



OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 4

July 1995

OMNIOLORE NEWS

A publication of The OMNIOLORE Society, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended Education of California State University Dominguez Hills

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Omniole News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Contact any of the staff members with your contributions.

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FIRST COLLOQUIUM DEEMED HUGE SUCCESS

More than 60 Omnilore members and guests attended the organization's first colloquium held May 31 in the community room at The Shops in Palos Verdes. Guest speaker was Dr. Jeanne Curry, philosophy professor at Loyola University, who discussed the social, legal, and ethical problems involved in the rapidly emerging field of genetic engineering.

Dr. Curry pointed out that the Human Genome Project, which hopes to locate every one of the 100,000 genes on the human chromosome by the year 2005, has already located the genes for Huntington's Chorea, Muscular Dystrophy, Cystic Fibrosis, Lou Gehrig's Disease, and some forms of cancer.

While lauding the scientific research, Dr. Curry raised the question of placing controls on the applications of the research that could conceivably result in such questionable practices as "designer babies", failure to label genetically engineered food crops, and abuse in the utilization of genetic information.

She urged the audience to consider the implication of insurance companies having access to an individual's genetic profile and the testing of prospective employees for genetic defects. She cautioned that unless we balance the rights of all parties, we will have many new social problem within the next decade.

In India, according to Dr. Curry, female fetuses are often aborted now that it is possible to test for gender. As a result, India is already 20-40 million woman below where they would be without the technology.

Problems we must face shortly, Dr. Curry stated, include; the ethical consequences of gene surgery that will alter the genetic code for subsequent generations, what genetic tests should be performed and how should the results be used and how to handle the increased risk of biological warfare that might come from these new technologies.

SURVEY RESULTS TABULATED

Omniole Members exceeded all expectations when more than 50% of the membership returned the survey on colloquia and retreats. Results of the 55 responses (out of 108 questionnaires mailed to the membership) were tabulated by Joyce Zima.

Favorite day for Colloquia was Wednesday, with Tuesday coming close behind. An overwhelming majority preferred morning to afternoon sessions. Of the four proposed locations, the majority preferred Torrance Library. Several other suggestions were made by members—and one of them, The Shops in Palos Verdes, was selected for the initial colloquium held May 31.

Topics members felt they would like to hear explored in depth at a

two-hour colloquium fell into five general categories:

- Society, finance, economics and politics
- International
- Science and medicine
- History, arts, philosophy, and education
- Senior issues

Included in the first category were such issues as gangs and crime, prisons, the federal budget, the CIA, American societal changes, the justice system, racism, the future of democracy, social security and the stock market.

Topics proposed in the international category ranged from Mexican-American relationships to the United States' place in the new world order. Included were such suggestions as the national and world economy, Iran and the Middle East situation, world

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Survey Results Tabulated

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government, population growth, the ECC and the future of the Pacific Rim.

Areas of concern in the science and medicine category ran the gamut. Among the topics suggested were: ethics and genetic research, modern astronomy, latest scientific discoveries, environmental issues, alternative medicine, evolution of human consciousness, aids vs cancer research, modern views of evolution, the diamond, water and DNA testing.

Under the umbrella of history, arts, philosophy and education suggestions included; great philosophers, sex and violence in entertainment, responsibilities of the media, decline of public education, religion and the new physics, Dead Sea scrolls, archeological digs, music, modern art and motion pictures.

Senior issues spanned the spectrum from exercise and aging to goal setting in the second half of life.

Retreats

Members expressed a preference for midweek retreats, with 20 members opting for midweek, 14 for weekend and 12 for either. (The remainder did not indicate a preference.) The most popular site for a retreat was Santa Barbara, with Arrowhead a close second and Idylewild third. Other suggestions included Ventura/Oxnard, Laguna Beach, Big Bear, La Costa, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego County, Asilomar, Esalen and Tehachapi.

Retreat preferences were tabulated in the same categories as for the colloquium.

Some of the suggested topics in the first category were "Is The Family Obsolete", immigration, the role of the senior citizen in the 21st century, welfare reform, the media, unwed mothers, the federal reserve system, and U.S. military needs.

Among the proposals in the international category were: China in transition, future of environmental governance, history of revolutions, world population growth, deforestation, world economy and the monetary system of the future,

China/India world population impact, the ECC, and the future of the Pacific Rim.

Suggestions for science and medicine included alternative medicine, mind/body medicine, earthquakes, the changing biosphere, religion and the new physics, advances in medicine/surgery, medical needs of an aging population, using the internet and a weekend of wellness. Included in the proposals falling under the category of history/arts/philosophy/education were: ethics for the 21st century, the art of mediating, the Renaissance, how to improve public education, famous artists and their works, cultural and moral change in the U.S., the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, survey of philosophy, survey of music and trends in the arts.

Miscellaneous suggestions included: current financial planning, gerontology, handling stress in today's world and how agriculture has advanced civilization.

Where do we go from here?

Colloquia - Tentative date for future colloquia are: September 13, 1995 and February 7 and May 22, 1996. As your colloquium committee investigates available locations and speakers, you will be kept informed.

Retreats - The first retreat is tentatively scheduled to take place April 23 to 25, 1996 at a resort in the Tehachapi Mts. The topic will be "Is The Family Obsolete?" Cost for the two-day event (including six meals) is expected to run approximately \$200 per person.

Watch future editions of the Omnilore News for registration information and names of speakers.

Reminder

Reservations for colloquia are limited. If you make a reservation and find you are unable to attend, please call Ethel Allen, 373-7993 or Fred Kiefer, 377-6286.

More Than Thirty Persons Attend New Member Coffee

In the largest new member coffee held to date, more than 30 persons attended the June 9 orientation at the Knob Hill classroom.

Purpose of the event was for new and prospective members to become acquainted with one another and with Omnilore. Not only were these objectives achieved, but more than one long-standing friendship was rediscovered. Six of the first time visitors signed up on the spot for summer study discussion groups. In the absence of membership chairman Margaret Koch, the meeting was chaired by Joyce Loranger assisted by Gen Carlisle and Edith Garvey.

Hikers to Picnic Before July 21 Walk

Omnilore hikers will picnic before their next walk, set for Friday July 21.

Participants are asked to bring a picnic lunch and meet at noon at Ernie Hewlett Park. The park is located on the west side of Hawthorne Boulevard, about a mile south of Pacific Coast Highway and a mile north of Palos Verdes Drive North.

Hikers are advised to be prepared for a one-hour walk following lunch.

Additional information may be obtained by calling John Taber at 831-4768.



Coming Events

It's not too soon to mark your calendar. This year's annual meeting will take place Thursday, October 26 at Charley Brown's Restaurant. Details and reservation forms will appear in the next issue of Omnilore News.

WATCH THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS

Omniole Profiles

Frank Ludwig

Co-Coordinator, Contemporary Moral Issues

Frank Ludwig, co-coordinator of the summer study-discussion group "Contemporary Moral Issues" has the unique distinction of being a scientist who gets his high from working with people.

An inventor with 50 patents to his credit, Frank's interest in people and social issues has involved him in activities ranging from CORE and the NAACP during his working years to his current volunteer role as a child advocate with the Los Angeles County Court system.

A native Pennsylvanian, Frank was born in Redding and moved to Pittsburgh at the age of ten. A scholarship to the California Institute of Technology brought him to Pasadena to study chemistry. After doing research for a few years on energy conversion devices involving batteries and fuel cells, he returned to college and received his doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in physical chemistry, with a speciality in electrochemistry. He did postdoctoral studies in theory of charge transfers.

Upon his return to industry, he was employed for ten years as a scientist at Ford Scientific Research Labs in Dearborn, Michigan where he met and married JoAnne (who is currently serving as co-coordinator of the Contemporary Moral Issues study-discussion group).

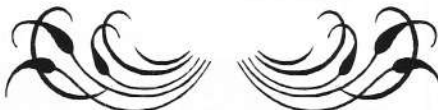
In 1979 the Ludwigs moved to California where Frank set up an animated technical motion picture company with a friend before accepting employment at Hughes Aircraft in El Segundo as laboratory chief scientist in electrochemical and materials science for the technology support division.

Following his retirement last year Frank spent eight hours a day for three weeks preparing for his role as child advocate. Working with young-

sters that have been abandoned or neglected, Frank's role is to get to know the child, meet with the child's social worker, attorneys and parents, and make a presentation in court before the judge explaining what he feels would be in the best interest of the child.

In addition to his volunteer work, Frank is actively involved in consulting work relating to his patents and inventions.

Parents of seven children, the Ludwigs enjoy hiking with the Sierra Club, camping, and coach-



Coordinators Meet Calendar Challenge with Flexibility

In an attempt to more closely parallel the university's tri-semester schedule, Omniole recently decided to end the present summer session September 1. Beginning this fall we will have three study-discussion sessions of equal length.

As a result of the shortened summer session, coordinators in several classes found themselves faced with the challenge of fitting a full curriculum into a minimal time frame. Ever flexible, they came up with a variety of ways of finding time for extra sessions. The most unique solution was that of the Writers' Workshop which decided that in between classroom meetings at Knob Hill every other week they would hold sessions in one another's homes, resulting in weekly opportunities to sharpen their creative skills.

Coordinators' Role Clarified

Does the thought of serving as a coordinator turn you on? Does it turn you off? Or have you often hesitated at accepting the role because you weren't quite sure what it involved?

To assist those considering serving as coordinators as well as those currently filling the role, the Curriculum Committee recently came up with a set of suggestions. This article will attempt to summarize them. Suggestions fall into three categories—before the course begins, the first session of a new course, and texts: core and others.

Before the course begins the coordinator is expected to consider how the course topic will be explored. Focus is on course content and how it is to be approached. Emphasis should be on underlying motivating themes which can lead to revealing discussion.

At the first session of a new course, the coordinator's role is to set the stage for future explorations and discussions. The coordinator underlines the need for research through specific reference materials and fine-tunes the future conduct of the course by fixing its emphasis. (If after one or two initial meetings it is obvious that the sessions are flat and discussion is lacking, it is up to the coordinator to review the focus of the course with the thought of reorienting the subject matter.)

Text - core and others

To a large extent the nature of the subject influences the decision to select a particular text for reference. Historical, biographical and scientific subjects tend to invite the selection of a particular book—while other subjects of a broader cultural nature may require several text references. In the latter case, coordinators are advised to consider more than one text or periodical (or sections thereof).

Emphasis should be maintained on a wide selection of reference materials for participants in order to better prepare them for enlightened discussion. With most subjects, the opinions and findings of recognized authorities will help the group find its way through new and challenging material.

What about a visitor to the class?

On occasion, people who are thinking about joining Omniole are invited to sit in on or audit a session. This is done with the specific approval of the coordinator. He or she must make clear to the auditor that they are there to observe and not partake in the discussion. It is not fair for a visitor to interject comments or questions when both the background for the session and the securing of membership are lacking.



CALENDAR

July 4	Independence Day
July 6	Board of Directors Meeting
July 21	Deadline for Fall Study/Discussion Registration
July 31-	
August 4	Fall Coordinators Meeting with Curriculum Committee
August 3	Board of Directors Meeting
August 15	Deadline for the September Newsletter
September 1	Board of Directors' Meeting
September 1	Summer Session Ends
September 4	Labor Day
September 5	Fall Semester Begins



Pops Concert in the Park

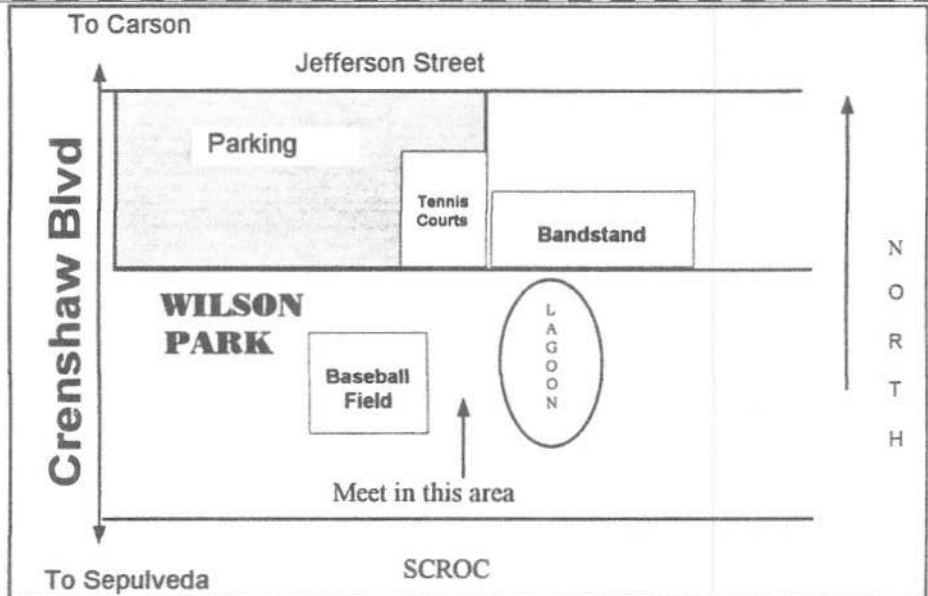
If you like music from the 30's and 40's and you'd like to picnic al fresco with fellow Omnilorians, then mark Saturday, August 12 on your calendar.

That's the evening the Torrance Symphony Orchestra presents its pops concert, free of charge, at Wilson Park, Torrance.

The concert is set for 6 p.m.; but the Omnilore group will meet one hour earlier for a picnic supper. We will gather at the lagoon near the bandstand close to the picnic tables. Look for the yellow Omnilore sign.

In addition to bringing your supper, be sure to bring a blanket or chair to sit on and a warm jacket as it can be very cool later in the evening.

If you are not familiar with the location of the lagoon, see the adjacent map.



Need The Use of a Classroom?

Every now and then a group of Omnilorians find they need to use a classroom on a date other than that of a regularly scheduled class. Now that we are growing, this can sometimes cause a problem. (Not too long ago four groups showed up to use the same rooms at the same time.)

To avoid these problems, please call vice president Elyse Boozer at 559-9589 if you need to use a classroom for an extra unscheduled meeting. She will maintain a calendar for room usage.

Bridge Anyone?



As we mature, Omnilore has expanded our interests. Not only

have we initiated hot topic sessions, colloquia, and begun planning for weekend retreats; but we have organized special interest groups to meet our members' non-academic needs as well. The hiking groups has been very successful for the past several months. The newest interest is BRIDGE. Any bridge players who would be interested in forming a bridge group are asked to contact Elyse Boozer at 559-9589

DON'T MISS

Hot Topic Set for July 20



The Hot Topic for July will be a second discussion on "The Bell Curve". The meeting will take place in Room 7 from noon to 2 p.m.

Thursday July 20.

Participants are invited to bring their lunch. Coffee will be provided.

Omnilore News.

Comments can be sent to



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