America -- in education, human services, workplaces, housing and community development, and even in relation to the media and government. Americans are discovering how to link their own personal growth to solving public problems. Without preaching or theorizing, the book puts forth real lessons from real Americans telling what they are learning as they become active in finding solutions to some of today's problems. The Center for Living Democracy provides information and training in effective citizen participation. RR #1, Black Fox Road; Brattleboro, VT 05301. Phone: (802) 254-1234.

Canadian education and sexual regulation is explored in *Sex in Schools*, edited by Susan Prentice. The book is an anthology offering insight into the links between sexual regulation and other forms of social organization; especially gender, sexual orientation, age, class and race. Published by Our Schools/Our Selves Education Foundation; 107 Earl Grey Road; Toronto, Ontario M4J 3L6.

#### TEACHERS, JOBS, INTERNSHIPS

We received a letter and resume from Eugenie Hwang, who will graduate from Miami University in May, 1995. She is seeking a position teaching History and/or Women's Studies. She would like to experience teaching all level and different types of students. Contact her at 2671 Country Meadows; Shelby, OH 44875. (419) 342-3093.

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND COMMUNICATIONS

##### BOLIVIA

A new preschool and kindergarten has been started by Martha and Nur Ritter in their home in Bolivia. Having only had experience with the American School in their area, and since Bolivia has just adopted educational reform, they are now trying to determine what kind of official permission they may need. Anyone who may be able to provide information to the Ritters can reach them at: Casilla 5170; Cochabamba, Bolivia. Phone: 011-591-42-32682; Fax: 011-591-42-32716.

##### GERMANY

In May, 1994, the European Forum for Freedom in Education (EFFE) held a workshop on "Teacher Training in European Co-operation." It was decided then to stage a series of symposia on innovative teacher training. As a result, the first "International Symposium on Innovative Teacher Training in European Co-operation" was held this past November, 1994, at the University of Witten/Herdecke. EFFE can be contacted at Annener Berg 15;

D-58454 Witten-Germany. Phone: 49-2302-699 422; Fax: 49-2302-699 443.

## PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

The October 12, 1994, issue of The New York Times included an article entitled "Some Educators See Experimental Hybrids As Country's Best Hope for Public Schools." In it, author Peter Applebome reports on charter schools which operate independently of the local public schools but which are largely supported by state funds. The first charter law was passed in Minnesota in 1991; 11 states now have such laws; to date 96 charter schools have opened in the US. The charter movement has already started to have an impact on education, especially in Colorado, the 3rd state to pass a charter law and now has 3,500 students enrolled in them. The movement has also, according to proponents, caused several public school districts to create their own alternative schools in order to compete with these new schools.

Oasis High School sent us a copy of their magazine, The Third Eye, in which students published their own short stories and poems during their Reading/Writing Workshop project. Oasis is a public alternative high school in Michigan. The address is 310 West Michigan; Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Phone: (517) 773-1383.

Marshall Fritz, Director of the Separation of School and State Alliance, has undertaken a campaign to inform Americans how education can be improved by the full separation of school and state. For information, contact Mr. Fritz at: 4578 N. Fresno, CA 93726. Phone: (209) 292-1776; Fax: (209) 292-7582.

## HOMESCHOOLING

In the Summer, 1994 issue of Lib ED an article written by Bonnie, a 12-year old homeschooler in rural England. In the article entitled "Education at home - Left or Right?" she relates her experiences with another homeschooling family. Bonnie describes her difficulties in dealing with the attitudes, biases, and unfair treatment displayed by this family of five children and their parents. Write to Lib ED, Phoenix House; 170 Wells Rd; Bristol, BS4 2AG.

Family Learning Exchange, in their Sept./Oct., 1994 issue, announced a "New Service to Provide Homeschooling Information." The Homeschooling Information Clearinghouse (HIC) has been formed to provide advice, suggestions, information, and references to state, regional, local homeschooling groups as well as to reporters and the general public. The aim is to assure that homeschooling is depicted fairly and understood correctly by Americans. HIC's address is PO Box 293023; Sacramento, CA

95829-3023. Family Learning Exchange is located at PO Box 300; Benton City, WA 99320.

Puget Sound Community School has opened the world of the Internet to their students via their home computers. As Andy Smallman points out in his article, "Take Note:" "Education has entered a new era....And more than ever, the importance of a supportive educational environment can not be understated." The article appeared in the November, 1994, newsletter. Puget Sound Community School is located at 1715 112th Ave NE; Bellevue, WA 98004. (206) 455-7617.

Since last writing to us seeking gifted programs in Pennsylvania, Yves Haury informed us that he has become a member of PAGE and is presently homeschooling his son, a 5th grader. In the course of doing research on enforced classroom education, he shared with us his observation that when it comes to educating children, "guidance is the keynote....with the daily needs that social living demands, there is a steady growth of self-confidence and independence." Good luck to Yves and son on your homeschooling endeavor.

Kristin Cleage Williams, publisher of Umoja\*Unidad\*Unity, has announced that she will no longer be putting out the Newsletter for Homeschoolers of Color. She suggests The Drinking Gourd; PO Box 2557; Redmond, WA 98073, for people looking for another newsletter dealing with multicultural issues. Kristin can be reached at 5621 S. Lakeshore Dr.; Idlewild, MI 49642.

Pat Montgomery of Clonlara School told us in a recent E-mail note that she just returned in October from a trip to Japan where people are eager to learn about alternative and home schools. She met with some students who are enrolled in Clonlara School Home Based Education Program, their parents, and the students of Tokyo Shure school. (Happy Birthday, Pat!)

The Pennsylvania York Sunday News, dated September 25, 1994, ran several articles by Heidi Russell about homeschooling. (Thank you to Grace Lefever for sending them to us.) One of the articles noted that since a new homeschooling law was signed in 1988, the number of homeschoolers increased nearly 300% in PA. It also cited a study which indicates that homeschooled students score at or above the 80th percentile on standardized tests, compared to the national average in conventional schools of 50 percent.

The October, 1994, issue of Mentor included an article by Anne Jones called "Homeschooling and Religion." Anne examines the widely-held perception of homeschoolers as embracing two distinct "types": the religious and the secular. The homeschooling community is further divided into: conservative, liberal, traditional schooling and unschooling. She

concludes that regardless of differences, homeschoolers need to focus on what they hold in common as a basis for communication, working with each other, and maintaining status in the larger community. Mentor is published by Home Education League of Parents (HELP); Suite 131; 3208 Cahuenga Blvd.-West; Los Angeles, CA 90068. 800-582-9061.

"Teaching Montessori in the Home" appeared in Public School Montessorian (Fall, 1994.) Elizabeth Hainstock re-examines her position on adapting Montessori methods to the homeschooling environment using an eclectic approach. Her three books have been widely read for almost 30 years. Today, although having always been somewhat of a "rebel" regarding mixing Montessori methods with those from other sources, she says she has no regrets and that if she were to start over again now, she would be "even further away from the purist approach." The PS Montessorian can be reached at Jola Publications; 2933 N. 2nd St.; Minneapolis, MN 55411.

Beau & Jonni McCoy are homeschooling their 7-year old son. They have published a book called Miserly Moms -- Living On One Income In a Two Income Economy. For more information or a copy of the book, contact them at 2325 Granite Lane; San Jose, CA 95133.

#### REPORT ON THE MODERN SCHOOL REUNION

The members and friends of the Modern School had their annual reunion on Saturday September 24th. The Modern School Movement is based on the work of Anarchist Francisco Ferrer, who was executed in 1909 in Spain over the protests of Emma Goldman and others. In his name, Ferrer Modern Schools were established around the world, including one founded in 1911 in New York. Attending this reunion for the first time was 100 year old Alfred Leavitt, who was a student under one of the early teachers at the Modern School, Will Durant. He remembers Durant first meeting a student at the Modern school, who eventually became his wife, Ariel. Together they became one of the most famous writing couples of the century.

Leavitt went on to become a well known artist, and has 20 of his works in the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Leavitt said that he remembered important luminaries of the time such as Jack London, Margaret Sanger, Emma Goldman, and Peter Kropotkin when they visited the school. In a rousing speech, congratulating the group for their tenacity, he said he "intends to slide into the 21st century" and is still a romantic. This was attested to by Eleine Shappel, a 30 something Director of the United States Branch of the Eureka Free University of Moscow. She sat next to him. She is from Harkov, Ukraine, where Leavitt once lived. She is also a part-time staff member of AERO.

Nellie Dick, 101 year old former teacher at the Stelton, New Jersey Modern School and a founder of other Modern Schools was also a participant in the reunion. She was born in the Ukraine of Jewish Anarchist parents. A book



entitled "No Master, High or Low" has recently been published about some of her early work in England, when, at the age of 13 she started the "Anarchist, Socialist, Communist Sunday School" in 1907. AERO has also produced five videos on the Modern School.

Nellie's son Jim also attended. He grew up as a Modern School student, with freedom to attend or not attend classes. He was never interested in learning how to read until he was ten years old. "By that time I could put together a radio, but I just hadn't been interested in reading. If I had gone to a public school they would have failed me and told me I had a learning disability. When I decided to learn to read, nothing could stop me. I went on to get scholarship all the way through Columbia Medical School." At 73, Jim Dick is still a practicing and well respected pediatrician.

Others attending the reunion included Fernanda Barone, who is the archivist for the special collection of Modern School documents at Rutgers University. She is seeking funds to preserve the materials, which are falling apart from extensive use. Leonard Schear, 85, told about how he became a well known architect after he started apprenticing at the age of 14. Also Jerry Mintz reported on the Publication by Macmillan of the Handbook of Alternative Education. Co-publisher and packager of the book is the Solomon Press. The Solomons, father and son Sidney and Raymond, attended the reunion along with Sidney's wife, Clara, a former Modern School student.

The Reunion opened with the singing of old Modern School songs, and concluded with a spirited discussion and debate on current issues in education.

#### THE VISIT OF THE MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FILM SCHOOL

On August 7th AERO received a fax from Sergey Gratchow of the Moscow International Film School. He thanked us for remembering them by sending a copy of our newsletter, AERO-GRAMME. Jerry had met him and another teacher from their school at the European Forum for Freedom in Education in Prague, in June, 1993.

Sergey mentioned that they were organizing an expedition to the USA at the end of the month and wanted to come visit. They would do Russian dancing and street theater, visiting cities across the United States. He said they needed an official invitation in order to get visas.

We sent them an invitation, knowing the form in which it should be written. Weeks later we received a visit from three members of the group, Sergey, Alla and Olga, who are teachers at the school. Sergey, one of the founders, is only in his mid-20's. They had come ahead of the rest to bring one member to the airport. Their main group was near Washington, DC. They stayed overnight and went back the next day.

They told us they had 18 in their group, some as young as 13. The kids in their public alternative school had worked hard all year to raise the money to fly to the USA. They said they had been inspired by a book Jerry gave them in Prague, *My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler*, written by his niece, Jenifer Goldman, of their adventures while traveling around the country.

The Filmschool group had acquired two used 15 passenger vans when they arrived in San Francisco, a gift of a Russian company. But they had no travel funds, so they had been doing performances of Russian dances and street theater in exchange for food and traveling money. They had been in San Francisco and traveled in California, out to Denver, over to St. Louis, Down to Memphis and New Orleans, over to Atlanta, up to Richmond and Washington, and were traveling next to Philadelphia. They said they had a place to stay when they came to New York, but invited me to see one of their performances when they came to New York. We told them to call if they ran into any problems.

Five days later they called again. It turned out that they were supposed to stay at a Salvation Army camp, but by the time they got here it was closed, and the Salvation Army would not help them. They had no place to stay. So Jerry invited them to bring their group to his house, although all he could offer was floor space.

They arrived in the evening.

After cleaning out what they had in the house, Jerry went into "donation mode." He got Macdonald's to donate meals and got hundreds of bagels donated from two bagel bakeries. Surprisingly, they had not seen one movie in the United States, although they are a film school. So that first night he talked the local Sony movie theater at Roosevelt Field into donating tickets for the group. Of 8 possibilities, the group chose to see *Natural Born Killers*, because they liked Oliver Stone, and they thought it would be most interesting cinemagraphically.

The manager of the movie theater was excited to see the group and asked if they could receive a thank you after they returned to Russia. The young manager also gave us a huge bag of popcorn and drinks for everyone.

Sergey said he was hoping they could get some TV coverage of the group. The

local Long Island TV channel was called and they decided to do a story on the stranding of the group, even going so far as to call the Salvation Army to get their point of view. After videotaping the group sleeping on the floor, listening to Ouida Mintz play the piano, and eating bagels, they went to Wheatley High School to tape a performance of the group. Bob Bernstein, director of School Within a School at Wheatley, had cleared it through the principal and the superintendent of schools, all within the hour.

The group then went off to see New York City. They had a few contacts there, including a tour of the stock market. They did a performance at City and Country School in Manhattan. City and Country is a progressive school dating to 1914. Students from the Barbara Taylor School also came to the performance.

But while they were doing that their van was towed away. They had to borrow \$150 to get it back. On the last night they came back out to Jerry's house past midnight.

They wanted to transport the two vans to Russia for use by their school. It would be impossible for them to buy two such vans in Russia. But it would cost \$4000 to transport the vans by sea. We received one call from California from a woman representing Amblin, Steven Spielberg's company. Somehow they had heard of the group and donated \$500. We lent Sergey \$500 to help with a down payment to hold the vans, hoping to raise the rest. The ship would not be leaving for a week. We also paid the \$90 repair bill to a local shop so both vans would be in good shape if we could get them to Russia.

Frank Bluestein, a man they had met in Memphis, happened to be in New York for a meeting. He runs a similar public alternative film school in Memphis. Comparing notes with him later on when he called was quite fascinating. He came out here late that last night to drive one of the vans into New York in order to bring it to the port at Red Hook. Early that morning Sergey left to bring the other to the port. The kids had been packing, sorting and organizing all night.

That left Jerry with all the kids and the baggage, having to somehow find a way to get them to JFK Airport in the afternoon.

He arranged with Albertson Taxi for them to bring a 15 passenger van to transport the kids and as much baggage as possible. But it turned out that they couldn't transport the massive amount of baggage, including huge boxes containing heavy sound equipment.

So Jerry rented a truck for a half day, and with help from two of the

students, loaded the equipment, and left for the airport.

The other kids were already there. They unloaded the equipment, but Jerry had to bring the truck back quickly or be charged for the full day.

When he got back home he called Cablevision to tell them the kids got to the airport OK, but, surprise, they had news: Aeroflot was refusing to take the school's heavy baggage and was going to leave without them or their baggage. He had the sinking feeling that he would have to go back and get everyone and everything. Another TV station was called to put some pressure on them. Sergey had the same instinct and called Cablevision. The station called Aeroflot to tell them they were bringing a crew down to do a story on the stranded students.

You probably never saw Aeroflot work so fast. They held the plane for an hour while they quickly loaded all the baggage. They made a special gate for the Moscow Film School students, and off they went! They and their equipment had made it back safely.

Meanwhile, we knew we had until October 10th to raise the money so the vans could be shipped. We had called David Gamper of the Edwards Foundation to see if they could help. He was interested, but said that his board was out of the country. A few days later he called. He said he had talked to his board and they would pay the full amount for shipping the vans. A few weeks later Sergey picked up the vans in St. Petersburg and they are now safely at the school!

A final funny thing. Later we received a letter from Russia. It was a copy of the same fax he had sent us on August 7th, saying they were hoping to come to America.

The following was written to the Editors in response to a New York Times story of Vermont's Cabot High School, a school which opted to remain small and not be consolidated.

10/31/94

Dear Sir:

I read with great interest your story of October 26 about the little Cabot School in Vermont. I thought I might be able to add a little context and perspective on the story.

Back in the early 70's there was a strong movement in Vermont to consolidate the small schools and districts into larger, regional ones. The Commissioner of Education at the time was Harvey Scribner, who went on to head the New York City schools. Scribner pioneered the "Vermont Design for education" which encouraged innovation, but he also encouraged

consolidation.

Many small towns succumbed to this pressure and gave up their local town school to form a regional one, but Cabot adamantly and steadfastly refused to join with two local towns. We who were involved with alternative education at the time applauded.

A few years ago I ran into Dr. Scribner at an education conference. He was then teaching at the University of Massachusetts. I asked him what he thought about the consolidation which he had encouraged. "It's the biggest mistake I ever made," he told me. Since that time I have referred others trying to save small schools to Dr. Scribner for support.

"Small is beautiful," E. F. Schumacher said, and people are rediscovering this. For example, Debbie Meier, founder of Central Park East, has said that the most significant aspect of the new alternative schools she is organizing in New York is the smallness. Proving it can be done anywhere, she has split up big schools into small ones in the same building. "We don't expect just one business in the World Trade Center, do we?" she says.

In the Handbook of Alternative Education which we just finishing editing, there are over 6600 alternative schools listed, not to mention the 700 new homeschool groups. The public alternatives average about 200 students, and the independent ones about 50. Small is indeed beautiful. The people of Cabot knew that a long time ago.

to the Editor

#### WHY MAKE DECISIONS DEMOCRATICALLY?

Devorah Weinman, Director of the homeschool resource center, A Child's Place of Choice, asked us to write a brief rationale of the reasons for having a democratic meeting process. This is what we sent her:

It may seem easier in the short run to have to have basic decisions made by a leader or leaders. It just doesn't work well in the long run.

When students, workers or members participate in the decisions which effect them, there are several benefits:

- A. They take responsibility for the decision and its enforcement.
- B. They know why it was made, and can initiate changes if they become necessary.
- C. They learn how to make decisions, in a group and on their own.

D. They learn how to be articulate, advocate for a position, and how to express their feelings.

E. By being called on to make such decisions based upon what they perceive and how they feel, they learn more about themselves and what they really want.

No one ever said democracy is an efficient system. It really is more work. It is just the best one we know. JM

#### SMALL SCHOOLS EDITORIAL ENGLAND

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Ä[ordered several Modern School videos and mentioned that she talk talked to Nellie on the phone. "To say it made my week is an understatement--what a remarkable lady she is." She also enclosed a series of questions about the Modern School, which we would be glad to send on to any Modern school reader who wished to answer them.

#### BAY-PAUL GRANT PRESENTS A CHALLENGE

As most of our readers know, the Josephine Bay Paul and C. Michael Paul Foundation has been a most significant supporter of AERO since its inception. This year the Bay-Paul board expressed its concern that AERO has not been effectively widening its base of financial support, and they expressed this concern in an unusual way: They voted to provide AERO with its largest single grant to date, \$20,000, but stipulated that it must be matched 100% before AERO would receive any of it. We would like to expressed our thanks to Bay-Paul and its President and Executive Director, Fred Bay, for their continuing belief in AERO.

This challenge grant leaves us in a very interesting and precarious position, with the possibility that we will finally get reasonable funding, or run out of funds and be forced to cease operations unless or until we are able to match this grant. Thus we are appealing to the AERO-GRAMME readership for direct contributions which can be applied to the match, or for suggestions and contacts with foundations, individuals, or organizations which might be in a position to help us. One reader has already pledged \$1000. Write to us or call us, collect if necessary, if you think you can help.

AERO funds are used to make up the deficit in producing and printing AERO-GRAMME, to pay our phone and postal expenses, to cover travel expenses, to support our interns, and to keep up our equipment, so we can continue to

promote educational alternatives. In addition, we service the thousands of people who write or call us, looking for alternative schools to attend or teach in, wanting information of homeschooling, or wanting to start new schools. For many of these people we provide life-changing information.

#### PHONE SAVINGS FOLLOW-UP

One easy way to support AERO while you cut your phone bills was first suggested in AERO-GRAMME #13. If you switch your phone to the Affinity Fund you total phone bill will be at least 10% lower, and 5% of that will be donated to AERO. We just received our first bill under the new supplier. There has been absolutely no difference in service (MCI is its bulk carrier) and we were pleased and surprised by the savings on the bill. The savings on each call is recorded. On only one or two was there no savings, and none were higher. Some savings were as much as 69%. To check this out, call AERO, or call John-Michael Caringworth at 512-441-2200, and MENTION AERO.

The Highland School is looking for a full or part-time teacher to begin after January 2, 1995. A college degree is required, but certification is not. They are also looking for a teaching intern or student teachers for spring and fall semesters. Highland is a small, democratically governed school in rural West Virginia. Applicants with preschool children can bring them to school. The position includes housing in a two bedroom trailer on the school grounds. Contact Charlotte Landvoigt at 304 869-3250 or 3253, or nights at 3252 or 3253.

Jerry sent out free copies of AERO to 50 people on Prodigy, asking them for their suggestions and recommendations. John Gavlik has replied by subscribing and complimenting us on a job well done. Thank you, John, and we appreciate your input!

A British expatriate living in Japan, Marc Sheffner is looking for ways to educate his 3 children at home using British materials, either homeschooling or distance learning. He wants them to grow up bilingual and fit into the British educational system in case they return there. A university teacher, Marc has access to computers and is interested in the use of computers as a resource for children's self-study. If you can provide him with contacts in Britain or with information, write to him at Haginodai 5-1-2-105; Ikoma-shi; Nara-ken 630-02; Japan 07437 6 8624.

Marina A. Carlton wrote to us telling us she is involved in reworking a court detention school to make it more responsive to the population served. The school is now operating like all other schools, "being 'alternative' only in the fact that the students are housed on campus and attendance is not a problem." She is looking for information and proven methods on

making school more productive and for alternative education conference information. She is a supporter of alternative education and would like support from others in the field. 4806 Euclid Ave #7; Cleveland, OH 44103. Phone: (216) 361-2468.

An article entitled "Montessori in the Home" by Tim Seldin appeared in the October, 1994, issue of Tomorrow's Child. In the article, Tim, who is President of The Montessori Foundation, outlines ways in which parents can help their children create an orderly environment in the home which will support what they are experiencing in their Montessori classrooms. Tomorrow's Child; 17808 October Court; Rockville, MD 20855.

Joan E. McLachlan of the City-as-School program requests information on interim programs, internships, or volunteer positions with living stipends for students who may not want to go directly from high school to college or full time, permanent work. As she points out, many of the School's students want to do something productive, but they aren't quite ready for a full-time training program. Also, the concern is that if they get a job that pays too well they may not want to stop and continue with their education! Any program suggestions or opportunities would be welcomed. Contact her at City-As-School; 16 Clarkson St.; New York, NY 10014. Phone: (212) 691-7801; Fax: (212) 675-2858.

A former California public school teacher of life sciences and math, Rena Nayyar, is looking for a position teaching in an alternative private school. She also requests information on networking in educational alternatives, listings, or newsletters. Please contact her at 271 Seely Ave.; Aromas, CA 95004.

Sarah K. Leonard, a graduate student in the Counseling Department of Virginia Tech University is interested in an internship in counseling or education during the summer, 1995. She prefers the Denver, Colorado, area. Call or write her at 102 E. Roanoke St., Apt. #3A; Blacksburg, VA 24060. Phone: (703) 951-7803.

The Colegio Bilingue "Jorge Emilio Gutierrez" needs three teachers for their next academic year which is from February 1, 1995 to November 30, 1995, with a one month vacation from June 15 to July 15. The areas needing teachers are English as a second language, Arts, theater, music and ecology. The school will provide: room and board plus a monthly salary; round-trip air fare from Miami; and Visa paper work. A Bachelor's degree in Education is required; Spanish is helpful. For further information: Alejandro Acero, Director; Apdo Aereo 101634 (Unicentro); Avenida 15 #124-49 Of 303; Bogota D.C.; Colombia, SA. Phone: 57-1-2150051; Fax: 57-1-6123560.



Robert Lopata would like information on any teaching or office internships available. Contact him at PO Box 5234; West Lebanon, NH 03784.

We would like to thank Heather Lawton for her kind note wishing Jerry well after his heart procedures. She has completed her Elementary Teaching Credential work and substituted in public schools for a while. She is a graduate of Shaker Mountain School. Now she is doing after-school childcare work at the local YMCA. Perhaps someone could help her find a position in teaching in an alternative school. If so, write her at 214 Bellevue Ave.; Santa Rosa, CA 95407.

deos and mentioned that she

David Gribble wrote to inform us that the Hadera group is arranging another conference in Vienna to take place sometime next spring. He promised to let us know as soon as he gets any further details on the event.

A letter from Nicole Haensell of Nurnberg, Germany, asked "Why doesn't anybody ever write about the Freinet movement?" She reports that it is very popular in France and Germany as an alternative method for teachers in state schools. Celestine Freinet developed it as a result of trying to change mainstream education from within. Teachers meet to exchange ideas, support, and develop Frienet material.

Jewish Home Educator's Network (JHEN) is a new project of the Family Learning Exchange. It provides support, resources, and information through a bi-monthly newsletter and brings together homeschooling families from around the world to share experiences and ideas. All are welcome to participate. Contact JHEN at PO Box 300; Benton City, WA 99320 or call Janie Levine at (509) 588-5013.

We received a letter from Kathi Lomuscio who has been homeschooling her two sons for the past four years. She believes that learning is a very natural and enjoyable part of life. She would love to hear from others about their thoughts on the subject of learning and teaching. Write to her at 5657 Bay Island Cay; Acworth, GA 30101.

Ideas or leads on finding a group or individual to exchange software/hardware for a computer is needed by Tom Tsotsos for his children's homeschooling studies. He wonders if there is any source for such exchanges. Any ideas? Let him know! 13444 Old Orchard Lane; Lockport, IL 60441.

"Any learner is capable of successfully breaking loose from traditional

learning," according to 14-year old Zoe Blowen-Ledoux in her newsletter Self-Schoolers Network News which is published bi-monthly. It contains stories of positive homeschooling experiences, learning activities, problems solving suggestions and encouragement for all teenagers to make the most of their education by assuming responsibility for learning what they want to know. For information or subscription, contact her at RR1 Box 452; Lisbon Falls, ME 04252. Phone: (207) 353-5454.

The results of a survey in which 2,244 families participated were published in Christian Home Education News, Volume III. They reveal that almost 43% of all homeschoolers are either in their first year or not yet started. Other statistics concerned are legal covering, grades taught at home, materials used, and number of children in the homeschooling families. The newsletter, which is free, is published by Real Productions Inc.; 12847 66th St N; Largo, FL 34643.

-5 in this country and around the worldE MAIL ADDRESSES

WE would like all alternative schools, homeschool groups, homeschoolers, and other individual AERO-GRAMME readers to send to us their e mail addresses to we can set up communications between them. Send by mail to us or to one of our e mail addresses. We will publish them in the next issue of AERO-GRAMME. Send to [jmintz@student.nyit.edu](mailto:jmintz@student.nyit.edu), [jmintz@igc.apc.com](mailto:jmintz@igc.apc.com), to 5624344 or [jmintz](#) on MCI, or [DPMX82A](#) on Pridigy. .

#### WeUKRAINE

We received a wonderful package of photographs, letters, hand made bells and traditional Ukranian clothing from the Stark Family School in thanks for the help we provided to their school, through the Edwards Foundation. Stork is a parents cooperative, almost like a big homeschool, and is very special . In a note from Students Ann Botvinnik and Nina Stepanenko they reported school news and sent their love. Sergei Stapanenko, who just graduated from Stork said he is now studying "at the Technical University of Vinnitsa in the department of automatic systems."He said that he attended the Second Alternative School Festival in Sochi with the delegation from Stork. "Artiom and I organized the ping pong tournament that was called 'Festival table tennis Championship named after Jerry Mintz'...It's a pity that you couldn't come there. The days in Sochi were wonderful. Maybe you'll have a possibility to visit Vinnitsa. Our country is in a total crisis, but life doesn't stop and the sun shines like always. So we're waiting for you in our city and in our school." Stork teacher Oleg Belen wrote to thank us and the Edwards Foundation. He mentioned that "many of our kids had read Jenifer's book (My Life as a Traveling Homeschooler) and they liked it very much. So when they saw pictures of her in AERO-GRAMME it was as if they got a message from an old friend." A note accompanying the ceremonial bells said that "We want them to remind you of us and our school and of our love and best wishes. We say that if you would

be lonely or in triouble, ring one of those bells and we'll surely hear it and do all we can to help or to cheer you. Take them as parts of our souls."

systems." HeSochitroubleTo communicate with or support them, write to Oleg Belen, Stark Family School, Ul. Stakhurskogo 62 Kv. 40, Vinnitsa, Ukraine.HOME EDUCATION NEWS

AERO-GRAMME SUBSCRIPTION -----\$15\_\_\_\_\_

Check the expiration date of your label.

Supporting contribution to AERO\_\_\_\_\_(Make checks payable to AERO/School of Living) \$25\_\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

We'd also like to call your attention to materials available through AERO:

BACK ISSUES of AERO-GRAMME 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 \$5 each. \$\_\_\_\_\_

NEW!! The HANDBOOK OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

With over 7300 educational alternatives described, chapters by Ron Miller, Mary Ann Raywid, Jerry Mintz, Pat Farenga, Dave Lehman, Tim Seldin, and others, many indexes. Hard cover reference book, published by Macmillan and Solomon press.....\$75\_\_\_\_\_

Contact AERO for subsets of labels from the Handbook database.

My Life As a Traveling Homeschooler by Jenifer Goldman, Solomon Press  
An 11 year old describes her adventures visiting homeschoolers and helping her uncle Jerry Mintz start new alternative schools around the USA and Canada. Kids everywhere are reading this book and deciding to write their own books!

-----\$7.95 , \$5.55 for orders of 5 or more  
\$\_\_\_\_\_

GREEN REVOLTION, the newsletter of the School of Living  
AERO-GRAMME readers can become a member of the School of living and get a subscription to the Green Revolution for half price. The SOL is a 60 year old organization which pioneered the environmental protection movement, consumer protection, and is involved with land trust and communities movements, as well as the sponsor of AERO-----\$10\_\_\_\_\_

The National Directory of Alternative Schools

A list and description of hundreds of alternative schools, mostly independent, in the United States and other countries, as well as homeschool resources, alternative boarding schools and colleges, etc.(this is not the new Macmillan Handbook)

-----\$15\_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Reprinted materials from our three trips to Russia, and articles written by

participants of the teacher-training seminar in Moscow and Narva, Estonia.-----\$5\_\_\_\_\_

VIDEOS:

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION IN THE SOVIET UNION:

An hour and a half documentary of our trip to the First New Schools Festival, in the Crimea, USSR, concluding one day before the coup. Includes excerpts from the train trip from London to Moscow, a tour of Moscow, meetings in the Ministry of Education and Yeltsin's White House, the conference in the Crimea, with a demonstration of democratic decision-making with Russian students, detailed descriptions and demonstrations by the Stork Family School, a parent cooperative in the Ukraine.

-----\$25\_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER TRAINING SEMINARS IN RUSSIA AND ESTONIA, 1992

This is the video of one of the most amazing seminars we have ever experienced, with involvement of 7 American students, including 3 homeschoolers, 4 alternative school teachers, 25 Russian children, 125 Russian teachers, our presentations of democratic decision-making, workshops given by our students, trips to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, and St. Petersburg, Russia, and a bit of Summerhill at the end. Also available is new tape of the Polajaiky Avant Garde Seminar, Christmas, 1992.

-----\$25 each\_\_\_\_\_

SUMMERHILL VIDEO:

Two videos in one: the 1990 International Alternative School Conference at Summerhill, with interviews of Summerhill students and alumni, as well as vivid footage of the Summerhill end of term celebration. Also, Summerhill's 70th anniversary celebration in August, 1991, featuring more alumni interviews, and a Summerhill democratic meeting. -----

\$25\_\_\_\_\_

Nellie Dick and the Modern School Movement:

A fascinating two hour interview with a 96 year old pioneer in the alternative education movement. Born in the Ukraine of Jewish anarchist parents in 1893, she started anarchist schools in England back in 1908, went to the United States in 1917 to teach at the Modern School, in New Jersey, based on the work of Francisco Ferrer, and taught at and ran Modern Schools until 1958. Her son Jim, who was a student at the Modern Schools and is now a 70 year old pediatrician is also interviewed. There are also excerpts from the Modern School reunion in 1989 which featured the Spanish Modern Schools.-----

-----\$25\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

The 1993 Modern School Reunion

Commemorates Nellie Dick's 100th birthday celebration, with talks by many former Modern School Students, songs sung by former students and Nellie, herself----\$20

Nellie Dick's 100th Birthday Party,

Held at her son, Dr. Jim Dick's house in Oyster Bay, features excerpts and interviews with people who attended her birthday party in May.....\$20

Two WPIX TV shows about Homeschooling and Alternative Education

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 the interview with Jerry Mintz and Jenifer Goldman on CBS Up to the Minute, in which they discusses their books.-----\$25\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

CODE CRASH--For quickly learning the Morse Code.

Hundreds sold! This is a tape in which two 12 year old homeschoolers, a boy and a girl, each learn the Morse code by our unique method, in less than 20 minutes each. People interested in getting their amateur radio license will be amazed. It works. You'll learn it. Show to a whole class.

-----\$20\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Add \$2 for postage for books and videos.

TOTAL ORDER, AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_

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Ç@In a note from s

Edited by Carol Morley mention AERO wanted to encourage to, wanting information onr Alternative Schooled CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Jan. 12-15, San Diego, CA, Conference on Accelerative Learning and Teaching: The Future of Learning, Learning Forum Foundation, 1725 South Hill St, Oceanside, CA 92054, 619 722-0348

Jan 17, Sateline Town Meeting, School to Work: Preparing Students for High-Skill, High-Wage&æÄÏÿ”ÿ ŸX/’/Σ/‰/Â



USA LEARN

Feb 1-5, Cocoa Beach, FL, The National Aerospace/Environmental Studies, Institute, sponsored by Magnets Schools of America, 800 226-6587, 800 462-5526

March 16-18, San Diego, LeARN 1995, Realizing the Vision: Quality, Caring, and Choice, 310 940-1812, or 714 547-2344

April 27-30, Winipeg, Manitoba, Embracing Education, A Progressive Education Conference, Grove St Teachers Center, 1-116 Grove St, Winipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2W 3K8, (204) 934-5200

May 2-5, San Jose, CA, International Conference on Magnet Schools, Bridges to the 21st Century, 2111 Holly Hall, Suite 704, Houston, TX 77054, 800 462-5526

..... Body Text ..... April 12-15, Association of Childhood Education, 11501 Georgia Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902, 301-942-2443

April 17-23, Colorado, National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools, PO Box 15036, Santa Fe, NM 87506, (505) 474-4312

April 28-May 3, Holland-Russia, Eureka Avant Garde, Contact AERO

June, Indiana, International Alternative Education Conference, Tom Gregory, 337 School of Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 (812) 876-9362

August 3-6, National Coalition of Educational Activists, MIT

Reader Rick Miller called to tell us that the Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education is looking for a teacher. The school is the oldest continuously operating alternative school that we know of, having been founded in 1907. Write to the school at 8 Marietta Dr, PO Box 1555, Fairhope, AL 36532 or call Lily Sol at 205 990-9112.

..... Body Text ..... (let us know if you like this new feature)Sto ..... Body Text .....  
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PHOTO



Film School teachers Sergay and Alla at Jerry's housePHOTO  
Film School students sleeping at Jerry's house

PHOTO

Unloading a speaker box at JFK

PHOTO

101 year old educational pioneer Nellie Dick at Modern School reunion

PHOTO

Leonard Scheer speaks at reunion

PHOTO

Third generation Modern Schooler at reunion

The quarterly board meeting of the School of Living was held October 28th at Common Ground Community, in Lexington, VA. Jerry Mintz attended, and also visited Snakefoot Homeschool Resource Center, Blue Mountain School, in Floyd, Community School, in Roanoke, and visited the Gralla and Moates homeschool families. AERO is a part of the School of Living.

PHOTO

School of Living board members and visitors at Common Ground

PHOTO

Snakefoot Homeschool Resource Center

, Cambridge, MA, NCEA ,

PHOTO

"The last bell rings," graduation ceremony at Stork

PHOTO

Story Family School members just off the bus at Sochi

, or DPMX82A on Pridigy. 28-July 2Bloomington, , Tom Gregory, 3206ington,

IN 47405 (812) 856-8144Pleasepostage: enewal if your label reads

95.01January 1995We have a new publication exchange with Self-Schoolers

Network News, which is edited by 14 year old Zoe Blowden-Ledoux (RFD #1 Box

452, Lisbon Falls, ME 04252)√pf°f“≈ì≈î≈ù © ò -

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about to leave for Korea.) If you are not able to buy the Handbook yourself, ask your library to order it from AERO, or from Macmillan. The Macmillan price goes up after January 1st. The isbn is 0-02-897303-5.

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Bay-Paul Grant Presents a Challenge  
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Handbook of Alternative Education Update  
Why Make Decisions Democratically?  
Small Schools Editorial  
Visit of Moscow International Film School  
Modern School Reunion Report  
Separation of School and State

#### MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRANET produces self-reliance pamphlets, Montessori accreditation, National Coalition of Educational Activists, The Circle School, Holistic Teacher Education conference, Geocommons College International Semester, Journal of Family Life, Accelerative Learning Conference, Landcaster System, American Association of Educators in Private Practice, Miller's Great Ideas in Education, New Horizons new electronic building, Democracy in Education magazine, Sudbury Valley School conference, book about The School Around Us, Center for Living Democracy, Sex in Schools, Montessori in the Home, School of Living board meeting

#### CONFERENCE CALENDAR

#### TEACHERS, JOBS, INTERNSHIPS

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND COMMUNICATIONS

ENGLAND: Nellie Dick thesis, new conference planned, BOLIVIA: new school started, GERMANY: European Forum for Freedom in Education meets, JAPAN: looking for homeschool materials, Russia: Tubelsky coming to USA, UKRAINE: Stork Family School

#### PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

Charter schools, Oasis High School magazine, Marshall Fritz, Separation of School and State Alliance

#### HOME EDUCATION NEWS

Self-Schoolers Network News, Shiloh Moates going to Africa, English homeschooling, Puget Sound Community School by computer, Family Learning Exchange, Pat Montgomery comes back from Japan, homeschooling in PA, homeschooling and religion, Jewish Home Educators, Christian home education survey