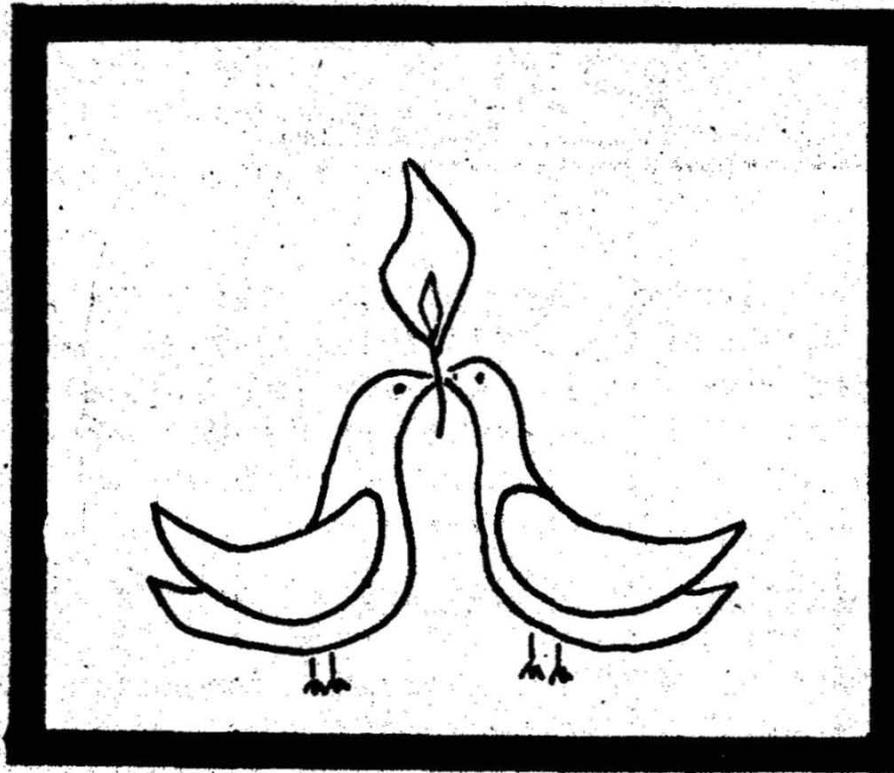


The COMMON FLAME



The wedding newsletter of
Laura R. Yeomans & Richard R. Renner

November 21, 1982



Gift

Giving:

Revisited

A continuing theme of our Common Flame is our desire to encourage gift giving that serves those in need, instead of those already privileged (like us.)

So as the season to be spending approaches, we would again ask our family and friends to consider the following alternatives:

United Campus Ministries serves not only students, but also the poor, the oppressed, and the outsiders of the Athens, Ohio, university community. UCM religiously supports peace and anti-hunger groups, seeks to include homosexuals in the church, and provides professional religious counseling to students and the community. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to UCM, 18 N. College, Athens, OH 45701

Housing and Economic Appalachian Development (HEAD, Corp.) is the business promotion branch of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia. HEAD provides technical assistance and capital to locally owned housing and production ventures throughout Appalachia. Contributions, again tax deductible, may be sent to HEAD, Corp., Box 504, Berea, KY 40403.



Center for Constitutional Rights is a legal resource for minority rights, union organizers, and women's groups. CCR is currently representing twenty-six (26) members of Congress who are suing President Reagan to require the withdrawal of U.S. soldiers unlawfully stationed in El Salvador. Again tax deductible, contributions may be sent to CCR, 853 Broadway #1401, New York, NY 10003.

A gift to any of these groups would honor us more than the standard Christmas fare. The three wise-monarchs of the East, remember, did not come bearing Sears catalogues, but rather to share their wealth with the poorest of Bethlehem.





Today is the third month anniversary of our wedding!

Our wedding day was so special, so full of love. We were surrounded by friends and family who gathered from New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Toledo, Boston, Zanesville, Athens, Detroit . . . to celebrate with us. After hours of work creating the vows, the community proclamation, selecting songs, etc., we were worried that the service would never come together. But with the help of family and friends, and lots of last minute touches, we celebrated wonderfully!

What did you do on your wedding night?

After a lovely day, we drove off to Athens. As we drove my earache (which had been hurting for four weeks on and off despite medicine) grew terrible and we decided to stop at the Emergency Room in Athens.

At 11:30 p.m. the doctor saw us, "Ah, an ear infection. We'll give you penicillin. How long have you had an irregular heart beat?"

"What? An irregular heart beat?," I quipped, "Never before."

"Well you must have an EKG immediately, it's very irregular," he said.

Richard and I gulped, and watched as I was strapped into this machine and the needle recorded my heart beating away.

"Well it appears normal now," he said; looking at the EKG tape, "Did you do anything unusual today?"

Grenada

A Caribbean Honeymoon.

As our taxi crossed the island, we saw it was the most beautiful place on Earth. As soon as we reached our cottage on the beach, we rushed into the Caribbean Sea while the tropical volcanic mountains stood behind us.

It was 9 am. Despite rumors that our LIAT connection would be unreliable, it was our Air Canada flight that made us too late for the last day time flight to Grenada (Grenada's outdated air strip has no lights for night landings).

We were like kittens in a new environment.-- exploring each corner, pouncing on new activities, and, of course, sleeping blissfully late each morn! Saturday's market was our first pounce in capital St. George's. Entranced by exotic novelties, the entrepreneurs edged us on to pop them in our mouths.

We enjoyed exploring Grenada's unique progressive government. In 1979, a popular uprising deposed Eric Gairy's twelve year dictatorship which had been backed by the U.S. Unlike Cuba, "Revolutionary Grenada" has encouraged private enterprise, protected dissent, and has kept its police and army unarmed. We saw farming and fishing coops, free milk distributions, and a universal literacy campaign. The headquarters for the ruling New Jewel Movement (aligned with Europe's socialist parties), we found, was in a back room of the Methodist Church.

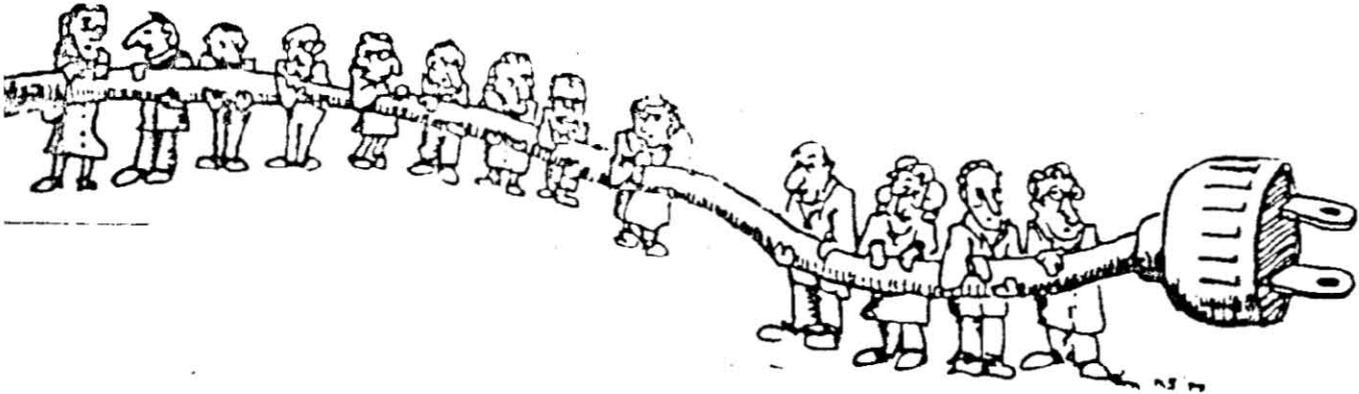
It was easy to meet people. The buses (really vans) carry a party feeling with constant Reggae music. Everyone enjoyed talking to tourists. Laura was invited to speak at the local women's group, and, later, to a benefit tea for



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the National Women's Organization at the Governour's House. We enjoyed a Reggae dance at the government run night club, and, of course, playing in the sand and the clear Caribbean everyday.

For \$35 a night on the often unoccupied beach, how could it be a better honeymoon?



APPALACHIAN



OHIO PUBLIC INTEREST CAMPAIGN

Laura

&

Richard's

Work

We are thrilled with our new job as Co-Directors of the Appalachian Ohio Public Interest Campaign (AOPIC). If you would like to learn more about our work for rural utility customers, neighbors of toxic waste dumps, and those not registered to vote, you can join AOPIC to get its AOPIC Report.

Memberships are \$10 /month (sustaining), \$20 /year (regular), or \$7 (low income). You can join by Visa, Mastercard, or by check to AOPIC, Box 2612, Athens, OH 45701. Tax deductible contributions may be made payable to the Industrial States Policy Center.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editors:

I want to commend you on makin' such a clear statement of your faith and opinions. Both in your first issue of the Common Flame, and in your wedding ceremony itself, you never failed to show your shared commitment to the poor and oppressed of our times.

It is time for all of us to stand up and put our names to what we believe!

Sincerely,

Anonymous.

To the Editors:

Please cancel my subscription, immediately, to your Common Flame.

As a mailbox, I have rights, too. I do not get even a minimum wage. Your Common Flame never addresses the issues faced by mailboxes around the world: lack of transportation, stationery wages, and dog wastes. I'm tired of your "flaming" liberalism.

A mailbox.



Mal

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