

INTERCONNECTIONS 21

Newsletter

Autumn 2000

IC 21 Sponsors 3rd International UN Student Conference on Human Rights

In its continuing efforts to connect kids and communities across the world, IC 21 is co-sponsoring the 3rd Annual UN Student Conference on Human Rights in New York on December 8th. Over 400 students from the US, Canada, and Mexico will participate in the international conference. Students will address one of four topics in daylong work sessions: landmines, child labor, safe and secure schools, and responsibilities that accompany rights. Their conclusions and action plans will be presented to UN representatives at the conclusion of the Conference.

One of the highlights of the UN session will be an address on safe schools in South Africa by IC 21-sponsored student Collen Poee. Poee, a senior at Clapham High School in Pretoria, participated in the World Parliament for Children in Paris in October 1999. He is an active member of the Associated Schools Project and is on the school's speech and debate team.

Clapham High School was one of five schools in the South African ASPnet pilot project. The project now has a membership of 20 high schools and one primary school, scattered throughout four of South Africa's nine provinces. To date, South African

ASPnet schools have: Renovated and repaired a black township school north of Pretoria, using funds they raised themselves; collected clothing for the flood-victims of Mozambique and the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa; studied the Indian Ocean Slave Trade from a Human Rights view; and undertaken an AIDS-Free Generation Campaign.

Poee will travel to the United Nations with IC



Collen Poee, left, one of two ASPnet students who represented South Africa at the World Parliament of Children in Paris in October 1999, takes in the view from the top of the Eiffel Tower. Poee will be an IC 21 sponsored speaker at the 3rd Annual UN Student Conference on Human Rights in New York City December 8th.

21 sponsored Zodwa Tsajwa, project manager of the South African National Commission for UNESCO and the national coordinator of ASPnet's South African schools. Under Ms. Tsajwa's leadership, the ASPnet pilot program has grown from six schools in 1999 to 21 today.

It is expected that the pair's participation in the Conference will facilitate future exchanges between the South African and US chapters of ASPnet.

In addition to Poee and Ms. Tsajwa, IC 21 will send an estimated 50 students and 15 chaperones from seven states to the international conference. The IC 21 delegation will have a special briefing at the US Mission to the UN; tour the UN, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island; and participate in a doll making workshop to raise funds for victims of war in Sierra Leone.

InterConnections 21, which coordinates the American chapter of the Associated Schools Project (ASPnet/USA), is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization (EIN: 84-1379499). Contributions are gratefully received and tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Checks should be made out to InterConnections 21 and sent to P.O. Box 960, Wilson, WY 83014. Information about our organization is found on our Web site at www.ic21.org.

Acclaimed International Journalist William Pfaff Addresses U.S. Foreign Policy Concerns at second IC 21 Jackson Hole Forum



During the week of September 11, 2000, IC 21 hosted acclaimed international journalist and author William Pfaff in the second in a series of Jackson Hole Forums. On September 12, Pfaff spoke about U.S. foreign policy to students and teachers at the Jackson Hole High School auditorium. The following day he presented a "Critique of Globalization" at the Teton County Library, a free event open to the public. Pfaff also addressed community leaders at a Jackson Hole Rotary breakfast meeting. All discussions were engaging, informative, and well received.

The Jackson Hole Forum speaker series focuses on important domestic and international issues, including tolerance, justice, peace, foreign aid, and natural and cultural world heritage preservation. The forums invite distinguished speakers who shape world events or policies, or whose work contributes to understanding such milestones. They provide the public with unbiased, analytical information; highlight global issues' local implications; and allow audience interaction, feedback and questioning. IC 21 extends its sincere thanks to Pfaff, who generously donated his time to assist its efforts.

Pfaff, an American who lives in Paris, writes two weekly columns in the *International Herald Tribune* on contemporary history and political topics. (The columns can be accessed at www.ihf.com by entering the search word "Pfaff.") Between 1971 and 1992 he regularly contributed political essays to *The New Yorker* magazine, and wrote numerous publications, including *Foreign Affairs* and *Commentaire*.

Pfaff's most recent book, *The Wrath of Nations*,

Civilization and the Furies of Nationalism, published in 1993 by Simon & Schuster in New York and London, is an examination of nationalism's origins and implications. It was translated into German and Spanish. His *Barbarian Sentiments: How the American Century Ends*, published in New York in 1989 and subsequently released in Paris, Frankfurt, and Lisbon, was a finalist for the U.S. National Book Award European prize for political work. An updated, revised edition of that book, titled, *Barbarian Sentiments: America in the New Century*, has recently been released by Hill & Wang.

Pfaff is author or co-author of four other books on contemporary history and American foreign relations, including two influential 1960s critiques of U.S. foreign policy: *The New Politics* and *Power and Impotence*. *The Politics of Hysteria*, *The Sources of*



William Pfaff flanked by Benita Somerfield (left), IC 21 board member and Executive Director of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and Susie Rauch (right), IC 21 President.

20th Century Conflict (1964) dealt with the impact of the modern west on non-western civilizations. *Condemned to Freedom* (1971) examines the internal crisis of liberal society.

In 1961, Pfaff was one of the first members of The Hudson Institute, an American policy research group, and from 1971 to 1978 was deputy director of its European affiliate. He has served as a Free Europe Committee executive, parent organization of Radio Free Europe and the Free Europe Press.

A University of Notre Dame graduate, Pfaff has lectured there, at Yale and Johns Hopkins (SAIS), and was Regents' Lecturer at the University of California/San Diego.

FLASH!

IC 21 is planning an international workshop for educators in New York City on April 28-29, 2001. The theme will be Teaching Conflict Resolution in Schools. Susan Fountain of UNICEF will facilitate the workshop that will be partially funded by the US State Department through UNESCO.

News from the Associated Schools



Waldorf School

The International Waldorf School in Miami, Florida, has begun fund-raising efforts to support indigent Colombian students attending the private school, and is seeking assistance in its endeavors.

The school has accepted five students whose families cannot pay any of its average \$500 monthly tuition, and others who can pay only a fraction of the cost. In a November 15th fund-raising letter, Director Yvonne Cumming wrote that Waldorf "cannot really afford this undertaking; however, morally we have no choice but to do so. For this reason, we, as a faculty have decided to act on faith and turn none of these students away."

Colombian citizens are suffering under an undeclared guerilla war backed by drug cartels. The cartels kidnap children for ransom and perform wanton executions on innocent civilians, a situation that has prompted a mass exodus from the country.

Many refugees arrive in Miami with little or no money. Adults cannot work legally until their requests for asylum or work visas are granted. Waldorf has accepted the children of these refugees.

Cumming says that the school will initiate broad-based fund raising in the upcoming year. Middle School Students, along with their teachers, began fund-raising efforts to assist Colombian refugees the Wednesday before Thanksgiving by holding a walk-a-thon.

"Even though this is financially very difficult for the school, we know that the right thing is being done when we help our fellow students," say students Julia Tezanos and Renzzo Chaparro.

For further information on how you can help or to make a contribution, please phone the school at (305) 598-1495 or email Yvonne Cumming at cumming@netzero.net. The school's address is:

International Waldorf School
8287 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143



Faith Morrison and Brittany Wilson raked leaves to raise money to attend the 3rd International UN Student Conference on Human Rights this December.

Sussex School

Seventh and eighth grade students at Sussex School have been studying child labor. Faith Morrison and Brittany Wilson have taken leadership in this project. The pair are making an educational video, and will share what they have learned in the third through sixth grade classrooms. They prepared for the student conference in New York by raking leaves for donations, conducting a raffle, and studying human rights issues. **continued on back page**

FLASH!

IC 21 is pleased to welcome two new members to the US chapter of the Associated Schools Project (ASPnet/USA): the Dwight School (291 Central Park West, NY, New York 10024) and the Hawaii Institute for Human Rights (Pacific Peace Palace, 3524 Campbell Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815). ASPnet is the world's oldest and largest international network of schools with over 6,000 members in 165 countries. IC 21 manages the US chapter of ASPnet. The UN Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) coordinates ASPnet at the international level from Paris, France.

ASPnet School News



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Faith and Brittany are also working with the University of Montana Human Rights Club on a compact disc drive. Proceeds from the sale of the donated CDs will help fund a school building and renovation project in Nepal.

Wilson School

Wilson, Wyoming, fifth graders Willie Neal and Ben Richards completed extensive human rights projects to qualify for the IC 21 sponsored Study Trip and 3rd Annual International UN Student Conference on Human Rights in New York this December.

Willie Neal elected to complete a project on the topic, "Human Rights and Responsibilities: A Call to Action." Following extensive research, he produced a 3-sided display that included information on the United Nations, Rights and Responsibilities-Actions You Can Take (local to international suggestions), information on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and information on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo regarding children fighting in the internal wars of that country. Willie gave a 25-minute presentation to his class, and provided addressed, stamped envelopes for students who wished to write to the president of the DRC.

Ben Richards focused his research on the global issue of Child Labor. He also did significant

research on the subject and produced two 3-sided display boards. These displays explained child labor concerns, showed on a map where child labor is most prevalent, and defined numerous key terms. He produced a written report as well, and gave a 20 minute presentation to his class.

Both of these young men are committed to organizing a Human Rights Club at their school upon their return from New York in December.



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