

# Exchange program teaches more than language

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

Talking to the effervescent Evelyn Prince is like knocking a hole in the Hoover Dam.

The words pour forth in stream-of-consciousness style that might lead one to conclude that basketball analyst Dick Vitale and actress Teri Garr are locked inside the gregarious, volatile state coordinator of Nacel Cultural Exchanges.

Hailing from the inconspicuous Mississippi settlement of Shaw, Prince came to Michigan in 1979 by way of Connecticut where she taught French for a time.

Since she arrived in West Bloomfield Township, Prince has sent hundreds of high school kids overseas for four-week "homestays" with families who welcome the temporary addition of American boys and girls to their homes. Conversely, Prince arranges for European teenagers to sojourn for a spell with international-minded families in these parts.

Although the work that Prince, her husband, Julian, and 35 Nacel representatives in Michigan perform is "a labor of love," results don't come easy.

"It's always a struggle to get the word around," Prince said. "We have to keep educating new kids. A lot of people are scared if they've never done it before."

American students, Prince said, "don't want to leave their friends during the summer, (and) they're afraid they're not going to survive with their foreign language skills."

But the big step, once taken, alters attitudes almost instantly. "When the kids do this they are so happy!" Prince said. "They're heads are held high, and they feel this is the most exciting thing they've ever done."

Student Bethany Cox recently

wrote an essay on her homestay in Toluca, Mexico in Nacel's newsletter. "I thought I wouldn't be able to communicate, but that was no problem," she wrote. "I thought I would miss my normal life some, but I didn't at all. I thought that Mexico was a dirty place, but it became beautiful to me."

Of course, teenage Nacel adventurers all have at least two years of foreign language study in school, but Prince emphasizes that occupying a country where English is generally not spoken is quite another thing entirely.

"Just studying the language in school isn't enough," she said. "No matter how good the teacher is, you cannot replace the country. Until people have experienced a different culture they don't realize how eye-opening it is."

Rochester High School French teacher Ken Palmgren has welcomed Nacel recruits to his classroom since 1980. Dozens of his students since then have trekked to France and the African Ivory Coast, where French is also spoken. "They all come back really wanting to do well in French," he said. "Most of them have had an excellent experience. It turns them on to language study."

Palmgren reports that the language department in Rochester schools has grown tremendously since he began teaching there more than 20 years ago. In 1975 there were three teachers to cover French, German and Spanish at RHS. Now there are three German teachers, three Spanish teachers and two French teachers.

Prince credits changes like this to an expanding need for multilingual folks in many different jobs. "It's becoming more and more of a necessity for our kids to get international experience," she



DAN DEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

We get letters: Evelyn Prince displays a letter written by a satisfied area student who spent four weeks abroad with the Nacel Cultural Exchanges program.

said. "Every article you read in the paper they talk about global competition."

Indeed, Prince's daughter, Cindy, got her first job out of college at Adept Technology, a California robotics company, because she could speak French. Another Nacel alumni, Patrick O'Connell,

hired on with Pittsburgh Paints for \$46,000 per year because he speaks Spanish and French, Prince said.

Consequently, Prince believes that Nacel homestays are not merely a ton of fun, but culturally enriching and valuable in a practical sense for enhancing an individual's employability.

However, homestays aren't free. They range in price from \$1,125 for Mexico to \$2,110 for the African Ivory Coast. Airfare and insurance is included in the price. Students must provide their own spending money. To sign up, or get additional data, call Prince at

626-6641.

If that's too expensive for you, host a foreign student instead, and pay only for his or her room and board. That's how Prince got started.

"We didn't have any time to go to France, so I said, 'Let's bring France to us.'"

## OU board takes action on administrative appointments

The Oakland University Board of Trustees has approved acting appointments for two administrators and approved a search for a director of governmental and public relations.

Board actions of Feb. 3 were made following the retirement of John De Carlo, senior vice president, whose varied duties are being reassigned.

Following recommendations by Oakland University President

Sandra Packard, the board named Susan Gerrits acting general counsel and Robert Bunker acting secretary to the board of trustees. Gerrits and Bunker have been serving as assistant general counsels.

According to an OU press release, Packard told the trustees that "Susan Gerrits and Robert Bunker are both very able. They have already, in a sense, stepped into these positions. They will do a fine job."

Gerrits came to Oakland University in 1989 as staff attorney and was promoted to assistant general counsel in 1992. She has previous experience as a staff attorney in the Georgia Legal Services Program and as a school teacher. She received her doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of Michigan Law School, the Master of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, and the baccalaureate from

Western Michigan University, where she majored in political science and philosophy.

Bunker came to Oakland University in 1971 and served for a decade as assistant vice president for academic affairs. Before assuming his current duties as as-

stant general counsel in 1982, he served for a year as executive assistant to the president and director of institutional planning and analysis.

He has had previous academic experience as assistant to the president at Rice University.

Bunker received the Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from Wayne State University Law School and the baccalaureate degree from Rice University majoring in economics/accounting.

Gerrits and Bunker are residents of Rochester.

## Center hosts adoption meeting

The Judson Center will host an "Adoption Information Orientation" 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28.

Anne Carpenter, supervisor of adoption with Judson Center will

be speaking on "How to Become an Adoptive Parent to Children with Special Needs."

Anyone interested in attending this class should call 443-5000, Ext. 148 to register.

**IN NEED OF A**  
**CENTRAL**  
**AIR**  
**CONDITIONER**  
**LENNOX**  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**526-1930**  
**UNITED TEMPERATURE**  
8919 Middleboro • Livonia

**playmobil!**  
**FOR HOURS OF**  
**IMAGINATIVE**  
**PLAYTIME**  
A Wonderful of Unique Toys  
Emphasizing Quality & Play Value  
1941 12 Mile Rd.  
Berkley  
conveniently located  
near I-96  
M-Sat. 10-5:30; Fri. 10-8  
TOY SHOP 313-543-3115

**GOLD FRONT ALERT!**  
**A PERFECT MATCH**  
Relax in total comfort with a Carrier Total Home Comfort System that includes a furnace, air conditioner, humidifier and zoning—all ready to provide you with the ultimate in personalized comfort. Give us a call to find out just how comfortable—and affordable—a Carrier Total Home Comfort System can be.  
**Carrier**  
We're The Inside Guys.  
FINANCING AVAILABLE  
**GREAT LAKES**  
SINCE 1948  
FREE ESTIMATES  
(313) 581-1400  
**See Our Show Specials**  
PONTIAC SILVERDOME • MICHIGAN HOME & GARDEN SHOW  
March 3-6

**SHARE YOUR AMERICA WITH THEIR WORLD!**  
"The walls must come down!" - Become a host family.  
American Intercultural Student Exchange  
A non-profit, not-for-profit organization  
Michigan Eileen  
CALL NOW CALL NOW  
(517) 875-4074  
or 1-800-SIBLING  
YOU provide a bed, food, love. STUDENT has insurance, spending, a culture to share. Unplaced students of 31 countries eagerly await a host family for next August.  
Arto from Finland

**Consolidate your credit cards and other debts and save hundreds even thousands of dollars per month**  
If you have been turned down by another lender or are just overwhelmed by your monthly obligations including credit cards and other financing, Security Home Loan would like to hear from you. We will help you use the equity you have built up in your home to get you the loan you need.  
If you call us now, we will help you complete the following payment analysis (free of charge) and let you know how much money you can save.  
**SECURITY Home Loan**  
Call us today  
SECURITY HOME LOAN 810 668-1331

Current Mortgage	New Refinance Information
Mortgage Amount	
Principal and Interest	
Taxes, Insurance and Private Mortgage Insurance	
Other Financing, Debts	
TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS	
MONTHLY SAVINGS	
YEARLY SAVINGS	

**RK**  
**You Can Now AFFORD**  
Michigan Eyecare Institute is now making Myopia Surgery (RK), more affordable than ever.  
Now accepting Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan plans that cover RK Surgery.  
Now participating with all other insurances covering RK.  
No interest, easy payment plans available.  
New affordable prices.  
**Why Choose The Michigan Eyecare Institute?**  
• First in Michigan to perform RK Surgery over 15 years ago.  
• Responsible for teaching doctors the procedure for over 15 years.  
• Published the articles which describe and have refined the procedure over the past 15 years.  
• In office setting designed specifically for your needs during RK Surgery.  
• First in Michigan to have the Excimer Laser now in Windsor used to perform refractive procedures.  
**FREE Screening available at your convenience or by appointment with Dr. William Myers or Dr. Mark Rubinstein**  
**MICHIGAN EYECARE INSTITUTE**  
**1-800-676-EYES**  
SOUTHFIELD: 29877 Telegraph, Suite 100 352-2806  
LIVONIA: 14555, Suite E-101 Levan Rd. • DEARBORN: 5050 Schaefer  
DETROIT: Fisher Building, Suite 874