



INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

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Special Insert



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Notes from the Chair

*By Cornelia Higginson
Vice President, American Express
Philanthropic Program
Chair, Council on Foundations
International Committee*

At our September 11–12 meeting in Washington, DC, we were joined by six of the seven new members of the International Committee of the Council on Foundations:

- John Binsted, vice president and COO of the Vancouver Foundation, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Elan Garonzik, senior program officer of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Flint, Michigan
- Stoyan Nikolov, executive secretary of the Open Society Club, Varna, Bulgaria
- Cynthia Robbins, senior program officer of the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, Washington, DC
- Arelis Rodriguez, executive director of the Fundación Falconbridge, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Volker Then, director of philanthropy and foundations at the Bertelsmann Foundation, Gütersloh, Germany

Another new member, Brenda Colatrella, director of worldwide product donation and policy at Merck and Co., was unable to attend. The new members add to the diversity, richness of experience and perspective of our group. They further enlivened our discussions and will enhance our role as an advisory body to the Council's International Programs department.

The September meeting agenda was full. Committee members heard updates on activities such as the Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), the U.S. International Grantmaking Project and *International Grantmaking II: A Report on U.S. Foundation Trends*, soon to be published with the Foundation Center.

A useful discussion with Motoo Kusakabe, vice president for resource mobilization and cofinancing at the World Bank, and two of his colleagues pointed to potential areas of collaboration between the World Bank and the foundation community. Members of the International Committee briefed these senior World Bank officials on the growth of community foundations around the world and their potential for promoting local empowerment and community-based economic development.

Much of our discussion centered on an exciting new collaboration among the International Committee, the Council's Committee on Corporate Grantmaking and the European Foundation Centre's International Committee. The aim of this initiative is to develop a protocol for grantmakers so they can respond more effectively to disasters. A joint working group, composed of members of all three committees and others, will meet in Europe in December as a step toward producing a draft protocol by March 2001. After the draft protocol is vetted at the Council's next International Committee meeting and Annual Conference in the spring, a wider international workshop on disaster response for grantmakers is planned for June in Kingston, Jamaica.

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Providing grantmakers and their associations with information and resources regarding domestic giving on international themes, U.S.-based cross-border grantmaking and the development of philanthropic structures around the world.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Programs Welcomes New Staff Members

Steve Dau has joined the International Programs staff as communications coordinator. His professional background combines journalism with international development. Steve served as senior resource assistant with World Learning and as a training coordinator for that organization in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council's new international fellow is Julia Szanton. For the past eight years Julia has worked with foundations and other civil society organizations in the Czech Republic. Julia's professional experience also includes an academic position in Thailand.

Patricia Marshall has taken over the duties of administrative associate for International Programs. Patricia brings extensive experience in administrative positions with various U.S. government agencies and, most recently, the National Center for Tobacco Free Kids.

Council Hosts Chinese Delegation

On August 16, 2000, the Council on Foundations hosted a delegation from the government of the People's Republic of China. The group of legal experts was headed by Chen Guangyao, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of Administration of NGOs in the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The Chinese officials are drafting legislation for new laws on foundations in China and met with Council staff members to learn about U.S. laws and regulations in this area. After the meeting, the delegation expressed an interest in translating the Council's publication *Rules of the Road: A Guide to the Law of Charities in the United States* by Betsy Buchalter Adler into Chinese. The visit was sponsored by the Institute of International Education with funding from the Ford Foundation.

Council Collaborates with European Foundation Centre on Disaster Response

The images of disaster are all too familiar: a family trying to escape muddy floodwaters, emaciated civil war refugees and the burned-out remains of homes and schools. The pictures are heart wrenching and demand a quick response.

In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the grant-making community's response to natural and human catastrophes, the European Foundation Centre and the Council on Foundations have established a joint working group to develop some tools that will aid grantmakers responding to international emergencies. In carrying out its mandate, the working group will define the challenges of disaster response from a grantmaking perspective, determine what information grantmakers need to address these challenges, identify key questions and issues confronting grantmakers during disasters, and synthesize the lessons learned from these discussions into a disaster-response protocol for foundations.

The initial meeting of the working group will take place December 11-12, 2000, in London. A workshop on disaster response is planned for June 2001. ●



INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

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A CONVERSATION WITH...

Elizabeth C. Reveal

OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

The United Nations Foundation (UNF) was created in 1997 with a historic gift of \$1 billion from businessman and philanthropist R. E. (Ted) Turner. Turner made this gift to support the UN because he believed in the UN's critical role in promoting international cooperation. International Programs staff writer Isabelle Mack spoke with Betsy Reveal, the foundation's vice president for management and administration, about this unique gift and how the United Nations Foundation searches for solutions to global challenges.

HOW IS THE \$1 BILLION GIFT BEING USED FOR GRANTMAKING?

We are supporting roughly \$100 million per year of grantmaking through two sister public charities. Both are independent 501(c)(3) public charities—the United Nations Foundation and the Better World Fund—and they share the same board of directors and staff. The UN Foundation accounts for about 90 percent of the grantmaking, which is executed according to a legal agreement with the United Nations. All UNF projects have to be sponsored by a UN agency or entity. We establish the program priorities and spending priorities, and our counterpart agency within the UN, the UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), coordinates the development of projects and the submission of those projects to us. UNF grant approval is based on a number of criteria, but most important is that projects be community-based, demonstrate multiple UN-agency collaboration for project development, and involve civil society. So we are also encouraging the UN to involve local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), but they cannot apply to us directly.

The Better World Fund (BWF) exists to support projects that are not appropriate for the UN to do directly (like public advocacy and public outreach work). BWF handles a much smaller amount of grantmaking than UNF does, and we do not accept unsolicited proposals at BWF either. BWF projects are initiated at our request or developed in response to requests from the secretary general or other senior UN leaders.

IS THE GIFT SPLIT BETWEEN THE UN FOUNDATION AND THE BWF?

Yes. Right now we are averaging about a 96%-to-4% split between UNF and BWF, respectively.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION AND PROGRAM FOCUS?

There are four parts to our mission: grantmaking; fundraising; public advocacy and outreach in support of the UN; and support for the institutional reform efforts at the UN. The first three areas are equally important, and the fourth continues to evolve over time. Our fundraising mission comes both from requirements related to our tax status as a public charity and from our chairman's long-term commitment to increasing international philanthropy.

In the grantmaking area, UNF program priorities are fourfold:

- Women and population, where we are focusing on programs targeted to female adolescents and their overall economic and physical well-being and reproductive health.
- Children's health, where we are focusing on three areas: fundraising to support the World Health Organization's (WHO's) polio-eradication initiative (in partnership with Rotary International); WHO's anti-tobacco initiatives; and community-based preventive health care for children, especially in Africa. These efforts aim to improve community health infrastructure and reduce child mortality and morbidity, especially from infectious diseases and mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- The environment, where we have two areas of focus: biodiversity and climate change. Within the biodiversity program we are collaborating with UNESCO to expand and enhance the World Heritage program and also to increase awareness and conservation efforts around coral reefs. In the climate change area we are focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries.
- Peace, security and human rights—This is a new area for us, and over the next year we will be developing a grantmaking agenda around conflict prevention, in particular.

As you can see, all four areas—women and population, children and health, the environment, and conflict prevention/peace and security—are interrelated.

HOW DOES YOUR BOARD HELP THE FOUNDATION ACHIEVE ITS GOALS?

We are lucky to have a remarkably distinguished international board. They represent a large wealth of knowledge about development, development aid, the UN and interna-

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tional diplomacy. They have been very engaged in trying to define program areas and actually selecting and monitoring projects, as well as defining the actual program focus.

The board has been very consistent and insistent about the community-based nature of much of the programming we are trying to encourage, about UN-agency collaboration and joint planning, and about the importance of civil society involvement in virtually all of our programming. Because of their collective experiences in Brazil, Bangladesh, South Africa, Mozambique, Canada, the United States and China, they bring us enormous practical experience and insight about what works and doesn't work in development assistance.

THE FOUNDATION IS JUST THREE YEARS OLD. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE GROWTH THE FOUNDATION HAS EXPERIENCED IN THIS SHORT TIME?

We are right on target in the amount of grantmaking we expected to be doing. We have approved about \$329 million worth of projects in the first three years and have actually disbursed a little over two-thirds of that total. (Many are multiyear projects, so the grant amount is disbursed over time.)

The foundation operating budget is right about where we planned it to be from the beginning, although it has taken a couple of years to get the foundation fully staffed. We now have approximately 30 or 31 people who support both the UN Foundation and the Better World Fund.

We probably have not done as much external fundraising as we had hoped to have done at this stage, but that is one of the hardest parts to get mobilized. We expect to see some significant growth in this area over the coming year.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF FOUNDATIONS AND NONPROFITS IN A SOCIETY THAT IS DEVOLVING SERVICES TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT? AND WHERE DOES THE UN FOUNDATION FIT INTO THE SCHEME OF THINGS?

I think this is a really important question and one that the foundation community is clearly debating and trying to figure out. Many of us are so involved in promoting civil society that sometimes we forget that we *are* civil society. I think foundations need to be strong advocates for the issues, the programs, the topics and the social conscience that they are investing in because of their mission. This advocacy, while it can be controversial, is very important.

We at UNF are very clear that we are advocates for a successful and a high-performing United Nations, and we

are very much a promoter and advocate for investing new and additional resources in international causes. Increasingly, foundations in the United States have an opportunity to provide a leadership role and voice about the kind of globalization that should happen and about ensuring that it benefits people at all levels. Clearly, the UN Foundation has a particular take on this because we're advocates for the UN. More broadly, we really do believe in and support foundations that are taking an advocacy position on issues of global importance.

DOES THE UN FOUNDATION COLLABORATE WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK?

Yes we do, and we have insisted throughout the process that the World Bank and the UN be at the table whenever we are developing our program framework or working on individual plans in country. We are starting a new environmental initiative in which the Bank is intimately involved. We see the Bank as a part of the broader UN system and a natural ally and partner in our programming. We also work with bilateral donors in individual countries, and we have tried to partner with them, as well as multinationals, on areas of mutual interest.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR WORK AT THE UN FOUNDATION?

As someone who has worked in U.S. state and local politics her entire career, I find it wonderful to be involved in international issues. I suppose the most rewarding thing is to be able to work with people from so many different cultures and backgrounds and try to support the UN's efforts to do a better job and play a greater leadership role in the world.

ARE THERE ANY OBSTACLES THAT YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DO YOU MEET THOSE CHALLENGES?

Probably the single most difficult thing for us is that our projects are now in more than 120 countries, and we are very limited in our ability to be on the ground and to have hands-on involvement in monitoring and implementing projects.

We're trying in many ways to overcome this obstacle. We're stepping up the deployment of our program staff in the field, and we're being very strategic about which part of our grantmaking portfolio needs the most intense focus. We are also trying to work with other foundations, consultants

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PHILANTHROPY AROUND THE WORLD

The following two articles were first published in *Alliance*, Vol. 5, No. 3, in September 2000. For more information about *Alliance*, please visit the Web site at www.CAFonline.org/alliance. Both articles are reprinted with permission.

U.S. International Grantmaking Web Site Launched

To promote and facilitate international grantmaking, the Council on Foundations, in collaboration with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), recently launched the United States International Grantmaking (USIG) Web site, www.usig.org.

A growing number of American foundations are beginning to consider funding activities outside the United States. But U.S. laws governing philanthropy are complex and demanding, and the process of funding cross-border activities can be intimidating for grantmakers.

The USIG Web site serves both grantmakers and grantseekers, highlighting pertinent U.S. laws and regulations, outlining the options available for different types of foundations, and providing useful forms along with instructions. In addition, the site offers information about the legal framework for grantmaking in specific countries. Country notes are currently available for Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and Hungary. The United Kingdom, China, Argentina and Costa Rica will be added soon, with others to follow.

The new Web site is a result of the Council's United States Giving Abroad Project, which aims to publicize, explain and simplify U.S. laws and regulations governing cross-border grantmaking. The project steering committee is chaired by Richard Rappleye of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Cornelia Higginson of the American Express Philanthropic Program.

The USIG Web site is a "work in progress," with information continually being updated and expanded. It is currently supported by grants from members of the Council on Foundations and offered as a free service to members and nonmembers alike.

Since 1 May when the site was demonstrated at the Council's annual conference in Los Angeles, feedback has been encouraging. The Firelight Foundation, for example, recently e-mailed, "Thank you so much for this website. As a family foundation committed to helping children affected by HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, we have found it most helpful."

Comments concerning the site are welcomed and can be e-mailed to usig@cof.org.

This column was written by Rob Buchanan, director, International Programs, Council on Foundations.

Review: International Grantmaking Web Site

As the president of a community foundation with a base of hundreds of donors, many originally from outside the US, I see the new site as a valuable information resource. It will make a fine platform for future expanded technical assistance to both grantmakers and grantseekers.

Navigating the site is simple, divided as it is between the two intended audiences. There is adequate explanatory material and the links are logical and helpful. Filling out the online forms for grantseekers seems to present no problems—although, as with all such efforts, the "English only" format will present a barrier to some worthy but not English-proficient organizations. (There has been some recent progress in translation software, so perhaps this is not an insoluble issue.)

The site is straightforward and spare with little clutter, befitting a sort of "resource functional" approach. However, some graphics and visual devices would help present the information even better, it seems to me. Perhaps these can be added in the future.

Looking down the road, while the present site does an excellent job assisting the standardization of information being sought by so many U.S. grantmakers who must assess grantseekers abroad, it is likely to re-ignite the more

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GRANTMAKERS ON-LINE!

Check out United States International Grantmaking at www.usig.org, created to facilitate international grantmaking by providing access to

- recommended forms with instructions
- country reports and laws
- other informational materials and resources.

The site serves both grantmakers and grantseekers to support and facilitate the process of making grants overseas. For more information e-mail usig@cof.org.



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and organizations (including the World Bank) to bring our projects under the oversight umbrella of various kinds of organizations in the field. Staying close to our grantmaking when it is so diffuse and dispersed is quite a challenge.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS?

The only other comment I would like to make is that we recognize we are new to the foundation world and have many lessons to learn from those who have preceded us in the international grantmaking arena. I think it is important for us to learn from the more established foundations and for them, in turn, to learn from us about different approaches. Collaboration among foundations in this new, more complicated world is always challenging. We're all struggling to learn how best to do that, and I think we are making some real progress in the international field. I am

particularly happy to be a part of the Council on Foundations' International Committee because that is a place where we have a real opportunity to help forge effective partnerships. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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www.unfoundation.org

The UN Foundation is a public charity and does not accept unsolicited proposals.

WINGS Update

The Coordinating Committee for the Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) Project held its biennial meeting in September in Krakow, Poland, just before the European Foundation Centre's annual meeting.

A report on the results of the recently completed WINGS survey of member associations and organizations was presented. Overall, the WINGS Project serves nearly 90 separate membership associations and grantmaker support organizations in more than 45 countries. About half of these are in the WINGS networks; the other half are in the WINGS-CF (Community Foundations) network, which serves CF support organizations exclusively. Approximately one-third of these organizations were incorporated during the 1980s, and another third were incorporated during the 1990s. They vary considerably in size of membership, in budget and in structure. Some serve community foundations exclusively, whereas others focus only on supporting corporate philanthropy. Details about the survey results will soon be available on the WINGS Web site, www.wingsweb.org.

The committee also discussed the governance and membership of WINGS, including ways to engage the current membership in the dialog on global philanthropy, to involve the membership in developing the policies and programs of WINGS, and to include emerging grantmaker support organizations in WINGS activities.

WINGS will be launching two of its institutional development activities in the coming months: an internship program and a peer-learning session. Invitations were issued

in October to WINGS organizations that had expressed an interest in participating in the internship program. The internships will allow between six and ten staff members from various WINGS organizations to visit and work with staff members in other WINGS organizations for up to two months beginning in 2001. Also, the Czech Donors Forum will host a peer-learning session in November to explore issues surrounding membership in grantmaker support organizations.

The committee decided to hold the next International Meeting of Associations Serving Grantmakers (IMAG II) in October 2001.

If you are interested in learning more about the WINGS Project, contact Jane Millar Wood, project manager, at woodj@cof.org or 202/467-0399. ●

Stay Current!

For the most current Council news, information and conference happenings, click on our Web site at www.cof.org.



ALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

International Committee Membership

The Council on Foundations is seeking nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on its International Committee. The committee seeks members who are committed to its goals of assisting the Council in extending the field of international philanthropy and increasing its effectiveness. Self-nominations are welcome.

Selection is based on criteria that ensure the committee is broadly representative of the Council's membership. U.S. foundations represented on the committee must be Council members. As with all member committees, the International Committee seeks racial and gender diversity.

The committee's work includes enhancing

- an understanding of how international and local issues are interconnected
- cross-border grantmaking
- philanthropic infrastructure in other countries
- the visibility of international grantmaking.

New committee members will begin their two-year terms July 1, 2001; the terms are renewable once. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2000.

For a nomination form, please contact Isabelle G. Mack at 202/467-0435 or macki@cof.org.

2001 Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking

Nominations are now being sought for the 2001 Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking. The Scrivner award honors grantmakers who, with a combination of vision, principle and personal commitment, are making a critical difference in a creative way. A crystal sculpture and \$10,000 will be presented to the winner at the Council on Foundations 2001 Annual Conference, April 30–May 2, in Philadelphia.

The award was established in 1984 as a memorial to Robert Scrivner, the first executive director of the Rockefeller Family Fund, by his friends and colleagues.

All nominations must be received by January 11, 2001. Individuals from foundations and corporate giving programs that are members of the Council on Foundations or a regional association of grantmakers are eligible to receive the award. Nominations must be submitted by a Council member.

To receive nominating materials,

- call Cindy Raab at the Council at 202/467-0405 or
- visit the Council's home page at www.cof.org and click on "About COF," then "Awards Programs."

Community Foundation Transatlantic Fellowship Program

The German Marshall Fund, in cooperation with the King Baudouin Foundation of Belgium and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation of Flint, Michigan, is sponsoring a new peer exchange program for community foundation professionals in the United States and Europe. The Community Foundation Transatlantic Fellowship is a three-week program that enables senior staff of community foundations to work with and learn from their colleagues across the Atlantic.

Five European and five U.S. participants will be selected for the program, scheduled for June 2–23, 2001. All fellows will attend a one-day orientation in Washington, DC, followed by two and a half weeks in residence with their peer foundations. The fellows will then meet again in Brussels for a debriefing session, which will include alumni from an earlier pilot program.

Applicants should display a comprehensive understanding of community foundations; possess a keen interest in the exchange of ideas among community foundations; be eager to share lessons learned; and demonstrate strong leadership within their professional field and community. Applications will be accepted until November 30, 2000, and an announcement of the recipients will be made on January 15, 2001. For more information, contact Lea Rosenbohm, Program Assistant, The German Marshall Fund of the U.S., 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036; phone 202/745-3950 or visit www.gmfus.org.

2001 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation is inviting nominations for the 2001 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. The \$1-million prize is the largest humanitarian award in the world, and it goes to an organization that is doing extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering. Since its inception in 1996, the award has been given to the International Rescue Committee, Operation Smile, Médecins Sans Frontières and, most recently, the African Medical and Research Foundation. Nominees must be established non-governmental and nonprofit organizations. Nominators should have direct knowledge of the nominee organization's work and should not be an officer, employee or family member of an officer or employee of the organization

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sensitive debate over whether U.S. grantmakers might at some point accept each other's affidavits, thus potentially streamlining the process and reducing grantseekers' administrative burdens.

Even further ahead, I hope it will also spark a wider discussion (and exploration) of how, at some point, a single generic equivalency affidavit form could be created, to be used by all foundations making grants outside the U.S. Anything to make the grantseeker's job simpler, it seems to me, is the goal (consistent, of course, with adequate required data).

But these are issues for the future. For now, www.usig.org is an outstanding resource, a carefully crafted new effort to facilitate more efficient grantmaking abroad, to be applauded by grantmakers and grantseekers alike.

This column was written by Peter deCourcy Hero, president, Community Foundation Silicon Valley. He is a board member of the Council on Foundations and a member of the Council's International Committee. He can be contacted by e-mail at phero@cfsv.org. ●

Update of International Grantmaking Trends

The Foundation Center, in cooperation with the Council on Foundations, is updating the *1997 International Grantmaking, A Report on U.S. Foundation Trends*. The new report will track changes in international grantmaking since 1994. Look for the updated report in December 2000.

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(board members may nominate if they are not officers and do not receive remuneration). Full details, nominating guidelines and an application form are available by contacting the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, 10100 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90067. Submissions must be postmarked by December 15, 2000, to be considered. ●

CALENDAR

December 4-7

COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS
2000 INSTITUTE FOR NEW PROGRAM STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

Contact: Jennifer Drummy, 202/467-0282

February 12-14

COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS
FAMILY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers
Chicago

Contact: Colleen Reed, 202/467-0436

April 30-May 2

52ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS

Philadelphia Marriott
Philadelphia

Contact: Conference information, 202/466-6512

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The International Committee expressed strong support for the disaster response initiative. Two members—Iftekhhar Zaman of the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation and Arelis Rodriguez of the Fundación Falconbridge—gave thought-provoking presentations to the committee on some of the key issues that need to be addressed in designing the protocol. We were joined at dinner by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration Julia Taft, whose call for better disaster response drew on her many years of experience in this field.

Any international grantmakers interested in this initiative—or any of our activities—should contact the International Programs staff. And please consult the new Web site, www.usig.org, designed to assist U.S. grantmakers wishing to make overseas grants. This site is a work in progress and your comments are greatly appreciated. ●