

LAFF

THE LAFF SOCIETY

For the men and women engaged in Life After The Ford Foundation

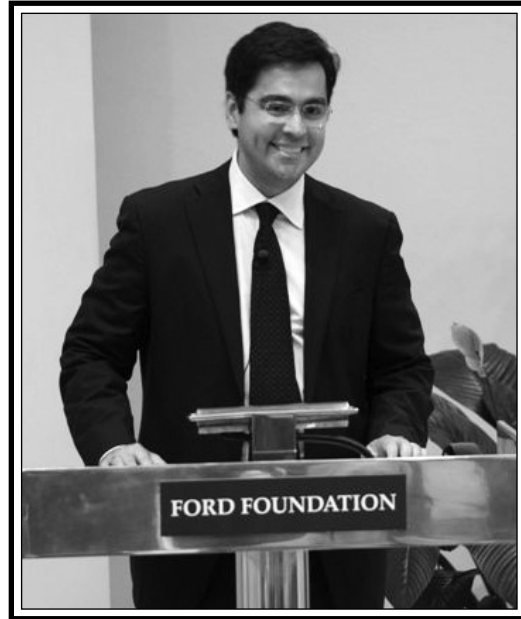
Late Fall 2007 / No. 52

The LAFFing Parade

Brad Smith, who worked 14 years at the Foundation beginning in the early 1990s, first as representative in Brazil and then as vice president for peace and social justice, is currently president of the Oak Foundation, a family foundation based in Geneva. According to its web site (www.oakfnd.org), Oak addresses issues of global social and environmental concern, particularly those that have an impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. Among its specific areas are climate change, child abuse, homelessness, human rights, and women's issues. Its resources come from an interest in duty free shops which Alan M. Parker helped establish. With branch offices in Belize, Bulgaria, Denmark, London, Ethiopia, Switzerland, and Zimbabwe, it is governed by a five-member board, all but one members of the Parker family. Chairman of an advisory committee is **William Cotter**, who was an overseas representative for the Foundation in the 1960s.

MORE ON RAY MOYER: Several issues ago we asked if any reader had any knowledge of **Raymond Moyer**, an early member of the Foundation staff who was mentioned in the late **Jim Ivy's** reminiscence as a U.S. foreign service officer during the Communist revolution in China. Both Ivy and Moyer were evacuated from China after the collapse of the Nationalist government and wound up on the Pasadena staff at the invitation of **Paul Hoffman**, then Foundation president.

Frank Sutton, former International Division deputy vice president who has done research on those early years in the Foundation's archives, responded to our inquiry. "I found somewhere in the records that he [Moyer] had been on the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction in China and that Paul Hoffman must have known him through the extension of U.S. aid activities beyond Europe and into Asia. Moyer became a member of one of the first three teams that went out to start the Overseas Development programs in Asia and the Middle East. There
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Ford Names New President

Luis A. Ubiñas, a 44-year-old business consultant who has spent nearly all of his career working for the management consulting firm of McKinsey and Company, is the new president of the Ford Foundation, the ninth in its history. In January he will succeed **Susan V. Berresford** who announced her retirement last year after serving the Foundation for 38 years, the last 12 as president.

The appointment, announced by the Board of Trustees in August, was greeted with considerable surprise in the philanthropic community. *The Times* said the board selected a "dark-horse candidate with little experience in institutional philanthropy." *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* said the board "raised many eyebrows in the nonprofit world" by choosing "a candidate with little experience managing a large foundation or charity."

Other commentators cited the special qualifications he brings to the job—youth, commitment to the Foundation's values, receptivity to new ideas, background (he grew

up in the South Bronx), education (magna cum laude in political science from Harvard and Harvard Business School Baker Scholar), and success working for one of the foremost management consulting firms in the world.

Speaking on behalf of the board, **Katherine S. Fuller**, chairwoman, told *The Times*: the "trustees deliberately did not specify the type of experience they were seeking for the job. Where we started and ended was first and foremost with values of the institution, which are a bedrock commitment to social justice and innovation and to helping those whose voices are not heard for any number of reasons, whether economic or because of discrimination."

"The Foundation has been at the heart in addressing social problems I understand personally and to which I am deeply committed," Ubiñas was quoted in the Foundation's press release. "I welcome the opportunity to ensure the continuity of the work of this unique organization."

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The LAFF Society

c/o Mary Camper-Titsingh
531 Main Street, Apt #1110
New York, NY 10044

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The LAFFing Parade

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were missions to the sub-continent—this one headed by Hoffman himself; one to Burma and Indonesia with **Dyke Brown** and **Edwin Arnold**; and a third to the Middle East with four members: Raymond Moyer; Harley Stevens, an oil executive; John Condiff, a Berkeley economist; and **Kenneth Iverson** from the State Department who later became the first Middle East representative in Beirut. The group split up to visit the various countries and wrote a report dated July 1952, which I once read in the archives. I didn't know Moyer had known Jim Ivy and don't know what he did after the Middle East mission."

Normally **Will Hertz's** name would appear as editor of this issue of the LAFF newsletter. This time **Bob Tolles** picks up the task as Will submits a plea of "Fracture in France." In August, Annette and Will spent three weeks vacationing in Southern France. While photographing the monumental Rotonde fountain in Aix-en Provence, a gust of wind captured Annette's new French sun hat and Will set off in hot pursuit. He missed the 17th century curbstone, and fell on his left forearm, fracturing the ulna and radial bones. The Aix hospital graciously accepted Will's Medicare, Blue Cross, and Aetna cards, and packaged his arm in plaster and loaded him with an arsenal of French painkillers for the trip home. Back in Maine, the orthopedic surgeon at the Maine Medical Center—a recent veteran from Iraq—rebuilt the arm in an operation of more than three hours. Will is now mending with the help of physical therapy. On the basis of this one experience, Will can attest to the reported quality and responsiveness of the

French medical system.

Betsy Campbell, who began as a program officer in the rural poverty and resources program in 1991, has been appointed vice president for programs of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. As a member of the senior management team reporting directly to the Fund's new president, Stephen Heintz, she will provide leadership to the Fund's program and grant-making activities. She has recently resided in La Paz, Bolivia, where she works with nonprofit and philanthropic clients on program management, organizational effectiveness, program research, and evaluation. At Ford, she most recently was deputy to the vice president of asset building and community development. She has a master of arts in international relations from Johns Hopkins and a bachelor of science in foreign service from Georgetown.

Carl J. Green, who was the Foundation's representative in Japan in the 1970s, has been awarded the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs's Commendation Award for lifetime contributions to the U.S.-Japan relationship. The award was presented by Foreign Minister Taro Aso in a formal ceremony at the Foreign Ministry's guest house on July 9 of this year. The presentation cited Carl's work in many areas, including his activities for the Foundation, contributions as a lawyer to the resolution of trade disputes in the 1980s, academic and other writings on U.S.-Japan affairs, and his current involvement in establishing and administering the Council on Foreign Relations international affairs fellowship in Japan, sponsored by Hitachi, Ltd.

Ward Heneveld, an expert on education in the developing world, has joined the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, California, as a program officer in the Foundation's Global Development Program. He served as a project specialist in regional education planning for the Foundation based in Indonesia from 1974 to 1980. Heneveld, who has a PhD in educational planning from Harvard, will work on programs to improve the quality of education in the developing world which the Hewlett Foundation is pursuing in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Gates has granted Hewlett \$40 million to design a strategy and administer grants to improve learning outcomes mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, regions with the lowest level of educational achievement in the world.

For most of the 1990s, Heneveld worked as an education expert on the staff of the World Bank. A former secondary school

headmaster in Kenya, head of the School for International Training in Vermont, and director of education programs for the Aga Khan Foundation in Geneva, he most recently has been engaged as a consultant to help design distance learning programs for teachers in rural Romania and chairing a World Bank review of its assistance to education in Nigeria.

Nick Menzies, who worked for the Foundation from 1989 to 2001 as a program officer for environment and development first in China and then in East Africa, is now assistant director of the Asia Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. His book *Our Forest, Your Ecosystem, Their Timber: Communities and the State in Community-Based Forest Management*, was published by Columbia University Press in April. Based on his work for the Foundation, it includes case studies from Yunnan province in China and the Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh, India.

S.M. (Mike) Miller, formerly of the National Affairs staff, was the inaugural speaker at the Jean Baker Miller Lecture Series at the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at Wellesley College. He spoke on the "double vision" of his late psychiatrist wife. In August, he was honored by a panel at the national meeting of the American Sociological Association that was devoted to discussing his writings and activities. He is active on the boards of United for a Fair Economy (a co-founder) and the Poverty and Race Research Council. He continues as a senior fellow at the Commonwealth Institute in Cambridge MA where he is writing a book on politics for the 21st century.

Arthur I. Cyr is the A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor of Political Economy and World Business and director of the Clausen Center for World Business at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Previously, he was president of the Chicago World Trade Center Association and vice president of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. At Ford, he was on the European and International Affairs staff in the 1970s.

He is the author of four books, the most recent *After the Cold War—American Foreign Policy, Europe and Asia* (Macmillan and New York University Press 1997, revised edition 2000). He is a director of the Institute of World Affairs in Milwaukee and has written for professional journals as well as for the *Chicago Sun Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *The China Post*, *Financial Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, and other newspapers. ■

Ford Names New President

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Ubiñas is a director of McKinsey's San Francisco office where he heads a media practice staff advising Fortune 100 media, telecommunications, and technology companies on major strategic and operating challenges. He has led research on the impact of the new technologies on business and society, has worked with traditional media companies responding to the effects of the new media, and with emerging technology companies on the introduction of new media services. He has led projects around the world, spoken on trends in communications at university and industry forums, and founded McKinsey's Latino recruiting and monitoring group to introduce and cultivate diverse talent at McKinsey.

Early in his career, Ubiñas interned as a reporter at *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

“The Foundation has been at the heart in addressing social problems I understand personally and to which I am deeply committed.”

According to Ford's announcement, he has a distinguished record of leadership in the nonprofit sector. He is currently on the board of Leadership Education and Development, a national organization providing educational opportunities to low-income African-American and Latino high school students. He has spent seven years advising and serving on the board of the Steppingstone Foundation, a Boston charity that helps urban children prepare for college. He helped a Collegiate School in Manhattan classmate, Michael P. Danziger, start Steppingstone.

Referring to his own schooling, Ubiñas told Stephanie Strom, the *Times* reporter, “access to educational opportunity changed my life. I wouldn't be here talking to you had it not been for the work done by the foundations in the 1960s and 1970s to increase equal access to education.”

Ubiñas said he has no plans to make radical changes at Ford. “Change for change's sake is never good. For me it's about innovation, and innovation has defined Ford for a long time.

“I come from a place whose bread and

butter is innovation, and Ford applies innovation in a different sector, but the reality is it is as innovative-driven as where I come from,” he told *The Chronicle*.

Currently Ubiñas lives in San Francisco with his wife Deborah L. Tolman, professor of human sexuality studies and founding director of the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco University, and their two sons.

Commenting on the selection, Vincent Stehle, a program officer at the Surdna Foundation and chairman of the New York Regional Association of Grantmakers, told *The Chronicle*: “The real surprise about it is they actually picked someone in the 40s. We heard this was one of the criteria but nobody believed it. The pressure could have been to get someone with more gravitas, longer experience, that sort of credibility.”

Peter J. Frumkin, professor of public affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, said the Foundation selected someone with an impressive skill set. “You have to have a certain amount on the ball to succeed at McKinsey. The place chews people up and spits them out with some regularity.”

Another observer was not surprised Ford chose someone with a business background. “The style of Foundation leadership since **Frank Thomas's** time has had that cast. He

added that the diversity of the present board encouraged a choice of a new president that would express diversity.

By selecting someone so young and inexperienced, the board clearly did not want a “star” for president, reflecting the fact the board itself is composed of rather little known people, said another observer. “I suspect all this has something to do with the self-perception of the Ford Foundation that it wants to be modest and not give the impression of being led by a powerful individual with an agenda.” Moreover, the new president follows in the tradition of his two predecessors who did not make a mark in some other position.

Another observer remarked the new president comes with a strong pedigree—Latino from the South Bronx, low-income background, smart, well-educated, experienced with nonprofits, from a top-level consulting firm. But he expressed a worry that his McKinsey experience might bring a mechanistic technocratic cast to the Foundation which is what some people see as McKinsey's strength. “Will he have a propensity for boldness and big-impact projects, restoring Ford to the leadership it once had? Will he seek to impact public policy? Will he push the envelope of prudence and ‘safety’? We can only hope, wait, and see.” ■

Chapter News



A mini-meeting of the LAFF's Bangkok chapter took place on July 10 at Jim Thompson's restaurant. Present were, from the left, Sheldon Shaeffer, regional director of UNESCO, formerly a program officer in the Jakarta office; Bill Klausner (who hosted the luncheon), long-time consultant to the Bangkok office; Peter Weldon, a program officer in Jakarta and Bangkok who recently relocated from Hong Kong; and Peter Geithner, LAFF president.

FORMATIVE YEARS WITH THE FOUNDATION IN BRAZIL

By Peter Bell

Peter Bell, who began his career as a Foundation training associate in 1964, stepped down after ten years as president and CEO of CARE USA, the international development and relief organization, in April 2006. Since then, he has been a visiting fellow at the Carter Center in Atlanta. In September, he became a senior research fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard. He is also chair of the facilitation group for the NGO Leaders Forum, co-chair of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS, and vice chair of both the Bernard van Leer Foundation and the Inter-American Dialogue. Peter served on the Foundation's staff until 1977, including ten years in the Latin American Program and three years jointly with the Committee on Public Policy and Social Organization and the Office of Higher Education and Research.

Dick Magat recently sent out an urgent request for articles just as I was returning from a trip to Brazil in my role as vice chair of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, a Dutch foundation that supports early childhood development in 30 countries. Dick's request prompted me to think about some of my early adventures with the Ford Foundation. My 12 years with the Foundation, including ten with the Latin American program, began in Brazil.

Between being selected as a training associate and completing an intensive Portuguese course at NYU, the Brazilian military had overthrown the democratically elected but leftist government of President João Goulart. **Rey Carlson**, the Foundation's representative and his staff, had built a program of grants concentrating on the development of graduate education and research in the natural sciences, agriculture, economics, and public administration. Fresh out of graduate school, I was given license to explore development of the "softer" social sciences, including

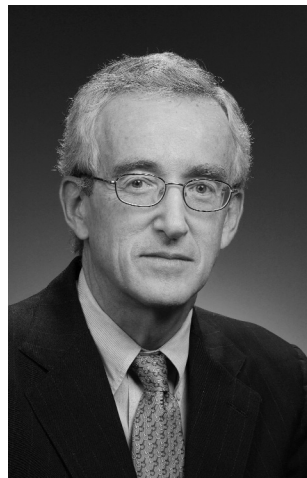
political science, political sociology, and social anthropology.

I started with political science, and soon discovered that in fact there was little in Brazil resembling what I understood to be empirically based, behaviorally oriented political science. One promising exception was at the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. Throughout my four years in Brazil, my frequent visits to Belo Horizonte were the butt of jokes from my Ford colleagues. At the time, Belo was considered something of a "cow town." But I was impressed by a small group of junior faculty there who had been trained to the master's level at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Chile. With Foundation support, they would eventually obtain doctorates from the likes of Harvard, MIT, and Stanford, and become the nucleus for the first Brazilian graduate program in political science.

I sought systematically to track down those few young Brazilians already pursuing graduate degrees abroad in political science and to correspond with them about their progress and plans. One of the best and brightest of these students was Bolivar Lamounier, a graduate of the Faculty of Economic Sciences in Belo Horizonte who enrolled at UCLA. In 1966, Bolivar returned to Brazil to do the research for his master's thesis, and I was able to see first hand why his UCLA professors regarded him as their prize student. When Bolivar was trying to return to UCLA, however, he arrived at the international airport in Rio de Janeiro only to find that his visa to the U.S. had been canceled. Knowing that I would be participating in a Foundation-funded conference of international social science luminaries in Belo Horizonte, Bolivar asked me to accompany him to a meeting at the U.S. Consulate

there. He wanted me to testify to his credentials as a high-performing student. I was happy to do so.

The consul insisted on seeing Bolivar and me separately. When Bolivar emerged from his meeting, he did not utter a word, but looked crestfallen. It was then my turn to go



to the office. The consul shut the door and told me point-blank that he could not possibly grant a visa to Bolivar. When I asked why, he said that it was because Bolivar was "the real thing." I asked what that meant, and the consul responded, "He is deep red." There was, he admonished, nothing more to be said.

With that, Bolivar and I took the elevator down to the ground floor of the building that housed the

consulate. As we got out, members of the Brazilian secret police seized Bolivar and manhandled him into the back of a covered truck. I tried to accompany him, but was pushed back. I went up to the consulate again and demanded an explanation. But to no avail.

I returned to the social science conference that I had been attending and reported what had happened. Through the good offices of a politically well-connected Brazilian at the conference, we were able to identify the military facility where Bolivar was supposedly being held. Given the reports of "disappearances" of suspected leftists, the conferees decided to rent a bus, go to the facility, and demand to see the prisoner. While we could only glimpse Bolivar from a distance, we were at least reassured that he was alive.

When I made my way back to the Foundation's offices in Rio, I found that word of my experience with Bolivar in Belo had preceded me. The then acting representative was not happy. He had already cabled a rec-

ommendation to New York that I be reprimanded for “unfoundation-like behavior.” To my relief, **Harry Wilhelm**, the director of the Latin American program, was more tolerant. Indeed, he was outright supportive. In the ensuing weeks, I worked with everyone from U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to members of the UCLA faculty and the broader social science community on a letter-writing campaign asking that Bolivar be released or given a fair trial. After more than ten weeks, Bolivar was finally freed without charges having been brought against him. The next day, he was granted a visa to resume his studies in the U.S.

A couple of years later, when a group of social scientists were ousted from the University of São Paulo by the military regime, several members of the group decided to break with the longstanding Brazilian practice of going into exile. Instead, they sought to establish a free-standing center for social research. Remembering how the Foundation had rallied to Bolivar’s support, they decided to test our commitment to pluralistic approaches within the social sciences. Led by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a brilliant young professor of political sociology, they proposed a multi-disciplinary set of research projects to be housed in a new Brazilian Center for Analysis and Research (CEBRAP).

By then, **Bill Carmichael** was the Foundation’s representative; **Frank Bonilla**, of MIT, was our social science advisor; and I was the deputy representative. With the backing of Bill and Frank, I recommended a grant to the New York office for CEBRAP. To our chagrin, the recommendation was initially rebuffed by the acting regional director for being too controversial. We decided, however, to more strongly marshal our arguments and to make the case again.

A few days later, I received a call from a senior officer at the U.S. Embassy. He bluntly warned, “If you know what is good for your career, you will desist from recommending the grant for Cardoso’s project.” I explained that we had worked closely with Fernando Henrique and his colleagues on their plans, that we were impressed by their intellectual and professional strength, and that we enthusiastically supported the proposed research agenda for the new center.

Nevertheless, I agreed to listen to any pertinent rationale for our not proceeding. The next day, I met over lunch with a CIA official who brought a case file that he reviewed with me. It contained various news clips and memos citing instances in which

Cardoso had been seen in the presence of “known leftists.” In effect, the case against our supporting the center was based entirely on presumed guilt by association. Bill, Frank, and I decided to go ahead, and this time the officers of the Foundation approved our recommendation.

These two incidents, which occurred in the formative years of my career, helped to influence the course of the Foundation in Latin America and had an important influence on me personally:

1. Into the 1960s, the predominant view of international development in the Foundation was technocratic. It was based largely on economic growth, underpinned by scientific and technological development. Our exploration of the “softer” social sciences helped us to acknowledge the political bias built into our assumptions about development and to open the Foundation to more pluralistic approaches along a broader intellectual and ideological spectrum. Increasingly, we understood that development was about not only growth but also such matters as equity, justice, participation, and openness.

2. After my first five years at the Foundation, I took a sabbatical year at Harvard as a research associate. One of my projects was writing a chapter on “The Ford Foundation as a Transnational Actor” for a book, entitled *Transnational Relations and World Politics*, by Joe Nye and Bob Keohane. The chapter itself was not a great work of political science, but writing it helped me to become more thoughtful about the values underlying the Foundation’s grant-making and the extent to which our role, whether inadvertently or consciously, was political. These reflections were useful in preparing for my next assignment (starting in September 1970) as the Foundation’s representative in Chile. My arrival in Santiago coincided with the presidential election of Salvador Allende, the Socialist who promised a “democratic, legal transition toward socialism.”

3. Bolivar Lamounier completed not only a master’s but also a doctorate in political science. He became a highly regarded political scientist in Brazil; the founder of a center for social, economic, and political research; a member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters;

an influential commentator and columnist on Brazilian politics; and a successful consultant to corporations on political risk analysis. Bolivar has also remained a personal friend and professional colleague over the years. When CARE Brazil was formed as a self-governing Brazilian organization five years ago, he served as its founding chair.

4. Under the leadership of Fernando Henrique Cardoso, CEBRAP—launched with Foundation support—became the premier center for social research in Brazil and quite possibly in all of Latin America. In turn, Cardoso himself became a leader in the democratic resurgence of Brazil, and served as a senator, minister of foreign relations, and minister of finance before being twice elected president of Brazil.

Over the years, Fernando Henrique and I have also remained friends. During the Clinton Administration, I received requests to approach President Cardoso about trade issues. Not wanting to take undue advantage of our relationship, I quickly but firmly refused. On another occasion, however, I learned that the Brazilian ambassador to the OAS had announced Brazil’s support for a Mexican candidate to the Inter-American Commission on

Human Rights, bypassing a much stronger American candidate. I faxed President Cardoso urging support for the American. To my delight, the Ministry of Foreign Relations publicly reversed itself. Not long thereafter, in commenting on Brazil’s commitment to human rights at a forum in New York, Cardoso stated, “Brazil supports human rights; Brazil listens to people like Peter Bell.”

After leaving the presidency in 2000, Fernando Henrique took on the co-chairmanship of the Inter-American Dialogue. I served as the other co-chair until we both stepped down last year. Sol Linowitz, **Abe Lowenthal**, a former Foundation representative in Peru, and I founded the Dialogue 25 years ago as a forum for Latin American and North American leaders of diverse political persuasions to discuss shared problems and to seek cooperative solutions. **Peter Hakim**, the current president of the Dialogue, was also once a Foundation staff member in Brazil, Peru, and Chile. And the Ford Foundation has been the Dialogue’s most consistent supporter for these 25 years. ■

“Our exploration of the ‘softer’ social sciences helped us to acknowledge the political bias built into our assumptions about development.”

Schrank Takes to Cyberspace

Veteran readers of this newsletter know that **Bob Schrank** is one of our more colorful contributors. The former National Affairs program officer has written how he once slept in Churchill's bed.* He's also proudly revealed he was once on FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's watch list for associating with radical union organizers in New York." Now at age 90, he's undertaken a new venture. Discouraged by the parlous state of the traditional media, he's taken to the blogosphere. Let him explain:

The Churchill anecdote is worth recalling. He and **Mike Sviridoff, then vice president for National Affairs, had been invited to attend a conference in the early 1970s at Ditchley Park, England on youth unemployment in the U.S. and England. Ditchley, in Oxfordshire, is a 300-year old, 40-room English country house that had been converted into a British-American conference center. Schrank was assigned to sleep in the same bedroom that had been used during the war by Churchill on "certain weekends when the moon is high"—nights when bomber visibility was likely to be clear. The Germans knew that Churchill would likely be at Chequers, the country residence of British prime ministers, and they knew its precise location, Churchill was told by the British military.*

Schrank went to bed after dinner only to find a large sinkhole in the middle of the bed which had an ancient box spring. If Churchill could sleep in the bed (usually with the help of several after-dinner brandies), so could he, reasoned Schrank. But he woke up in the middle of the night with an aching back. Used to sleeping in cheap fleabag hotels in his union organizing days, he pulled the mattress off the bed and placed it on the floor, a procedure recommended by his orthopedist. He had no further trouble sleeping. But the Ditchley Park staff were quite horrified to learn the following day what the strange Yank had done to Churchill's bed.

In a web entry dated August 26 labeled "On Becoming a Blogger," he writes: "How does a 90-year old geezer become a blogger? Ah, a good question. I have been hollering and swearing at the computer for some

years now, mostly writing books like *Ten Thousand Working Days* and *Wasn't That a Time—Growing up Radical & Red in America*, both published by MIT Press. That led me to the e-mailing world of communication. I began to send comments on the news of the day to people I knew.

"There are serious changes taking place that have made me think increasingly about the growing role of the internet as a primary news source. Being a compulsive *NY Times* reader, I have noticed how the paper is shrinking not only in its physical size but in its news coverage. There is also a noticeable disappearance of advertising, its basic source of revenue. I have come to believe we are seeing the end of newspapers, at least as I have known them in my long life. That

the stacks, I could have been having a beer at a local gin mill. It's almost too easy. Now I wonder, can we really learn if it is made too easy? Is there any relationship between what is learned and how difficult it is to learn it? Another question for another day."

Schrank has been in the habit of sending out what he calls his "missals" to friends as a way of sharing thoughts and getting discussion going. His discovery of the internet to share these writings more broadly came about, he says, at the suggestion of his grandchildren who were visiting from the West Coast. "Grandpa, you should do a blog. Whether what you have to say is current or from the early Twentieth Century, you can always connect it to the contemporary. We'll help you set it up. So here I am."

From Robert Schrank and the Think Tank Gang

Saturday, September 1, 2007

Katrina

My wife Kate and I were watching the second anniversary of Katrina and all that didn't happen. By now the constant showing of the Gulf Coast destruction and the failure to do anything about the 9th Ward or the Hospital in New Orleans, formally one of our "Great Cities," created in Kate a marked irritability not common in folks born and raised in Minnesota.

After additional reports of the increased murder rates in New Orleans, well above pre-Katrina rates, there was the revelation that the New Orleans Police Dept. does not even have a functioning copying machine. Kate thought maybe they could borrow one from the Iraqis. Then she exclaimed, "How can we expect anyone on planet earth to take us seriously when they see our incompetence and neglect to fix New Orleans? Do we really think we can build a democratic nation out of the wreckage of Iraq when we are unable to fix just one city in our own country?"

would leave me with the computer becoming my primary news source. But hold on there. A few weeks ago I had an epiphany that opened my eyes to the wonder that this new medium can perform."

After relating how he used "Google" to hunt down a bit of Greek mythology stimulated by his seeing the Broadway play "Eurydice," Schrank goes on: "I have been overwhelmed by the information that can be retrieved from the internet. I spent hours looking up all kinds of esoteric questions. I thought, imagine if this had been available when I was in my late forties and going to college at night. All those hours digging in

Schrank has written six blogs to date (not counting an accompanying biographical note) since initiating the series in August—once a letter to President Bush urging the U.S. to get out of Iraq because the contest is political not military and unwinnable. Another examines his life-long struggle to understand how the Germany of Goethe, Schiiller, Beethoven, and Mozart, et al, could have colluded in the mass murder of the Holocaust. The blog, titled **Robert Schrank and the Think Tank Gang**, is introduced by a picture of Schrank playing the guitar and singing at a union convention. (To access the blog, go to Google and type in robertschrank.) ■

Gaberman: Renewing the Social Compact

In a closing speech wrapping up a conference in June of some 700 representatives of European and American foundations, **Barry Gaberman** said that American foundations have much to learn from their European counterparts about how to rebuild “a sense of social compact which had all but evaporated in the United States by the 1970s.” He said that European countries retain this spirit—“it’s imperfect but it exists.”

Gaberman, who retired last year as executive vice president after 35 years with the Foundation, was one of several featured speakers at the conference, which was held in Madrid under the auspices of the European Foundation Center. At the opening session, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees, said that the 21st century will increasingly be marked by masses of “people moving because they are forced to move” due to poverty, war, and environmental changes that make their native regions hard to live and work in. An account of the conference was published in the June 14 issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

Gaberman and other speakers, according to *The Chronicle*, said the challenges for foundations today are to find ways to create new alliances and become more open-minded as they devise ways to tackle the immense global issues of mass migration, climate change, and lack of health care for the poor. Grantmakers must look for ways to diversify their leadership and grant-making programs to reflect the composition of the people they serve.

Gaberman urged American and European philanthropies to learn from each other’s strengths and weaknesses because they face many of the same challenges and opportunities. For example, European foundations are more comfortable in playing a public-policy role, while American foundations are often “too timid” on that front. When American grantmakers do engage in advocacy, they often adopt an “adversarial stance” that is not conducive to genuine discussion and change. He added that American corporate and private foundations in particular have gone further than their European peers in ensuring diversity in their staffs—if not always on their boards. And while accountability has been a hot-button issue, “the new mantra is going to be impact.” ■

In Memoriam

Word has been received of the death on June 18 of **Jan Koriath**, who retired from the Foundation in April 1994. At that time she was grants administrator in the Office of the Vice President, U.S. and International Affairs programs. She began with the Foundation in December 1968 as staff assistant in the Office of the Vice President, National Affairs. In 1969 she was promoted to senior staff assistant, administrative assistant in 1972, assistant administrative officer in 1974, and grants administrator in 1982.

Everett M. Woodman, retired president of Colby Junior College who served as an educational consultant in the New Delhi office from 1958 until 1962, died at age 91 on July 31 in New London, New Hampshire. Educated at Phillips Exeter Academy, Dartmouth College, and Boston University (Ed.D), Dr. Woodman was a cultural affairs officer for the U.S. Information Agency in Madras, India from 1952 to 1954 and the director of an educational exchange program between India and the United States for the next four years. At Colby, then a women’s college, he served for ten years as president beginning in 1962. He later became presi-

dent of the Nature Conservancy in Washington and director of the Peace Corps in Mexico. “A keen follower of global events, he felt strongly that global education and dedication to lifelong learning was necessary in today’s world,” said Colby-Sawyer Professor Margaret Wiley. An \$8,000 annual scholarship has been established in his honor to make the college more affordable and accessible for transfer students.

James Larry Ross, who served as program officer for reproductive rights and health in the Dhaka, Bangladesh office from 1989 until 1994, died July 29 in Kathmandu, Nepal. At the time of his death, he was senior director of global operations for the Asia-Pacific region of Family Health International, based in Bangkok. With a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in anthropology, Ross had more than 20 years experience in health, medicine, and international development. He most recently served as country director for Nigeria and chief of party for FHI’s largest project, the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative, one of USAID’s largest projects in Africa. Fluent in Nepali, he also helped strengthen HIV work in that country. While in Bangladesh, he also worked for the International Centre

for Diarrhoeal Disease Research.

Said **Susan Davis**, who worked with him in the Dhaka office, “Jim Ross was a big-hearted man with a dry wit, generous spirit, and powerful commitment to improving health for the most vulnerable. He was a warm, funny colleague who exuded steadfastness and old-fashioned values. He was a rock upon whom many depended.” Condolences may be sent to the Ross family care of PO Box 157, Danforth, ME 04424.

Clark Bloom, whose death on May 28 in Pasadena, Texas was reported in the last issue, served the Foundation in various capacities from 1960 until his retirement in 1974, including program specialist in Amman, Jordan, assistant representative for the Middle East in Beirut, Lebanon, and representative for the Philippines. **Chuck Robarts**, who worked with Bloom, had this to say: “Clark brought a self-confident, hard-driving style to his work in the Middle East. Lucid, well-organized, even a bit professorial, he set a high bar for a team of development economists deployed in several countries throughout the region. In the process, he made major contributions to the development of economic planning in Jordan and *continued on page 8*

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Saudi Arabia.

“From his work with several faculties of economics, Clark became convinced that a single superior professor could make a real difference to individual student performance and institutional commitment to relevant research. In typical fashion, he led the way by returning to war-torn Beirut to help the eminent Arab economist, Dr. Albert Badre, establish one of the region’s first MBA programs at Beirut University College. In his post-Ford Foundation career, Clark continued with his teaching and turned his creativity to several small-scale business ventures.” ■

NEW DIRECTORY

A new LAFF membership directory is in preparation. Letters were sent out by Peter Geithner, president, in September asking that changes be sent to Dorothy Nixon at 201 Adelaide Street, Belleville, NJ 07109 or at dnixon@comcast.net.

LAFF can also use your money. It’s costing more to put out the newsletter (ten pages instead of the usual eight in the last issue) and for other mailings, so please renew your membership if you are delinquent. Dues are the same—\$10 for one year; \$25 for three years, \$50 for ten years, \$100 for life. Members will know they are delinquent by checking the year on the mailing label. Checks should be mailed to Mary Camper-Titsingh, secretary-treasurer, at 531 Main Street, Apt #1110, New York, NY 10044.

And keep the news coming. We never (or almost never) have too much.

NY CHAPTER TO MEET

A meeting of LAFF's New York Chapter is scheduled for December 4 from 5 to 7 P. M. at Marymount Manhattan College at 221 East 71st Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues). The speaker will be **Mary McClymont** who returned to Ford last year as vice president of the Peace and Social Justice Program after serving as president and CEO of InterAction. She will speak on “The Foundation Over Time: views from past and present/from within and without.” RSVP to Nellie Toma, netoma@gmail.com (718 458-6937).

**The LAFF Society
c/o Mary Camper-Titsingh
531 Main Street, Apt. #1110
New York, NY 10044**