

SPECIAL EXPANDED ISSUE

The Alternative Education Resource Organization Newsletter

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PHOTO (across top)Two American campers at Cap Creus beach, Spain  
A FRENCH-AMERICAN ALTERNATIVE SUMMER CAMP

Patrice Creve was a co-founder of Theleme School. It is an alternative boarding school in France. He worked for the school for several years, and is currently President of the Board. He is an activist in educational alternatives and environmental protection, now living in Toulouse, France. With Jerry Mintz, he began the organization of the three week international summer program which took place at Theleme School, in the French Pyrenees, from July 9-31. Much of the planning took place by e mail. Seventeen students participated, aged 11-15, including 8 Americans, 5 girls and 3 boys, 8 French and one German student. The group explored the walled city of Carcassonne, climbed into the sky at the Cathar Castle Peyrpetuse, went to the Dali Museum in Figueras, Spain, and camped out on a wild beach at Cap Creus. They also had French and English classes, saw fireworks on Bastille Day, and climbed Canigou, the highest mountain in the Pyrenees. Here are some of Patrice's recent reflections on the camp experience:

During this summer camp two things impressed me the most: the democratic meetings and living on the wild beach at Cap Creus in Spain.

One of the main difficulties in the community life of the camp, apart from the language difference, was the difference in maturity between the two groups. Although the age groups were quite homogenous, the American kids seemed at first more quiet, more experienced, the French kids seemed more wild and energetic. (Although the camp took place at Theleme, all of the Americans had alternative education background, and most of the French kids didn't).

As we learned from Jerry's approach to democratic meetings, we could all see that 3 weeks was too short a period of time to fully let the process develop, with kids from so many different backgrounds. It occurred to Michel Ferre (Head of Theleme school) that the democratic meetings evolved through different levels: the therapeutic level (when one student complains about what has be done to him/her); the educational level (when participants propose to improve the life of the group); and the mature democratic meeting (when everybody has the same communication tools and has become able to listen to the others and to talk with purpose).

I think we succeeded in having interesting meetings, good proposals, and

many problems solved. This, I think, was partly due to a common level of educational awareness among the adults and partly to the extreme kindness of everybody, including the kids, each in their own way. There were times when harmony grew wonderfully out of apparent disharmony.

PHOTOFrench students cook muscles on the beach

PHOTOFrench students near stone oven

The second thing I want to highlight is the stay on the wild beach in Cap Creus, Spain. This is a remote inlet on the Mediterranean Sea that can only be reached by boat or by hiking in several kilometers and down a steep hill, which we did. There is a small stand of pine trees that provides shade; there's a well with fresh water, and a beach surrounded by cliffs. Sometimes our group was the only one there. During the 2 days we camped there I saw a group of kids happy to live on their own. Rarely did they come to adults to ask for anything. Some even forgot to come for meals as they were busy spending their life in the beauty of nature. Some went to catch mussels and sea urchins that they cooked afterwards on a stove made from gathered rocks. Some read, went for walks, or swam a few yards from us in the sea. They were all busy at any given time. Thinking of Robinson Crusoe, I said to myself that nature is a great teacher, and maybe more than a teacher, perhaps a friend to accompany us on our way.

There was no need for a walkman, for a TV set or a refrigerator full of Cokes and sweets. Nature was nourishing life. Of course, this was a short experience, only two days, but I couldn't help but notice the deep relationship between the children and nature. And I just regret that this kind of free time in nature has disappeared from our curricula. We mostly trap nature into our graphs, our experiments, our statistics: the best way to miss the essence of it.

I'm not new to camps or trips with kids but this is probably one of the first times I've been in the company of such a charming group of human beings. And this had a lot to do with how much we achieved. A nice camp program can be ruined by only one disastrous kid or adult. It was not the case and, on the contrary, the quality of the program was reinforced by the kindness, the flexibility and the acceptance of everybody. So my personal feeling, and I know this is widely shared, is that this camp was a great achievement. If we keep in mind that one purpose of education, and especially of alternative education, is to provide the basis of a new and better society, I think we did a really good job. I won't let myself be deluded by a 3 week experience, but I'm still convinced that the numerous people who are working in educational alternatives around the world (often in difficult or disastrous conditions) are really offering the world a future with a good opportunity to be sustainable.

Patrice Creve

Co-founder of Theleme.

Theleme, boarding school for children aged 10-15 can be reached at  
Theleme, 3 rue des Chalets, 66820 Vernet (France)  
Tel. : (33) 68 05 65 85.

Email : patcreve@mail.planete.net

PHOTOThe group swimming in a country pond

PHOTOA view of the Cathar Castle Peyrpetuse

PHOTOJerry Mintz at Peyrpetuse

PHOTOThe American students say good-bye to Dominic, from Germany

REPORT ON THE FRENCH CAMP BY A CAMPER

My name is Anthony Santoro and I'm 14 years old. I've been homeschooling for 7 years. I found out about the camp from my mother, who had heard about it on the homeschool bulletin board on Prodigy.

I believe the highlights of the trip for me were the democratic meetings and learning about the French culture. Also, the hiking in the mountains, and going to the Dali Museum in Spain.

The thing I liked most was the democratic meetings, where everyone had a fair say. As a homeschooler I had never been exposed to democratic meetings. One of the reasons I particularly enjoyed them is that almost everywhere I go in ordinary life it is something like a dictatorship situation, such as work, or a regular summer camp. The meetings made me feel like I had some authority over my own life.

I found that at first some of the kids didn't appreciate the meetings as I did. Towards the end, I think they pretty much felt the same. Everyone kind of held back in the beginning, not really open. But later people felt more comfortable to express what they wanted to say. I don't think that having it in French and English had any negative effect. In fact it might have been even better, because it wasn't too quick; it gave you time to think.

One thing I learned from the French culture: When I came back, I went to church and they were saying that people were inherently evil, and you had to fight that and bestow your goodness on them. I just couldn't listen to that any more. It almost disgusted me. I had learned that this wasn't true at all, . I had seen the goodness come through, not just through the meetings, but just in talking to people everywhere--like going into a store, and sitting next to an old man on a bench and having a conversation. People were so nice. It would be difficult to do that in America.

I feel that I have changed as a result of this experience. I've seen things from a different point of view than I've ever experienced in America. Now I think I understand better why people travel the world.

(Ed. note: We are now planning future travels, including the possibility of another camp next summer at Theleme. Contact AERO if you are interested).

PHOTO Campers climbing to Lacs de Nohedes  
PHOTO At Lacs de Nohedes, in Pyrenees Mountains  
PHOTO Journal, French and English classes  
PHOTO At the Walled city of Carcassonne

#### TEACHING AT AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL IN RUSSIA

(Editor's note: About a year ago I received a letter from 19 year old Ananda Kantner, Daughter of Bruce Kantner of the Gaia Education Outreach Institute. She asked if I could arrange a situation for her in which she could spend some time at an alternative school in Russia. I put her in touch with Alexander Adamsky, President of the Eureka Free University. Alexander's wife directs an alternative school in Moscow, and they agreed to let Ananda teach English at the school and live with them at their apartment. JM)

Jerry Mintz, this is for your newsletter. Feel free to edit as necessary. Thank you again for helping me set up my adventure in Russia! Ananda Kantner:

Last September, instead of setting out for college or a new job like most of my peers, I set out for Russia. As my airplane left the ground, all I knew about my immediate future was that I was going to Moscow to help teach English in a small "alternative" elementary school and that for over half a year I'd be staying with a Russian family I'd never met before and spoken with only twice on the telephone. But I had my two heavy suitcases in my hands, a bunch of Russian words in my head, and a great deal of excitement and curiosity.

The day after I arrived I discovered what the next 7 1/2 months of my life would be about. There was a blue-walled classroom in the corner of an old school building, tucked away beneath towering concrete apartment buildings. There were about forty-five energetic second, third, and fifth graders who bounced in and out of the room during the day. There was the Russian-native English teacher who had some pretty serious questions about the English language. I soon found out that my official tasks would be to help the pupils with reading, writing, pronunciation, and conversation. I also saw that my immediate task was to start to find out about this Eureka Ogonyok school and what made it "alternative."

A few days after my arrival I attended a seminar with the other teachers of the school and several of the school's advisors. The topic of the seminar was how a certain complex dialectical theory related to teaching children in the school. Even with the joint translation help of several teachers and scientists, I was almost completely lost (and in fact one of the teachers hinted to me that almost all the teachers were pretty confused, even though the seminar was conducted in their native language). After that, and after a few attempts to find out from the director (whose

family I lived with) more about some of the philosophical foundations of her school, I resigned myself to direct observation and, of course, getting to know the children.

From the first day, I was struck by the students' enthusiasm for learning. Thinking back to my own foreign language classes in public high school and even in private elementary school, I remember among my classmates a pervasive apathy and reluctance to take active involvement in the process of learning. At Eureka Ogonyok, the situation was completely the opposite. The children were fascinated by the new English letters, sounds, words, and grammar and were always eager to try to speak, even outside of classes. At home I frequently heard my 9-year-old Russian "sister" conversing in English with her friends and family. When, early in the morning, I would hear from across my room a loud "Good Morning!" I would often wonder for a moment which country I was really in.

Part of this enthusiasm for learning should be credited to the teachers' attitude toward their students, which reflected nothing of their collective authoritarian past. At Eureka Ogonyok I felt from the teachers genuine trust, respect, interest, and desire for friendship with all their students. And because of the teachers' nurturing attitude, the freedom allowed the students seemed to give rise to harmony and cooperation rather than isolating competition or irresponsibility. In our English classes, the majority of the students would work equally willingly--and effectively--by themselves, with their peers, or with their teachers.

Teaching English in a foreign country, let alone withstanding Moscow's dark winter desolation, certainly wasn't always easy. But even on the darkest, coldest days, there always seemed to be an uplifting spirit within the walls of Eureka Ogonyok. The remarkable mixture of freedom, cooperation, creativity, and dedication to learning, present in everything from the artwork in the classrooms, to the seasonal festivals and celebrations, to written reports and conversations in the hallways, showed that this unique school has been truly successful in embracing a holistic form of education for its students and fostering the democratic values which will surely be important to the evolution of Russian society.

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Derbyshire Farm, Temple, NH 03084 | <http://www.well.com/user/cmtly/GEO/>

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AERO PROPOSES AN INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
It seems appropriate in this, the 75th anniversary year of Summerhill School that we now propose to create an organization of alumni of educational alternatives. Since the last issue we have heard directly of many reunions of alternative schools and groups. We will report them in the next section. From now on we will have a special section in AERO-GRAMME for the news of alumni of educational alternatives, including homeschooling.

For a long time I have been working on the creation of an international alternative education alumni association. This would also include alumni of schools which no longer exist. It could further unite the alternative education movement, and it could become a great resource for creativity and support for current educational alternatives. There have been several major reunions similar to Summerhill's this year--mostly 25th anniversaries.

Besides having a section of AERO-GRAMME, we will make an addition to our web page for the purpose of alumni connecting and sharing their experiences. Beyond that, we are open to any ideas and suggestions. We request that schools and individuals send us addresses so that we may send them information about this project. We expect that in some cases this work will help current schools which are looking for alumni help and communication. We may be able to help them with some of their outreach.

Contact AERO with any lists of names, questions or suggestions.

#### ALUMNI NEWS

In our last issue Dick McLeester wrote to tell us that he was organizing a reunion of alumni of 8 alternative schools in the Madison, WI area. He said he had over 1000 people on his database. He now writes to tell us that "It was great! 300 people arrived from all over the country...The feelings of connection and community are still really strong!" They had children's activities, dancing with a live band, and lots of talking. "Some said they felt (the alternative school) was not all that good for them at the time--they were not ready to handle the lack of structure, but felt they were glad to be part of this community of creative people. It was good to see how people have survived and thrived since then." People want to have a follow-up event.

Faith Gussack (faith@cloud9.net) wrote to us about the Windsor Mountain School, which operated in Lenox, MA from the 1960's until it closed in 1975. They recently had a reunion, and people came from all over the world to be there. According to their web site there were over 900 attendees! "It was originally portrayed to me as a last stop school for kids who couldn't tolerate the conventional public schools. In reality it was a school full of extremely bright, imaginative, unconventional kids who were too willfully themselves to be tamed by the powers that be." The headmaster, Heinz Bondy, and assistant, Maurice Eldridge had "philosophies, personalities and judgment which saved many a desperate teenager." Faith said that the state of education today was one of the most discussed topics. People had a sense of community at Windsor Mountain that "many of us never found again." Because, with her husband, she watched her son's "boundless artistic energy come to a grinding halt when he entered first grade," they are actively searching for a good school/community. Websites about the reunion are <http://www.inx.net/~lafford/windsor.htm> and

[www.smartserve.com/chumlist.htm](http://www.smartserve.com/chumlist.htm)

In a recent conversation with Shiloh Moates, he reported that he completed his first year at Radford University with a 3.6 average, and has been given a full scholarship for the coming year! As you may remember, Shiloh is a homeschooler who received some help from AERO a few years ago and did some traveling with us. At 15 years old he went to South Africa to help teach organic farming. Subsequently he was accepted at Radford, at age 16, with no high school transcript and no SAT's. His particular interest now is ethno-botany.

The Friends of the Modern School will have their annual reunion on September 27 and 28 at Rutgers University. Rutgers houses a special collection of Modern School documents, and participants are asked to add to it if they can. On Friday there will be special reception at Alexander Library at 106 College Ave. On Saturday the reunion will be at Brower Commons. The Modern School is based on the work of anarchist Francisco Ferrer. Although the last Modern School closed in 1958, the alumni have a reunion EVERY YEAR! One feature of this reunion will be the proposal of Alfred Levitt, world-famous artist and former Modern School student, mentioned in the last AERO-GRAMME, for the creation of a new Modern School in New York City. Alfred, aged 102, is hoping to attend. John Scott is organizing the event. We expect to attend. 200 Sumac Ridge La, Altamont, NY 12009 (Remember, AERO has several videos featuring previous reunions and interviews with Nellie Dick, pioneer in the Modern School Movement, who passed away this year).

PHOTO (these are small-four could fit across page) Students with rabbit at Summerhill

2 PHOTOSummerhill students from Taiwan, Germany

PHOTOSummerhill Head Zoe Redhead

Summerhill is celebrating its 75th anniversary all year long. On August 9th they had an alumni gathering at the school, with 200 people showing up from many different eras. We received one report from Geof Wolfer, a former Summerhill student from the United States. Summerhill used to be half American, but now has no American students! In fact, about a third are now from Asia! We hope to find some American students to go to Summerhill. In Geoph's report he says, "As I looked around at the anniversary party at Summerhill alumni ranging from 20 to 70 years old it occurred to me that these are not the "outcasts" that some people stereotype ex-Summerhillians to be. What I saw was a group of people who were intelligent, open-minded, creative and happy. It also occurred to me that this group of alumni is forever indebted to the dream of Neill, Ena, and Zoe, and that we should do something to make that dream a little easier to accomplish on a daily basis. Perhaps there are national or international organizations that support ideas like those nurtured at Summerhill (see Geoph's note in the AERO guest book in the following article).

## AERO WEB SITE

THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE FROM THE GUEST BOOK LOCATED AT THE AERO WEB SITE--CHECK IT OUT! ADD YOUR COMMENTS! [HTTP://www.SPEAKEASY.ORG/~AERO](http://www.SPEAKEASY.ORG/~AERO)  
You can reach any of these people directly from the web site guest book and archive. Thanks, again to Andy Smallman and Puget Sound Community School for helping us set up and maintain the site.

Name: Geof Wolfer , From: Morristown, NJ USA

Comments: I wish I had been aware of this organization two weeks ago. I can't tell you how many of the people I spoke with at the Summerhill 75th would love to access this home page. One of the younger alumni I met was extremely enthusiastic about founding a "Summerhillian University". For myself, I have a daughter due in December and am eager to get a copy of this Almanac of Education Choices. I'm hoping there's something like Summerhill a bit closer to home.

Name:Andrea Hetheru, Email:janjuly@aol.com

Comments: FANTASTIC!! A life changer for our family---a life shaper for our our four-year-old who we were morbidly resigned to send to kindergarten next fall.

Name:Kathryne Bodholdt, Email:kbodholdt@uoknor.edu

Comments: Hi. I am a completing my sophomore year at the University of Oklahoma in Norman,OK, having just switched from a double major in Psychology/Sociology to one in English Education. I'm an alumni of Walden Prep School in Dallas, Texas, an alternative high school. The alternative school program changed my life! After a long period of hoping, worrying, etc. I have decided to give up on finding a financially stable career and follow my dream to help kids like the teachers and administrator at Walden helped me. Also just looking for other Walden alumni, and wanted to tell everybody that it works! Dave Darnell, Pat Tetens, and the administrator, Pamala Stone, are dedicated, hardworking, underpaid and overqualified people, without whom I probably would never have gotten this far!!

Name:Diane Kruse, Email:diane\_kruse-rantoul@nova.novanet.org

Comments: This is great--I never knew this existed. Two things I would like to talk to people about:

1. I am in the market for a new alternative ed position. I currently teach in an at-risk program in central Illinois, and my district is cutting back all programs after a failed referendum. I am certified in English and math. I am particularly interested in helping a district start a new alternative program of their own.
2. My colleagues and I have received numerous requests for information about alternative/at-risk ed, and to this end have begun consulting and providing workshops to other districts. Email me if you would like info about this!

Name: Richard Fulton , Website: Colorado Department of Education , From:



Colorado

Comments: I would like to talk with Jerry about some ideas we are doing in Colorado at the Department and state-wide

Name: Joshua Morgan, Email: awake@mail.utexas.edu

Comments: Great work Jerry! I am a self taught unschooler, now in college. Anyone who would like to exchange some ideas on changing the education system, please email me at: awake@mail.utexas.edu  
Joshua Morgan

Name: Derek Peterson, Email: peterson@ptialaska.net

Comments: Hi Jerry. It's me. It's been a long time. My wife and I have reentered the world after our 2 1/2 year hiatus. We didn't finish the Guinness Book Trip. We pedaled our tandem 9,300 miles, but were sidetracked by the Chiapas Uprising in 1994. You'll smile at what I am doing now. I work for the Association of Alaska School Boards. Yep, Mr. Revolution is trying to change things from the inside. I am the children and youth advocate. My responsibilities include promoting positive ALTERNATIVES to

school leaders across the state. I am the same fellow-my work is interesting. Glad to see that AERO is growing and going. Congratulations.

Name: Jude Vachon, Email: jxvst+@pitt.edu

Comments: I am a teacher with experience teaching English as a Second Language and with teaching

German to students of all kinds of ability levels and backgrounds, ages 6 to 62. I love teaching! I want to work in a school with a sense of community and a commitment to learner-centered teaching. I don't necessarily want to teach German, it's just my specialty. I am willing to be a floating tutor, too. I really like working one-on-one with students. How it happens is much more important to me than what, in particular, I'm working with. I am looking for work for the fall of '96. Contact me by e-mail (address above), by mail (64 S. 19th St. #3, Pittsburgh, PA 15203) or by phone ((412) 431 - 2210). Just contact me! Jude Vachon

Name: Sean Yaap, Email: syaap@pscs.org (a student at Puget Sound Community School)

Comments: A couple of months ago I went and visited AERO and Jerry and I thought it was a great organization and that these type of things will help keep alternative schooling going for many years to come.

Name: Brad Jackson , From: Amarillo TX

Comments: I'm a graduated homeschooler, I went to Russia with Jerry which was, truly, a fantastic experience...

Name: Tom Trigg, Email: tomtrigg@montana.com

Comments: Jerry, just added your page to my list of favorites. I hope everything is going well for you. Tom Trigg --Clark Fork School

Name: Daniel Fear, Email: dfear@nmsu.edu

Comments: I'm a music education major working on a group research topic of

alternative schools.

This site came up during my net search on the topic. Thanks for the help that I received from this page. Dan-

Name: Richard Goldberg, Email: rlg@med.unc.edu

Comments: I am looking for a teaching position in science (physics or biology) at an alternative high school or college. My background is in engineering (Ph.D) and I have been doing research (studying how bats use sonar and medical ultrasound systems) and some teaching for the last eight years. I am not certified to teach in a public school system. Does anyone know of any jobs, or any good resources to find jobs? Thanks for your help.

Name: Mark Bell, Email: mtbell@erols.com

Comments: My son & I have Attention Deficit Disorder & Tourette's syndrome. I would like to know if an educational system exists which utilizes our strengths instead of focusing on or continuously placing counter productive barriers in the way of our learning ...

Name: Sarah Burlingame, Email: sheba@cyber-quest.com

Comments: I am interested in starting an alternative school for disabled children. If anyone has any comments or ideas please contact me by e-mail. The school will be located in northern Pennsylvania.

Name: Mary Addams-Shaffer, Email: ProfMom648@aol.com, HQ@Manhasset.com

Comments: Mr. Mintz, I live in Manhasset and have been involved with educational alternatives for about 5 years. I homeschool and I sell GREAT homeschool software, K-12....great for GED seekers too! For parents who want to Homeschool but need to earn a living, I develop home businesses! I don't think it's a coincidence we live in bicycle distance of each other. I'm currently planning a seminar on using the Internet for education. Let's work together!

Name: Jessica Sparber, Email: sparber@virtu.sar.usf.edu

Comments: Send me info! I go to an alleged alternative college, New College at the University of South Florida, and I am interested in alternative education (Jessica worked as an intern at AERO this summer)

Name: Brian Callahan, Email: bjc1@waikato.ac.nz

Comments: Hi I'm currently attending the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. I am currently working on a directed study about alternative education. I will mainly be looking at what is available in my region, but will be looking elsewhere for other alternatives, and may include these in my study.

Name: Trevor Sturgeon, Email: i6yc@unb.ca

Comments: I am a graduate student completing my MEd in guidance and counseling at the University of New Brunswick(CANADA). I am looking to do a month-long counseling internship in an alternative education setting somewhere in New England. I am particularly interested in working with at-risk adolescents or in a youth drug rehabilitation environment. If anyone

knows of any such institutions or programs in this area and can provide me with contact numbers, please e-mail me at i6yc@unb.ca. If for some reason you cannot get through to my e-mail please call me collect at 506-454-3171. thank you.

Name: Claudia Pruitt, Email: pruitts@sisna.com

Comments: I'm a parent at an alternative public k-6 school in Salt Lake City. The Open Classroom has been around since 1976. We are looking for a teacher for the lower grades 1-3 who has a background in child-centered, holistic learning with the ability to work with parents (each family 'coops' 3 hours per week in the classroom-teaching kids) .

Name: Michael Davies, Email: Miked@cpnet.net

Comments: "Hello, Jerry Mintz." I teach on a Hutterite Colony-[(see)-<http://www.brudershof.org/index.htm>]. I do not teach at the above mentioned site, nor am I a Hutterite. I have 30 E.S.L students (English as a Second Language). They range from K to grade 9. I am the only teacher and a teacher assistant. At times this seems like an impossible job. Otherwise it is very rewarding experience.

Name: Kathy Bloom , Email: samuelb@wave.sheridan.wy.us

Comments: I am looking for programs that might address the needs of youth with problems in rural Wyoming, a conservative outpost, yet probably willing to try anything to educate their children. I've been in public ed. for 20 years from classroom teaching to drug prevention specialist and do not have many stars left in front of my eyes yet have the ability to work hard for kids. So if there might be resources please let me know. Thanks!

Name: Michael Chamberlin , From: Littleton, Colorado USA

Comments: I'm an alternative teacher looking for an alternative school in a small town. (see job section)

Name: Liselyn Adams , From: Ayer's Cliff, Quebec

Comments: I'm just beginning homeschooling with another family -- three kids from 4-6 -- we're having a great time and would love to hear from anyone with little ones.

Name: Marshall Fritz , Website: Separation of School & State Alliance , From: Fresno, Calif.

Comments: Jerry... Congrats on good looking page. I especially liked your guest log, and think we should implement one for our homepage, too.

Name: Belinda Clune , From: Auckland, NEW ZEALAND!!

Comments: I'd love to be emailed from whomever is out there reading this! The company I work for specialises in assessing people's individual working and learning styles. DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH!

INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The conference was in Portland, OR, from June 28-30. I used up my British Air frequent flyer miles to get there. Traveling a few days earlier, I did a presentation at Portland State University, sponsored by the Enthusiasm for Learning Foundation, organized by Sander Feinberg. The wonderful surprise at the meeting was a reunion with a former student at my

school, Jeremy Kaplan, and his father, Steve. Jeremy now has a degree in psychology, and also plays in a band, and skates on a hockey team! He still has a great interest in alternative education.

PHOTOSteve and Jeremy Kaplan (r)

PHOTORay Morley (l), Amy Cooke (r) and Arnie Langberg (above)

The conference had several hundred attendees from all over the country, and Canada. Most were from public alternatives, but there was a sprinkling from independent alternatives and homeschooling. One was Amy Cooke, who is starting a new independent alternative in Visalia, CA, called the Venice Community School.

The theme of the conference was Telling the Story, and I did my part at a workshop in which I told about ten stories from a new book I am writing about the "real" stories.

We had a nice meeting with the organizers of next year's conference, to be held in Michigan. Among the suggestions--that workshops be experiential and involve student presenters, and that there be daily reflection and evaluation sessions.

During and after the conference, there were meetings of the "Changing Schools Action Team," sponsored by the Josephine Bay Pall and C. Michael Paul Foundation and organized by Fred Bay to discuss the possibilities for creating real school change. Participants included Mary Ellen Bowen, Amy Cooke, Arnie and Dagnja Langberg, David Marshak, Mary Anne Raywid, Nancy Reckinger, Robert Skenes, and Mary Ellen Sweeney. We are hoping to work on some of the ideas which came from this meeting through AERO. JM

PHOTOFred Bay in Oregon

PHOTOMary Ann Raywid (l)

A NOTE TO AERO-GRAMME READERS

As AERO begins to run out of funds and we apply again to some of the foundations which have supported us in the past, it would be useful if you, the readers, could write to us with any stories about networking or help which you have received through AERO or AERO-GRAMME.. As you probably realize, subscriptions, book and video sales are not enough to keep us going (and we need all the subscriptions and sales we can get). Thanks!

MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

EDITED BY CAROL MORLEY

The Institute for Humanistic Education and Parenting's (IHEP) philosophy is non-authoritarian and child-centered. It publishes the Play Mountain Place (PMP) newsletter. Volume 7 reported that Joannie Barron worked and studied at PMP, returned to Cork, Ireland, and in 1985, started Wallaroo Playschool Day Care Center. It is very affordable and encourages parent involvement. PMP, 6063 Hargis St., Los Angeles, CA 90034. Tel: 213-870-4381.

Crossroads School, founded by Brian Kearsey, is opening this fall in

Brewster, NY, for students aged 3 to 17. It blends Montessori, Steiner and Gatto instruction geared to its students needs. The school is located at Rte 6 RD 11, Brewster, NY 10509.

An essay outlining the benefits of alternative private schools over public schools was written by John Taylor Gatto in The Voice Education Supplement (Aug. 13, 1996). In the article, "As Elite as You Wanna Be," John points out that Sudbury Valley School and the Albany Free School are among the more than 6000 innovative alternative schools listed in Jerry Mintz's Almanac of Education Choices. These schools, John states, "offer a tradition that children are people who can be trusted, people with names and destinies, not numbered functionaries of some mass-accounting mechanism."

Thank you to Joy Rosenzweig, a student at the Claremont Graduate School, for this message: "I just received your newsletter and I can't tell you how excited I was to read about all of those alternatives in education. It is very exciting to know there are networks of individuals out there who are committed to homeschooling and to innovative practices and models of education. Bravo!" Joy is doing a study of innovative colleges through the Claremont Graduate School. 10801 Lemon Ave #627, Alta Loma, CA 91737 Ph: 909 944-7180

And thank you also to Anne Evans for her e-mail note: "I love the improvements you keep making to your Web site. It is a powerful resource tool - congratulations!" Anne is interested in developing a 6th to 12th grade school for girls. Anyone interested can write to Anne at annenaida@aol.com

Dan Endsley has started a new company called NEATscape which specializes in Web site development for small and medium sized businesses. He is handling sales and marketing and he has some first-rate technical people working with him. Their costs are very, very competitive. Voice mail Dan at 888-4-NEATscape. E-mail dane@neatscape.com

SKOLE, the Journal of Alternative Education, is hoping to devote its entire fall issue to writings by children. Please send children's written work to Mary Leue at SKOLE, 72 Philip St., Albany, NY. Tel: 518-432-1578. Fax: 518-462-6836. E-mail: MarySKOLE@aol.com

We learned from Tom Trigg that The Downtown School is opening at the end of August and anticipates 18 children in its six-hour daily program. The school's focus will be on individuality, caring, sharing, independence, and learning through exploration. It is located at 308 W. Pine St., Missoula, MT 59802. Tel: 406-542-1818.

A new alternative school in San Diego is called Exploration International. It welcomes home-schoolers and alternative-schoolers to communicate with them and/or to visit. Contact Tina at [altsch@pacbell.net](mailto:altsch@pacbell.net)

A request for information on any new, innovative methods for treating and education children with neurological disorders, especially autism, came to us from Sarah Burlingame. She would also like to know where these treatments are given, whether in schools or in special centers. Write to her at 23 Hudson St., Towanda, PA. E-mail: [sheba@cyber-quest.com](mailto:sheba@cyber-quest.com)

The Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs has printed PATTERNS, a directory of state alternative education programs. Since 1990, PATTERNS has been a yearly publication primarily for alternative educators and those interested in educational reform and options. The 96-97 edition has undergone more revisions and includes more resources and publications. For order information contact Patti Haasch, Cass Lake ALC, Rt. 3 Box 4, Cass Lake, MN 56633. Tel: 218-335-6529. Fax: 218-335-8826.

In order to continue publication of the Joyful Child Journal, Peggy Jenkins needs help with funding and advertising and she also needs someone to take over the publishing. She can be reached at 4920 E. Altadena Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Tel: 602-494-3383.

Zephyr Press has announced a new organization called the Network for Successful Teaching and Learning. The Network's quarterly publication is titled Mindshift Connection which includes articles and interviews drawn from the cognitive sciences, neurobiology and educational research. For more information: Jennifer Manke, PO Box 66006, Tucson, AZ 85728. Tel: 520-322-5090 ext. 114.

William Mundy wrote a report from the 1996 International Alternative Schools Conference in the Spring/Summer 1996 volume of The Educare Bulletin. In it he mentions meeting Jerry Mintz who, he says, "personifies" invention. The Bulletin also printed part two of the "Interview with Mary Leue." The Bulletin is published by the Venice Community School, 31191 Rd. 180, Visalia, CA 93292. Tel: 209-592-4999.

The premiere issue of the Rocky Mountain Education Connection appeared in May, 1996. It's a magazine of home and alternative education information serving Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. The first issue included "The Teen Years," "Pretty Good is Not Really All that Great," a calendar of events, and lists of resources and support groups. RMEC c/o Berg, 1495 Riverside Ave, Boulder, CO 80304.

Tina Dawson, former head of the Community School, in Roanoke, VA, along with Mike Dawson, Jonathan Bender and Julie Meltzer, are now organizing a

new program called Expedition Field Studies, an educational expedition-travel program for 13-18 year olds. It is sponsored by The Learning Circle and will offer 3 US trips this year: in Mid-October to Boundary Lakes Country, in March-April, to the Desert Southwest, and June-July to the Intermountain West. For more information write to PO Box 58, Newport, VA 24128, or call Mike Dawson at 540-544-7654, or e mail to [jmeltzer@vt.edu](mailto:jmeltzer@vt.edu)

The North American Wilderness Academy has changed its name to the North American Academies. They felt that "Wilderness" has come to have a negative image because of problems at Wilderness Therapy programs, and since they have several experiential education boarding schools, they thought the change was warranted. I suppose we could speculate in the same way about what has been done to the word "alternative." 11351 Trinity Mountain Rd, French Gulch, CA 96033

Long-time AERO supporter Molly Phibbs has just published a new book, Rainbow Hued Nuclear Age Arithmetic. One of the most unusual math books you will ever see, the book is colorfully illustrated by Molly, herself. 18508-68 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5T 2M7

Thanks to John Lundgren who wrote: "I got your Aero-Grammes #16 & 17 and wow it's really fantastic. Keep it up, you're doing great." Also, thanks for John's best wishes to Jerry. John is interested in reconnecting with the Russian alternative school movement, in receiving information on alternative schools in Sweden, and in land-based community efforts in the US. He sent information to us on Grunewald Guild, a community in north central Washington State dedicated to the imaging of faith through art. He can be reached c/o Grunewald Guild, 19003 River Rd., Leavenworth, WA 98826. Tel: 509-763-3693.

The only farm workers union in Oregon, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos Del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters & Farmworkers United) has begun to offer ESL and citizenship classes to its members. There has been such a positive response to these classes that the union has decided to try building an alternative school. They would greatly appreciate help, information and resources. Contact Bette Disselbrett, 300 Young St, Woodburn, OR 97071. Tel: 503-982-0243. Fax: 503-982-1031.

The first issue of YALP! states that its purpose is to "help parents turn things around so that children get to enjoy their full entitlement to play." The issue ran articles about Sudbury Valley School, Oruaiti School, and David Hawkins. Children's Learning Project, 1525 E. 53rd St, Suite 408, Chicago, IL 60615. Tel: 312-288-6979.

Janet Beals edited an issue of Reason Magazine for the Reason Foundation. The issue is entitled Meeting the Challenge, How the Private Sector Serves

Difficult to Educate Students. The issue features discussion of special education programs, private tuition schools, charter schools and homeschools that work with children with special educational needs. In one section, Devorah Weinman of Long Island's LIGHT is quoted about her homeschool experiences. In another section, NATHAN, the National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network is highlighted. 3415 S. Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Ph: 310 391-2245

Alan Muskat, our friend and Princeton graduate with 7 years experience in academic research and publishing has started a research service. He specializes in nature, myth, folklore, ancient cultures, and goddess spirituality; but no topic is too obscure for him. Alan was the Database Manager of the Handbook of Alternative Education and the Almanac of Education Choices. Goldmine Research Service, PO Box 780, Leicester, NC 28748-0780. Tel: 704-683-1414. E-mail: tarr@mercury.interpath.com

Alan mentioned also that he did some research for Doug Elliot who has produced books and recordings which Alan thinks are quite good. Doug is a naturalist, herbalist, and story teller. For a flier describing his work, write to him at 3831 Painter Gap Rd., Union Mills, NC 28167. Tel: 704-287-2960.

A math video for children ages 6 through 12 is available from Stop Light Productions. It replaces the times tables for teaching multiplication. An Advanced Mix portion at the end of the video is a fun challenge for students who have already mastered the times tables. For more information: 240 E. Morris Ave #300, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. Tel: 801-571-3405. Fax: 801-467-8455.

E-mail received from NLardas@aol.com remarks that "the Almanac of Education Choices is wonderful - after all of these years stuck in traditional schools it is so nice to see options. The color of the cover is inspired - it truly sticks out in any pile of stuff." Thank you for letting us know!

Entries for the 1997 Skipping Stones Magazine's Book Award Program must be postmarked by Jan. 19, 1997. Books, magazines and videos will be considered in two categories: multicultural /international and ecology/nature. The 1996 award recipients included The Case of the Mummified Pigs and Other Mysteries in Nature (Boyd's Mill), The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate (A. Whitman & Co.), and Pepita Talks Twice (Pinata Books), among others.

Skipping Stones also requests that anyone interested in corresponding to adults in Africa and Europe please send an SASE with their request to Adult Pen Pals, Skipping Stones Magazine, PO Box 3939, Eugene, OR 97403.



Education advocates, teachers, and teachers in training, may be interested in Norwich University and The Institute for Educational Studies' Master of Arts program via the World Wide Web which began this July. Phil Gang is now working with them. The course can be completed over 13 months and links students from around the world. Contact TIES at PO Box 223, Grafton, VT 05146. Tel: 802-843-2336. Fax: 802-843-2300. E-mail: <http://www.tmn.com/ties/ties.html> or [InstEd@aol.com](mailto:InstEd@aol.com)

Bellingham Cooperative School and 32 other schools and educators make up a group called WISE (Whatcom Independent Schools and Educators). They will host their second annual Independent School Fair, a public event. For information contact Heide Alford at 360-733-1024.

A simple, fun way to learn geography has been introduced by On-Target Software. Geo-USA and Geo-Europe are computer programs designed to enable children and adults to set their own criteria and increase the number of questions per test. 1368 Green St, San Francisco, CA 984109. 415-474-9975. E-mail: [on\\_target@earthlink.net](mailto:on_target@earthlink.net)

Maryland's legislature voted down two bills that would have allowed non-traditional alternatives to operate without state certification. It is hoped that as public awareness grows, future bills in support of educational freedom will be more successful. The news was reported in the Montessori News and the Montessori Observer, both published by IMS, 912 Thayer Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

A study of John Dewey's view of reflection, its purpose and process, its place in learning, and its content and attitudes has been produced by Carol Richardson Rodgers. It includes examples taken from teacher educators Katherine Taylor of the Shady Hill School and Lucy Sprague Mitchell of Bank Street College. The paper was presented at the Educational Research Association's Annual Meeting in New York in April 1996. Carol Rodgers, The School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT 05363. Tel: 802-258-3310. E-mail: [2084648@MCI mail.com](mailto:2084648@MCI.mail.com)

Bonnie and Noel Drew's Fast Cash for Kids has been expanded and reprinted in its second edition. It contains dozens of money-making activities kids can do year-round as well as a step-by-step business plan and true-life success stories. Bonnie Drew has also authored Money Skills - 101 Activities to Teach Your Child About Money, a guide for parents of children ages 3 to 12. Both are available from The Career Press, Inc, 180 5th Ave, PO Box 34, Hawthorne, NJ 07507. Tel: 1-800-CAREER-1.

Will Fitzhugh, editor of The Concord Review, asked us to let our readers know that it is the only journal in the world for the academic work of high school students. It has published 297 serious history essays by students

from 21 countries in the past nine years. For more information including sample essays, submission guidelines, submission form, and news about their Emerson Prize, contact: PO Box 661, Concord, MA 01742. E-mail: [fitzhugh@tcr.org](mailto:fitzhugh@tcr.org) (or) [www.tcr.org](http://www.tcr.org)

## PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

Charter Schools were the focus of three articles in May's issue of R & D Watch. Two describe papers released by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory and the third summarizes a book from The Regional Laboratory for Educational Improvement of the Northeast & Islands. Ray Budde, originator of the charter schools idea, suggests that all schools should be chartered which would result in a restructuring of both the schools and the "systems." R & D Watch, CEDAR, 2000 L St. NW, Suite 601, Washington DC 20036.

Murray High School, Albemarle County's non-traditional high school, is trying to connect up with other alternative schools worldwide. Teacher Charlotte Wellen says that Murray High is a school of choice in which the students play an important part in decision making on all levels. Contact her at Murray High School, 1200 Forest St., Charlottesville, VA 22903. E-mail: [cwellen@pen.k12.va.us](mailto:cwellen@pen.k12.va.us)

Deborah Lazarus and her group, the Mid-Hudson Advocates for Charter Schools, is looking for others interested in supporting passage of Charter legislation in New York State. According to an article called "They Want Schools Their Way" by Barbara Greff (Sunday Record, July 7, 1996), there is currently no bill in the state Senate and Sen. Charles Cook, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, is against the idea of Charter schools because public funds are used to support them. E-mail Deborah at [dlazarus@int7.mhrcc.org](mailto:dlazarus@int7.mhrcc.org) or write: 37 E. Pond Rd., Woodridge, NY 12789.

In its May newsletter, the Center for Education Reform printed an update on the various charter schools around the country. Of particular interest is the fact that a survey of Arizona's charter school students found that 69% of them came from public schools, 16% from private schools, 6% had been homeschooled, and 9% came from other situations. This survey, a National Charter School Directory, and a Survey of Parents are all available from the Goldwater Institute. The Center for Education Reform also published an update on Charter school progress around the nation in their July 1996 Monthly Letter. For instance, the South Shore Charter School in Hull, Massachusetts, had its first three graduates in June. Each of the three was given a college scholarship. Also, in California, Gov. Pete Wilson has endorsed several proposals which would increase the number of charters there. The Monthly Letter is available from the Center at 1001 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 204, Washington, DC 20036.

The Center for School Change of the University of Minnesota publishes a periodical called fine print - a careful look at school reform. Joe Nathan edits it. Recent issues included articles titled "Helping Educators Learn to Work With Parents," "Little Falls and Nerstand Students Learn Environmental Stewardship First Hand," and "Lessons from High Schools Having Up to 25 Years Experience with Competency Based Graduation Requirements." It's available from Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

The May 1996 issue of Changing Schools was devoted in part to alternative education. One of the articles, "A Personal Perspective of Alternative Education," was written by student Gary Filadelfo. In it, Gary gave his perceptions on alternative education based on his own experiences. Also, Emmanuel Pariser wrote about The International Alternative Education Conference which took place in the summer of 1995 in Bloomington, IN. Changing Schools, Colorado Options in Education, 98 N. Wadsworth Blvd. #127, Box 191, Lakewood, CO 80226.

The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded six small innovative colleges one-time grants of \$750,000 each. The colleges are: Alverno College in Milwaukee; Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio; College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine; Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts; Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N. Carolina; and Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. "These colleges have hewed to the liberal arts model, but in highly original ways" says Karen W. Arenson in her article which appeared in The New York Times of June 26, 1996.

#### HOME EDUCATION NEWS

In its Summer 1996 issue, Education Now reports in Update: Home-based Education USA that it is estimated that 3% of school-age students are now participating in home-based education. Based on homeschooling's present growth rate, it is likely that by the end of the century 10% of all students will be home educated, far surpassing "expert" predictions in the 1980's of 1%. The author, Roland Meighan, asks "What can we learn from the efficiency and effectiveness of home-based education to construct a new and better learning system" since studies now show that homeschoolers fare better than public schoolers? 113 Arundel Drive, Bramcote Hills, Nottingham NG9 3FQ.

The Second Edition of The Home School Source Book by Donn Reed is now available from Brook Farm Books. It has been updated, revised and expanded to include resources, materials and product reviews for students and their parents. Also available is a pamphlet of summer specials; include a stamp with your request for it. PO Box 246, Bridgewater, ME 04735. Tel:

506-375-4680.

The St. Petersburg Times of June 15, 1996, included an article about the growing numbers of homeschoolers in Florida. Steven Hegarty cites The National Home Education Research Institute which puts its estimate at between 21,000 to 43,000. That makes Florida the fourth largest homeschooling state behind Texas, California and Ohio.

Many universities grant college credits for experiential learning and some make it possible for students to continue their college education outside of a campus setting. The Campus-Free College Degree by Marcie Kisner Thorson, MA, is a complete, detailed guide to earning Associate, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees through off-campus study. It has just been released in its 7th edition. Thorson Guides, PO Box 470886, Tulsa, OK 74147. Tel/Fax: 918-622-2811.

Another book geared to college-bound homeschoolers is How to Research Scholarships and Financial Aid by Mary Topness. It contains information on scholarships available from the private sector, the government, colleges and universities. It also includes sections on contests, how to do a scholarship search, and sample letters. Available from H & H Publishing, PO Box 11154, Spokane, WA 99211-1154.

The 96-97 school year will mark the beginning of the merger of Pinewood School with Clonlara School. Founded in 1976 as a campus school, Clonlara began its home based education program in 1979. Pinewood will become Clonlara's Colorado-based office at 112 Road D, Pine, CO 80470.

F.U.N. News is the quarterly newsletter of the Family Unschoolers Network which also publishes a catalog of resources available from them. For a free sample issue contact F.U.N. at 1688 Belhaven Woods Ct., Pasadena, MD 21122-3727. E-mail: 210-8942@MCIemail.com

The California Homeschool Network's New Homeschooler Information Packet has been updated, expanded and renamed the California Homeschool Information Packet (CHIP). It details five legal ways to form a homeschool under California law. It also covers state provisions for children's work permits, driver's education, the high school equivalency exam, and other state concerns. CHN, PO Box 44, Vineburg, CA 95487-0044. Tel: 1-800-327-5339.

Bo Nilmad, newsletter of the Family Learning Exchange, recently reprinted Jerry's story about his visit to Israel in April for the Hadera Conference. Aero readers will recall the story appeared in Aero-Gramme #18. The editors are looking for a family to take over the newsletter. For information, contact Janie Levine at PO Box 5629, Olympia, WA 98509-5629

(see update below)

The Jewish Homeschoolers' Newsletter and Bo Nilmad have been merged and renamed the Jewish Home Educator's Network. It is edited by Marilyn Lowe and Lynne Kamerman. JHEN c/o M. Lowe, 1295 Marshall Dr. SE, Salem, OR 97302.

Homeschooling news in Washington and the Northwest is reported in The Current, published by the Family Learning Organization. For more information on the publication or the organization, their address is FLO, PO Box 7247, Spokane, WA 99207-0247.

A list of resources, curricula, and organizations available to Catholic homeschooling families is updated each year by Catholic Homeschool Newsletter. To receive a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to them at 688 Eleventh Ave NW, New Brighton, MN 55112. Tel: 612-636-5761.

A magazine written by and for homeschoolers, Kids at Home provides a forum for children ages 4 to 13 for sharing their writing and art with other kids. It is seeking submissions of short stories, poems, essays, and descriptions of personal experiences. Write to: PO Box 9148, Bend, OR 97708.

Alexandra Swann relates her experiences in homeschooling in her book, No Regrets. She graduated from Brigham Young University at 15 and earned her Master's Degree at 16. She has 9 brothers and sisters, all of them homeschoolers who attained similar achievements. Alexandra and sister Francesca Swann have also written Writing for Success, a reference guide for 7th grade through adult. It covers basic grammar, punctuation, word exercises, and imaginative assignments. Cygnet Press, Inc., HC 12, Box 7A, 116 Hwy 28, Anthony, NM 88021. Tel: 505-874-3306.

Beverly L. Adams-Gordon's Home School, High School and Beyond is now in its 3rd edition. Illustrated by 1995 homeschool graduate Angelina J. Sylvester, it is a 9-week course designed to help students take an active part in their educational planning. Sections range from Establishing Goals to Paying for College. Castlemoyle Books, 15436 42nd Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98188-2215. Tel: 206-439-0248.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### NETHERLANDS

When our camp group returned from the Pyrenees, we stayed overnight at Holland. Kent Keaton, who had found AERO's web page in the internet, arranged a place for us to stay. Kent has a web page which he maintains for the Alternative Learning Exchange. ALE supports the development of

educational alternatives in Holland. Their web page is <http://mes.nl/ale-3.html>. There is a related publication called Educare, which is edited by Marijke Shijter. Kanaalstraat 55-57, 7311 MN Apeldoort, NETHERLANDS. 55-521 4660

Marijke arranged for our group to stay with a co-worker, Maria Kooijman. After our group went on the canal boats and ate Dutch pancakes, we took the bus to Maria's house. When she met us at the bus stop, Maria and I realized that we had met before, at Hartsbend, an international children's camp, in Vermont! She knew all about our travels. And she does some very important work with the UNOY Foundation, which brings children together from conflict areas of the world, such as Chechnia and Bosnia, and teaches them techniques of conflict resolution. She gave us information on a recent conference at Yalta, in May. Venedien 25, 1441 AK PURMEREND, The Netherlands PH: 31 299-436093

#### GREECE

Christos Voulis discovered us on the web, and ordered an Almanac of Education Choices. "I'm a teacher in a public primary school, and together with other teachers we are publishing a magazine which is informing Greek teachers about Alternative Education and schools that are existing all over the world. On May 14th we organized a meeting/discussion called "Alternative Schools--Summerhill, Bonaventure." This was a first in Greece and was a big success. They would like to hear from alternative schools and homeschoolers. Gavriilidov 6, 11141 Athens, Greece. Ph: 30-1-2287880

#### UKRAINE

A seminar hosted by the Stork Family School on April 29 was attended by 50 principals of city public schools, the city educational administrative board, and Montessori teachers. Alternative education, Montessori methods, and Democratic schools were some of the topics covered. Oleg Belen, Stork Family School, UI, Stakhurskogo 62 Kv, 40, Vinnitsa, Ukraine.

#### DENMARK

The May issue of Celo Education Notes from the Arthur Morgan School ran a report from Joyce Johnson, who spent four months visiting Denmark. She said that 25% of all students in Denmark go to efterskoles (alternative boarding high schools) rather than public schools. The Arthur Morgan School is a living, learning community for grades 7, 8 & 9 which has just celebrated its 35th reunion. It is located at 1901 Hannah Branch Road, Burnsville, NC 28714.

#### RUSSIA

E-mail from Joanne Esser told us about her recent trip to Moscow at the invitation of the Ministry of Education. She visited an experimental school there and gave a speech in support of its pilot programs. The

school was undergoing an accreditation visit at the time by government and Ministry of Education officials. This procedure is conducted every five years. Joanne asks if there are any sources of money to sponsor teachers going to international conferences. She has been invited to an early childhood conference in South Africa, but the cost is prohibitive. Anyone with ideas can e-mail Joanne at JoEsser@aol.com

#### THAILAND

Pibhop and Rajani Dhongchai sent us a series of articles about the school they run for orphans and underprivileged children in Thailand. Moo Ban Dek, or Children's Village School, was greatly influenced by A.S. Neill's teaching methods at Summerhill. As he states, "Freedom is truly good for children." Foundation for Children, 666 Chareon Nakorn Klongsarn, Bangkok 10600 Thailand.

#### ENGLAND

After a two-year teacher boycott, England and Wales have again introduced national exams in the public schools to measure performance at several points during a student's school life. The exams were simplified from the original 1991 models and were administered last year without any opposition to speak of. "Even though the new exams were even more likely to damage curriculum and instruction, the boycott ended." This was reported in the Spring 1996 Fair Test Examiner, 342 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02139-1802. Tel: 617-864-4810.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

Andrew e-mailed us letting us know that homeschooling is now legal in his country. In fact, he says, since it is now a legal requirement that all kids be provided an education, not just whites, and since therefore there is a great shortage of schools, home education is being encouraged by the government. daswove@iafrica.com

#### TEACHERS JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS

The Open Program in the Salt Lake City School District is seeking a teacher for the fall 1996. This is an optional program for grades K through 6. The address is 420 North 200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

Horizon School, 1900 deKalb Ave, Atlanta, GA 30307, is looking for a houseparent for their boarding program, and a possible teaching position. Contact Loraine or Les at 404 378-2219.

Michael Chamberlin is a certified K6 teacher with seven years of teaching experience who is looking for a full-time teaching position for the upcoming school year. "I'm interested in an alternative school, preferably in a small town. I'll consider world-wide locations." He is moving soon,

but call him or leave a message at(303) 979-6753.

A teacher in an alternative school in France is looking for a job in the United States or abroad next year. Sylvie Demolin can be reached at 9 Rue Delaprevote, 3300 Bordeaux, France.

Mount Bachelor Academy in Oregon is an "emotional growth" private high school in the Ochoco Mountains. It is attended by 120 students; some of them have been in some serious trouble. It also has academic and wilderness programs which operate within the emotional growth program. It is looking for math, science and English teachers. Call Kathy Carter at 1-800-462-3404 for details.

Teacher Carole Jackson is looking for a position teaching in an alternative high school. She teaches English, drama, and math and has extensive experience in business and in the alternative community. She is also interested in hearing from other alternative educators in Central or Eastern Oregon. Her address is 3980 S.E. Umatilla Loop, Prineville, OR 97754. Tel: 541-416-0280.

Blue Mountain School has an opening for a teacher of 5th and 6th grades. Write to them at PO Box 81, Floyd, VA 24091.

A teacher of all social sciences who is experienced in dealing with troubled teen boys in grades 7 to 12 is looking for a position in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. William Hall is certified in Pennsylvania and has been updated in New Mexico and Virginia. E-mail him at JPXA83A@prodigy.com

Gary Raheb is a music teacher in a private special education junior/senior high school and is completing his master's in music education at NYC's Queens College. He is experienced with the mainstream student population and is interested in working in alternative education in the New York City area. Write to him at 394 8th St., Apt. 4R, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

## CONFERENCES

September 16-17, Education Reform, A National Happening, Education Leaders Council, The Park 57 Hotel, Boston, MA, featuring reform leaders from around the country, 1001 Conn Ave NW, Suite 204, Wash. DC 20036, Ph: 202 822 9000

September 27-8, The Modern School Reunion, Rutgers University, Paul Avrich will speak. Jon Scott, 200 Sumac Ridge La, Altamont, NY 12009 Ph: 518 861-5544 (see AERO story under Alumni news)



September 19-13, Forty-Ninth World University Conference, Royal College of Agriculture, Cirencester, England, Desert Sanctuary Campus, PO Box 2470, Benson, AZ 85602 Phone 520 586-2985

Oct 17-20, National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools, Northeastern Regional Conference, The Meeting School, Rindge, NH 03461 Dawn Ashbacher, 603 899-3366

October 23-26, National Society for Experiential Education, 25th Anniversary Conference, Snowbird, Utah Experiential Education, Transforming Teaching and Learning in Schools, Colleges, Workplaces, and Communities, 3509 Haworth Dr, Suite 207, Raleigh NC 27609 Ph: 919 787-3263 nsee@interpath.com

October 26, Global Multicultural education Conference, Learning Alliance, 324 Lafayette St, 7th Fl, NY, NY 10012, 212-226-7171

November 1-3, Livingston Manor, NY, "Awakening the knower through Consciousness-Based Education," a conference for women sponsored by the Ideal Girls' School Planning Committee, Po Box 370, Livingston Manor, NY 12758. Ph: 1 800 863-2602

November 14-16, Coalition of Essential Schools, Albuquerque, NM, CES, Brown University, Box 1969, Providence, RI 02912

April 30-May 4th, Magnet Schools of America, Alexis Park Resort Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Preceding the conference, Arril 38-9, will be a session to help districts which have magnets not federally funded and need funding, or who wish to start magnets. Donald Waldrip, 2111 Holly Hall, Suite 704, Houston, TX 77054 Ph: 713 796-9356

May 12-14, 1997, Democratic Discipline, Democratic Lives: Educating citizens for a changing world, at International Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, England, sponsored by Education Now, 113 Arundel Dr, Brancote Hills, Nottingham, England NG9 3FQ, Ph: 0115 925 7261

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

BACK ISSUES of AERO-GRAMME 1 through 18 \$5 each. \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*THE ALMANAC OF EDUCATION CHOICES with over 6000 entries and new informative essays. AERO subscribers-we pay the postage. Send \$20 plus \$3 postage. Out of US, add \$10 for postage.

\*SUMMERHILL SCHOOL, A New View of Childhood, A.S. Neill, Edited by Albert Lamb, released in November.....\$15, including postage

\*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\_\_\_\_\_(prepaid)

Contact AERO for sets of labels from the Handbook database. Entire list is \$60 per thousand names. Subsets can be custom-created

\*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!-----NOW ONLY \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

GREEN REVOLUTION, 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\_\_\_\_\_

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NEW!! 2 hour video of the DEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS CONFERENCE at HADERA SCHOOL, in Israel, April 1996.....\$25 \_\_\_\_\_

33 minute video of our April, 1995 7 Country trip to Europe and Russia, including EFFE Conference, Democratic Schools Conference in Vienna, Eureka Avant Garde, in Ijevsk, Russia, plus 5 alternative schools \$20\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT AERO FOR VIDEOS ON OUR OTHER RUSSIAN TRIPS

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. -----  
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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.-----  
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Transcript of Nellie Dick and the Modern School!       \$5\_\_\_\_\_

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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.-----  
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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 copyrighted association method, in less than 20 minutes each. People interested in getting their amateur radio license will be amazed. It works. We guarantee it. You'll learn it. Show to a whole class. Recently glowingly reviewed in Growing Without schooling " We were all amazed and impressed with ourselves that we suddenly knew the whole Morse code in an hour."-----  
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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-----

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-----

NEW!! GABRIELLE SHOW, November 1995 A one hour video aired nationally on the FOX Network, featuring homeschooling and a homeschool resource center, debating with public school students, teachers and even a union representative! .....\$25-----

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