Exchange program teaches more than language

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW

Talking to the effervescent Everlyn Prince is like knocking a hole in the Hower 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, voluble state coordinator of Nacel Cultural Exchanges.

Halling 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 ahe 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 tenagers to adjourn for a spell with international-minded families in these ports.

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

"It's always a struggle to get the word around," Prince said. A lot of people are scared if they're 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 kills."

When the kids do this they are so happy!" Prince said, "They're heads are hold high, and they feel this is the most exciting thing they're ever done."

wrote an essay on her homestay in Toluca, Mexico in Necel's newsletter. "I thought I wouldn't be able to communicate, but that was no problem," sile wrote. "I thought I would miss my normal life some, but I didn't at all. 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."

Rechester High School Franch

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Rochester High School French
teacher Ken Palmgren has welcomed Nacel recruiters 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
n excellent experience. It turns
them on to language study."

Relungen reports that the lan-

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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



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 robotica company, because she could speak French. Another Nacel homestays are not merely a ton of fun, but culturally conting and valuable in a pracel alumni, Patrick O'Connell,

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

"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 presi-dent, whose varied duties are being reassigned.

Following recommendations by Oakland University President

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

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

Western Michigan University, where she majored in political sci-nce and philosophy. Bunger came to Oakland Uni-versity in 1971 and served for a decade as assistant vice president for academic affairs. Before as-suming his current duties as as-

sistant general counsel in 1982, he served for a year as executive assistant to the president and di-rector of institutional planning and analysis.

He has had previous academic

experience as assistant to the president at Rice University.

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

Gerria and Bunger 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.

28. Anne Carpenter, supervisor of adoption with Judson Center will Ext. 148 to register.







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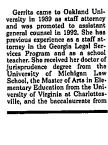
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