Telluride Newsletter

1985 January Volume 72, Number 2

The Fall House: Diversity is its Byword

With Special Renovations in its second year, the physical House is beginning to recapture its early 1900's elegance and beauty. The dining room is basically done; no longer must Housemembers tramp about the outside of the house at 8:00 am to get their coffee. This alone gives us much satisfaction.

With 26 students in five different schools and sixteen different concentrations, diversity is our byword. English majors don't understand how coffee time conversation is deftly turned from Keats and Shelly to artificial insemination and milking cows. The engineering students are perplexed when talk of thermodynamics turns to talk of the dynamics of Marxism. A bit confusing, but we enjoy being enlightened.

There are seven new Housemembers this year. Andrew Weir, a Lincoln Scholar, studies at the Center for Radiophysics and Space Research. We know it affectionately as The Space Place. His friends have an amazing ability to outlast many of the House's best partyers. Though his studies are naturally demanding, he is also active as PropCom Chairman, and at least twice each month, he's rounding up Housemembers for work parties around the House.

Erik Mueggler comes to Cornell and CBTA from Deep Springs, class of '80, as a junior. After several weeks of moving from committee to committee, (his services being much in demand) he seems to have found his niche in PropCom. If he's not at the House, he's either at classes, or playing polo for Cornell, or running madly around Beebe Lake. He likes his exercise.

Ann Malone is a junior in the Engineering School. She is the fall Personal's Empress, forcibly driving her vassals (by fair or foul means) to the phone bills. Ann has the much appreciated ability to argue her positions but remain receptive to new evidence. When Housemembers were discussing the particulars of argument in the House, Ann maintained that an argument is won, in part, by learning something new.

Don McNerney, Personal's vassal, is a freshman premed student. He's active in the House, classes, and the Cornell Crew team. Saturday afternoons of late have seen him "forcibly driven to the phone bills." On Friday nights, he is undoubtedly preparing for an 8:00 am chem. lab with his partner-in-misery, Becky Pinnick, and listening to The Moody Blues.

Becky was an '83 TASPer. It's not clear where her room is, since she's most often seen sleeping on the neon couch. Housemembers take great pleasure in moving the entire couch, with her on it, to another part of the house. Somehow she balances chemistry, being the House Secretary, and Collegiate Future Farmers of America, with chemistry naturally finishing last. After all one must have priorities.

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THE HOUSE

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Susie Jolly is the other ex-TASPer. She came from a vacation in San Francisco this fall with a near bald head. "I'd always wanted to shave it" she explained. She frequently threatens to take a permanent vacation from school. "Tell them I'm not really studying" she says, but this can hardly be true; she seems to keep up with her 3rd year Chinese course.

Carl Etnier would like us to read that he's a quiet, unassuming farmboy from Wisconsin. But, even by his own admission, it's not true. Carl studies in the Ag School, and recently won a trip to Las Vegas for a national speech contest. He mourns the fact that the trip comes just a short time before finals period. He is famous for sitting on the deck in his bathrobe, playing his harmonica. He is unique in this respect.

In addition to new Housemembers, we welcomed back Cindy Cupples and Teresa Michals, who spent last year in France and at Oxford, respectively.

Our faculty guests have been an outstanding success, on the whole. We entertained Michel de Certeau, Paul Hedley, and Dr. Kahn, all from France. They, in turn, entertained Housemembers with their company, conversation, and seminars. Michel spoke about mysticism and Dr. Kahn spoke about Vietnam. Desmond Sergeant, from England, made himself almost into family during the weeks he was here. His work in music psychology was fascinating and he was always around for Halloween baking parties, dances, and early morning coffee conversation.

Kathy Liddell stayed for a short time in November, and treated Housemembers to a lute concert, and a history of the instrument. Alberto Maloni, though not knowing English, gave as much of himself as possible. Particularly memorable were conversations he had with Housemembers about politics, and his wonderful piano-playing skill.

Alan Wolfe, from Oregon, is our guest for the entire year. Though he's quiet, he nevertheless can often be seen in House activities. He studies Japanese literature and Housemembers are hoping for a seminar from him in the spring.

Housemembers and guests interact very well; the exchange of ideas and knowledge is beneficial to all. But the diversity of this fall's House has been indirectly the cause of some concern. Adcom speeches this fall have addressed the seeming lack of purpose in the House. It seems to some as if Housemembers are wandering in search of direction. "Tell them I'm not really studying" she says, but this can hardly be true; she seems to keep up with her 3rd year Chinese course.

Housemembers noticed nothing odd. Succeeding fall parties were of the more conventional, eat, drink, and be jolly variety. House parties seem to be becoming more popular. The Halloween party was a smashing success – the guests outnumbered Housemembers easily! Features like Famous Pasternack Brownies and a live band certainly helped.

This fall's House is certainly exciting to live in. There have been minor skirmishes, and the election stirred up a hotbed of political debate. But there is, overall, a sense of decency, and of respect for one another. Though our various activities take us to all ends of the campus during the day, there is a community feeling fostered among us as we sit down at midnight to watch Star Trek. And no matter how entangled our lives become, there is in this fall's House a willingness to share ideas and appreciate what we are given in return.

Becky Pinnick, CB84

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TELLURIDE NEWSLETTER

The Telluride Newsletter is published three times a year in Ithaca, New York.

Editor – Nan Stalnaker
Staff – Nina Guerrero, Bob Jerrard, Becky Pinnick
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Letters and news are welcome. Please write to 217 West Avenue, Ithaca, New York 14850.

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CBTA Officers - Fall 1984

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Faculty Resident Guests

ELINA HAAVIO-MANNILA

Elina Haavio-Mannila, who was a House faculty guest in the spring of 1984, visited the House again for a week in October, to the delight of Housemembers old and new. She had just participated in a week-long National Council on Family Relations held in San Francisco, in which she discussed a paper by Phyllis Moen from Cornell.

Being abroad is rewarding for her, she says, because it relieves the pressure created by demanding work “interspersed with the practicalities of daily life.” In Finland, she is currently teaching four courses, including a discussion of conflicts between the family and work, and a pilot study on sex segregation in the workplace, which is the present focus of her own research. She has begun to interview men and women in ten occupational groups, both segregated and mixed. Typically, her research involves interpretation of her own and others’ findings according to ideas which she considers important “in a deep way.” These ideas infuse her research with vitality. For example, by pursuing ideas about “human relations” and not merely statistics on women’s wages, she can be creative, carrying out work with “an innovative function.”

Recently, the House received a copy of Family, Work and Emotions: Conflict and Solutions, a book which Elina was writing during her visit to the House last spring. According to her, she received inspiration for this project from lectures given by Cornell professors such as Bronfenbrenner, Elder, and Moen, and also from “living at Telluride”. In her words of farewell to the House in the spring, she stated that her work would benefit from the experiences she gained at the House. She explains, “Living in a community like this...means much to me as a sociologist.”

Elina’s brief visit this term was busy...among other activities, she wrote an article, met with colleagues, attended parties and lectures on campus, spoke with Housemembers, and joined us for Housemeeting. With regard to Housemeeting, she remarks, “I really appreciate seeing Housemembers in public discussion...seeing the type of talking you do, and the kind of organization and values you have....”

January 1985

NINA GUERRERO SP82 CB83

ALAN WOLFE

Alan Wolfe studies modern Japanese literature, comparing Eastern and Western literature, and considering the impact of structuralism, Orientalism, and other views upon the reading, writing, and understanding of Asian history and literature.

According to the Orientalist view of Japan, says Alan, “Japanese writers have had to develop much of the country’s modern literature in the shadow of a pre-existing body of Western literature.” Although Japan, unlike other Asian countries, has no history of colonization by Western powers, and moreover has itself exercised imperialist influence on other Asian countries, it has felt strongly a somewhat oppressive pressure to Westernize. After having repaired the damages done to its society by war, it has proceeded to become an economic giant, but its resulting sense of superiority is mixed with a sense of cultural inferiority with respect to the West.

The French post-structuralists have tended to regard Asian philosophy and literature as primarily different from rather than influenced by Western trends, Alan states. His writing has dealt with Orientalism and post-structuralism, as well as with the nihilistic and seemingly decadent post-war writings of Japan.

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DESMOND SERGEANT

Desmond Sergeant is on sabbatical leave from the Roehampton Institute of Higher Education, a part of the University of Surrey on the southwestern perimeter of London. He has spent more than 20 years with the Institute, and has been, for 7 years, head of the music department, which includes 200 undergraduates and candidates for master and doctoral degrees. The department also attracts music teachers at various levels with its in-service educational programs.

Desmond teaches psychology of music and music education and, in particular, deals with the development of musical abilities. Much of the work carried out by the Roehampton music department is directed toward “practical” or performance training.

In addition to teaching and administering in the music department, since 1965 Desmond has been conducting research in the psychology of music. He chairs the Society for Research in the Psychology of Music and Music Education and is a founding editor of Psychology of Music, which is circulated internationally.

Currently, he is studying octave perception. A year ago, he published a paper showing that octave perception in young children is a function of development as measured by age. He now intends to test adults’ performance on a transposition task, in order to determine whether octave transposition is more readily learned than non-octave transposition.

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ADSTA NOTES

Area Dinners

A series of ADSTA dinners, was held in November and December to mark Deep Springs President Brandt Kehoe’s progress around the east to talk to alumni groups and visit area high schools. Peter Rosenblum, DS83, arranged a visit to Chicago with a dinner at Tom Fairchild’s, DS29 CB33 TA31. This was followed by a Washington reception, under the direction of Washington area coordinator Pete MacDonald, DS43. Robert Gatje, DS44 CB47 TA46, and John Murray, CB39 TA42, were hosts for a dinner at the University Club in New York City in late November. Brandt then proceeded to New Haven, where he stayed with Jacques Lezra, DS79. From there he traveled to Hartford, where Don Noel was his host, on to Boston for a visit and dinner coordinated by David Cole, and then to Rochester for a dinner meeting arranged by Erik Pell. Finally, one month after the trip began, Brandt arrived at Telluride House, to join up with seven other visiting Deep Springers before returning to the Sierras and home.

Oral History

When the ADSTA Council met in Ithaca over Alumni Weekend on October 6, they heard a report from Brad Edmonson, DS76, CB80, on the progress of the L.L. Nunn oral history project. Brad indicated that most of the interviews had been completed. Council voted to allocate funds to continue the project by having the tapes of the interviews transcribed. The transcription will use the Telluride office equipment and the services of a talented work study student who has done work for the office in the past. Brad hopes eventually to use the edited tapes as the basis of a historical biography of L.L. Nunn.
CBTA Hosts
ADSTA Alumni Reunion

On October 5-7, sixteen accomplished Telluride alumni and their fourteen wives and daughters plus other assorted guests, joined current Cornell Branch residents for the 1984 Alumni Weekend. The weekend offered ample opportunities for contact between different generations of Telluriders, both in informal conversation and more organized forums, most notably, the two talks given by retiring Congressman Barber B. Conable, Jr., CB46 TA47.

In his first talk, Conable spoke on the American political process. He developed the idea that “Congress is working the way the founding fathers intended it to work— not very well.” He argued that the government is set up in such a way that it is very difficult for the legislature to act on controversial issues. This prevents Congress from taking a leading role in social change, or from instituting badly-needed reforms of its own structures or operations (e.g. tax reform). On the other hand, this same characteristic preserves the representative nature of the legislature, and prevents it from abusing its powers, the possibility that the founders were most concerned about.

In this first talk he showed both personal frustration and satisfaction with his twenty years in the institution. The frustration was understandable that particular weekend, since Congress had just missed a deadline for passing crucial spending measures and was to reconvene the next week to finish the job in an emergency session. Nonetheless, he thought he had seen some useful changes in his twenty years in office, and he did mention that he believed Congress to be “generally a high quality group of people.”

The Honorable Conable discussed taxes in a later, somewhat more formal presentation. As ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee, he knows his taxes. Most of the talk was devoted to possible tax reforms, currently a hot topic in Washington. Among other things, he explored the political and economic feasibility of repealing indexing or instituting a Value Added Tax.

Another strong point of the weekend was the food. The House saw such wines and cheeses as are rarely found in Ithaca, and the dinners were appreciated by all. (Special thanks are due to master cook Kay Maki for the sumptuous turkey and mountains of shish kebob.) Much informal conversation took place between current students and alumni, lingering over the dinner table. Alums bemused students with stories of drinking buddies who went on to become internationally famous, and beguiled others with information about the esoteric subjects.

Students, alums, and guests alike seemed to enjoy the occasion and the honor of Barber Conable’s presence for a weekend.

Robert Jerrard DS81 CB84
ALAN WOLFE

From 1971 to 1974, Alan translated, taught, and researched at Sophia University near Tokyo, Japan. Between 1974 and 1978, he worked in France, his wife's native country. He then attended graduate school at Cornell. In 1980 he assumed his current teaching position at the University of Oregon where his wife also teaches.

Currently on leave from the University of Oregon, Alan is working in Cornell's Department of Asian Studies. He teaches a course which surveys, in English, modern Japanese literature, a course in reading Japanese literature, and Introduction to Japan. In the spring, he will teach a course on Japanese film, among others.

It was during his post-graduate study at Cornell four years ago that Alan became acquainted with Telluride House. He spoke to Michael Ryan, a professor of English and writer of Marxist literary criticism who was then a faculty guest at the House. After having spent two months at the House, he finds it "a stimulating place".

DESMOND SERGEANT

Desmond attended the Royal College of Music in London from 1947-1953, receiving a degree in piano and a doctoral degree in music. He later earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Redding 50 miles from London. At the Royal College, he met his wife, a pianist. His daughter also studied there, as well as at the University of Miami, and now plays the cello with a trio that performs widely. Another daughter teaches in a French middle school in East Anglia, near Cambridge.

At Cornell, Desmond will deliver a lecture entitled "What Good is Music?", applying constructs of psychology to an analysis of meaning in music. He plans to participate in a project on pitch organization with Carol Krumhansel, an associate professor at Cornell, who has published a number of papers in fields similar to his. It was through her that Desmond came to know of Telluride House. He finds the House to be an "interesting kind of group...a strong community" within which "members seem fairly tolerant of each other, and willing to take a share in what needs to be done." It constitutes a living situation unique among those he has encountered in his many visits to this country.

After Desmond's stay at Cornell, he will briefly visit the Manhattan School of Music, and then return to England immediately to write.
Marina C. Hsieh, SP77, writes that she has moved to Sacramento, where she is taking a position as Director of Research for California’s Lieutenant Governor, Leo McCarthy.

Glen Pitre, SP72, attended the Sundance Institute in filmmaking in Provo Utah in June of 1983, working with such notables as Robert Redford, and Sydney Pollack. One of his films, called “Acadian Waltz”, a period adventure-romance set in south Louisiana before the Civil War, is now in production, backed by the Institute. Pitre sets his films in the Louisiana Cajun country, with plots based on Cajun lore. He calls “Acadian Waltz” a “gumbo Western”.

Therese Tischler, SP66, has joined the law firm of Luster, Salk, and Henry, in Ithaca. She was one of the founders, in 1972, of Moosewood Restaurant, nationally known for its best-selling vegetarian cookbook. Tischler graduated from Rutgers Law School in 1983.

Norman Yamada, SP79 took a leave of absence from Harvard for the fall semester of last year to work for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. He returned to Harvard in February ’84 and will graduate this month.

1984 College plans of some TASPers, missing from last issue:

David Arndt ......................... Deep Springs College
Sanjiv Gupta ...................... St. Xavier’s College, Bombay, India
Paul Hammerton-Kelly ............. Stanford University
Paul Mapp .......................... Princeton University
Kristin Sziarto ...................... Williams College
Joseph Warganz .................... Harvard University

SPECIAL GREETINGS TO ALL CORNELL BRANCH RESIDENTS OF 1934-35

Fifty years have passed. Michal Kunic, CBG34, is interested in hearing from those of you who made up that memorable House. Please contact him at 9720 Pinecrest Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351.
News from Alumni and Friends

Michael Davidson, SP56 CB57 TA58, United States Senate legal counsel, was quoted in the Ithaca Journal recently in a comment on a federal appeals court decision. The court ruled that President Reagan illegally used a pocket veto during a congressional recess last year to kill a bill linking military aid to El Salvador with progress on human rights. The decision means, Davidson commented, that the “one proper use of the pocket veto now remaining is at the end of a two-year congressional term.”

Raymond Diggle, DS60, has been named a senior vice-president and manager of Trust Investments at Bank-Houston, formerly Bank of the Southwest. He comments, “The banking consolidation taking place today would make George Orwell shiver...”.

Paul Foster, SP78 CB79 TA81, and Nancy Glazener, SP78 CB79 TA81, were married on September 22 in Canyon, Texas. Four Telluriders made the long trek to the Texas panhandle to help them celebrate: Laura Gibbs, SP79, Tony Sebok, SP79 CB80 TA82, (in his last American appearance before departing for Oxford as the next Lincoln Fellow), Michael Shae, SP77 CB78 TA79, and Stefanie Weigmann, SP78 CB79 TA81. Highlights of the weekend included a brunch given by several of Nancy’s Canyon friends and teachers and visits to the Canyon museum, the local canyon, and the famous “Cadillac Ranch.” The wedding reception was held at the Amarillo Country Club and festivities concluded the next day with a barbeque at the Glazener spread. Mr. Glazener gave tours to willing guests. Seemed like by the time we figured out that we were in West Texas rather than North Texas, it was time to fly home. Nancy and Paul planned to spend their honeymoon driving down California’s Highway One to Big Sur, and we all wished them a quintessential California experience. They will make their home in San Francisco, where numerous Telluriders hope to be able to visit them soon.

Michal Kunic, CBG34, writes that he and his wife Emilia visited Robert M. Corell, CB34 TA35, and his new wife Mary in Reno, Nevada. “It was,” Kunic writes, “a thrill of half a century from every standpoint.” Fifty years ago the two were roommates. Anyone of 1934-35 vintage is requested to contact them. (See notice page seven.)

Don Noel, DS49 CB52 TA51, has joined the Hartford Courant as a political columnist, after ten years as a senior correspondent at WFSB, Channel 3 television. Prior to his time with Channel 3, Noel had been a political columnist and editor for the Hartford Times. Noel says that he is delighted to be back in print journalism: “I guess my heart has always been in print.” Noel, considered one of the state’s top political reporters, will write three columns a week for the Courant.

Aviva Orenstein, SP76 CB77 TA79, and Jonathan Greenberg announce the birth of a son, Michael Matthew Greenberg, on November 14, 1984. Their first child, David Solomon Greenberg, was born on October 6, 1982. Aviva will graduate from Cornell Law School in June of 1986.

Sally Philips, CB64, has settled in New York City where she is a counselor for Brownlee Dolan Stein Associates. The job involves evaluation and referral of employees of client companies such as the American Stock Exchange, Dow Jones, Hewlett-Packard and others.

Stephen A. Schuker, CB55 TA58, and Maria Tatar announce the birth of Lauren Alexis Eleanor Schuker on June 19, 1984. “At an age when many associates anticipate grandparenthood,” Steve writes, “I have begun to make up for lost time.” He is a professor of history at Brandeis University and lives in Cambridge, MA.

Paul D. Wolfowitz, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs was quoted last September in the Sunday New York Times, commenting on a Reagan Administration decision to offer asylum to thousands of Vietnamese prisoners held by Vietnam in “re-education” camps. He said “I personally feel that there is almost no one more deserving of admission to the United States as a refugee than the people who are suffering in prison because of their past association with us.” “Securing the release of these political prisoners is one of the foremost goals of the U.S. refugee program.”