



# OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 6 Issue 6

November 1997

## OMNIOLORE NEWS

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

### Executive Committee

President	Burt Cutler
VP - Administration	Hank Steddum
VP - Academics	Ginger Engstrom
Treasurer	Gloria Jacobs
Secretary	Norm Rosen
Past President	Whit Wilson

Members at Large  
Merle Culbert  
Alan Scharff

### Committee Chairs

Curriculum Committee	Jim O'Neill
Membership Committee	Michael Grinde
Communications Committee	Ronnie Saunders
University Liaison	Ralph Brown
Colloquium Coordinator	Patricia Morris
Head Coordinator	Elyse Boozer
Hot Topics	Mary O'Neill

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

Staff Members  
Ginger Engstrom  
Blanche Fleming  
Peggy Houghton  
Ronnie Saunders

## NEW OFFICERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING



Burt Cutler was elected president of Omnilore at the annual meeting held Thursday, October 23 at the Mariott Hotel, Torrance. Installation took place at the November meeting of the Board of Directors, Thursday, November 6 at the Knob Hill facility.

Also elected were: Ginger Engstrom, vice president, academics; Hank Steddum, vice president, administration; Hal Fenton secretary; Gloria Jacobs, treasurer; and Merle Culbert and Alan Scharff, members-at-large.

## INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the first time in Omnilore's history a contested election was held at the annual meeting. The slate nominated from the floor was elected by "acclamation" and the new officers were installed at the November 6th board meeting.

The election process caused bruised feelings and some members of the 1997 Board of Directors have resigned from Omnilore. It's a shame to lose these hardworking people. I know that Fred Kiefer devoted a huge amount of his life to Omnilore during the past year. I'm also especially saddened to see Ethel Allen leave, since she was part of the "original ten" that met in my home "way back" in 1989. Ethel went on to become Omnilore's first president in 1992. I'm sure that you all join with me in wishing the very best to any and all departing members.

**Now we'll turn our focus to the future.** The new board is dedicated to emphasizing stability in 1998 and is determined to make Omnilore an even more outstanding organization.

There are several things that the Board will emphasize during the next year, in order of priority:

1. Impose and live within a tremendously restrictive budget.
2. Review policies and procedures: should we produce a new mission statement for Omnilore?
3. Establish a three to five year

growth plan with intensive review of facility options.

You may be surprised and chagrined to hear that our first priority has to do with prosaic matters such as budgets. So were we! However, as mentioned briefly at the Annual Meeting, the budget prepared several months ago included a double entry for income, so we were planning to spend some \$15,000 against an income of \$8,500! Worse yet, a significant part of the expenditures have already been made: (1) Annual Meeting expenses, (2) University charges of close to 20%, which are new as of 1997; (3) secretarial expenses, etc.

Where the Board's budgeting considerations several years ago were to look for ways to spend the growing surplus, we're suddenly faced with having to cut back everywhere: secretarial services, Colloquium expenses, postage expense, etc., etc., etc. We can make expenses equal income only if everyone who is part of the Omnilore Board or on any working committee (a considerable part of Omnilore's membership) expends extra personal effort. So, not only are we a member-driven organization, this year we become a *member-working* organization. With your help we can do it. If you're willing to assist with typing, labeling, collating, mail-

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ings, etc., we'd appreciate it if you put a note to that effect in Hank Steddum's box.

Our second focus is to more actively solicit members' ideas and opinions, to more clearly define what and who we are. We want to generate a new mission statement and to redefine acceptable topics and structures for our Curriculum Committee. We also plan to review, and where appropriate, modify recent rule changes.

The Board is preparing a broad questionnaire that we'll soon be distributing to the membership. It will build upon and expand the questionnaire that John Tabor recently distributed. The questionnaire will give us an interesting set of our members' profiles, a summary of which we'll publish in the newsletter. Also, we'll get useful data for the Board to determine possible new operating guidelines for acceptable topic suggestions to the Curriculum Committee.

As many of you know, I've had some interaction with members of the Writer's Group, some of whom are still smarting from policy changes made early last year. After several open discussions, I requested that the group respond to some questions individually and in writing. It was not surprising to see that, although they agreed on some things, there were significant differences in approach on a number of questions.

One member, Hal Simmons, put these responses in good context. Hal is concerned that, while we are taking the pulse of the membership on several questions that we not get to a state of chaos, "because there are many independent thinkers who will not accept anyone else's ideas." He points out that in any organization, elected boards are charged with the responsibility to make decisions, some of which may upset some members. "So be it," he says. "Members will come and go in any organization, but its ongoing strength usually resides in the involvement of a small nucleus who set a modus operandi and live by those rules."

He's right on. The Board intends to solicit members' views, and the resulting information will be used as guidance for the Board. But these are indeed Board decisions.

As the year begins for the new Board, we'll keep you abreast of our actions. In our first meeting held November 6th, we accomplished the following:

- ◆ Election of our new committee chairs as follows:

Curriculum Committee Chairman:  
Jim O'Neill

Membership Committee Chairman:  
Michael Grinde

Communications Chairman:  
Ronnie Saunders

University Liaison:  
Ralph Brown

and the following:

Hot Topics Coordinator:  
Mary O'Neill

Colloquium Coordinator:  
Patricia Morris

Head Coordinator:  
Elyse Boozer

In addition, Whit Wilson serves on the Board as Past President.

Also, Hal Fenton determined that he could not devote time to the Secretarial position; the Board, acting under our Bylaws, confirmed Norm Rosen to be Omnilore's Secretary.

- ◆ Acceptance of a new budget prepared by our Budget Committee.
- ◆ Acceptance of the 1997-1998 Calendar prepared by Hank Steddum (enclosed herein). This supersedes the calendar you received at the annual meeting.
- ◆ Assignment of an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare member questionnaires and assess results.
- ◆ Discussion re decreases in membership since June 1997. An active recruitment program will be launched within the next month.
- ◆ Ralph Brown (University Liaison) and Whit Wilson to determine how we can achieve closer ties

to CSUDH. The following will be investigated:

- a. Can we arrange to have selected professors visit with and interface with some of our S/D groups?
- b. Can we have selected classes offered at CSUDH for Omnilore members?
- c. Assure rapid deposit of Omnilore member checks.

- ◆ Assignment of an AD Hoc Committee of John Taber, Hank Steddum and Hal Fenton to review all bylaw changes and report to the board the appropriate dates for the most recent bylaws (that somehow were never dated). These last changes were unanimously passed several years ago at our Annual Meeting. These rule changes, for example, include two Vice Presidents rather than the single V.P., that, was called for in our older Bylaws. Clearly, we've been operating under those newer Bylaws. Copies of our Bylaws are posted on the bulletin board.

We wish to express our gratitude to ALL the 1997 Board and committee members who gave of their personal time for Omnilore. Remember, Board meetings are open to all members who may care to attend. Meetings are usually held the first Thursday of each month: see your Omnilore calendar for specifics. Finally, the Board wishes all members happy holidays in November and December and an educationally stimulating New Year.

Burt Cutler

#### Omnilore News

Comments and input can be sent to



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**IMMUNE SYSTEMS DISCUSSED**

by Bette Henning

The enigmatic immune system of the human body that is "wonderful, but doesn't always do what we want it to," was the subject of a colloquium address by Ann Harmer, Professor of Biological Sciences, Orange Coast College.

Her talk was a highlight of Omnimore's Sixth Annual Luncheon General Meeting held October 23 at the Torrance Marriott.

In her detailed illustrated presentation, Prof. Harmer defined the composition and function of cells, components of the immune system, its response to invasions by "alien bodies" and scientific concern over the most well-known of disorders to the immune system, AIDS.

"The one bright spot about AIDS is we have been forced to learn more about how and why viruses invade cells," she told more than 80 Omnimore members present.



**HIKERS START THIRD YEAR**

by John Taber

On September 19, 1997 Omnimore's hikers undertook their 24th walk; 22 of them on the P.V. Peninsula and two covering areas of downtown Los Angeles

Members get a chance at 10 AM, on the third Friday of each month to enjoy the outdoors on trails rarely used by most people. Walks have only minor altitude gain and are two and a half to three miles long. They usually last for an hour and a half.

The walk, joined typically by ten to fifteen people, starts and ends at a local park where a picnic lunch follows the hike.

For five dollars a year, members receive a mailing early in the week of each hike describing the trails to be used and the starting point. In April of each year the group takes the Metro downtown to see buildings and areas of architectural and/or historical interest.

Anyone interested can get information or get on the group's mailing list by calling John Taber, (310) 831-4768 or Sunny Golombek, (310) 371-4358.



**Hot Topics**

by Joann Ludwig

On the third Thursday of each month from 12-2 everyone interested is invited to bring a lunch to the classrooms and join in a rousing bull session on the "hot topic" of the month. No preparation is necessary other than an interest in the topic.

On November 20 we will talk about whether or not sports scholarships are in the best interests of anyone. Do they really help students that might not be able to attend college otherwise get an education? Do colleges take advantage of athletes as money makers and not really ensure that they get an education?

Is it fair that students who would not otherwise be admitted to a college or university on an academic basis be accepted and given a scholarship because of athletic ability?

Since everyone tends to be very busy in December, there will be no hot topic meeting for that month.

I have been leading hot topics for two years now and November will be my last hurrah. It has been enjoyable, but I think after a couple of years it's good to have a fresh face and mind in the job.



**TWENTY TOPICS TO BE OFFERED AS SPRING SELECTIONS**

Omniorians will have the opportunity to select among 20 study/discussion groups and one workshop for the Spring semester. Course offerings include:

- ⇒ Drama of the American Jewish Experience - Part II
  - ⇒ The Ancient World
  - ⇒ Architecture: Its Meaning and Evolution - Part II
  - ⇒ Down-to-Earth Astronomy
  - ⇒ Benjamin Franklin
  - ⇒ Study and Discussion of Creative Writing
  - ⇒ Drama Production Study
  - ⇒ Generals of World War Two
  - ⇒ The Education of Henry Adams
  - ⇒ California Impressionists
  - ⇒ India--Emerging Giant
  - ⇒ Julius Caesar
  - ⇒ The Mediterranean Sea
  - ⇒ A Study of Baroque Music
  - ⇒ Opposing the System, 1995 Edition
  - ⇒ Peter the Great
  - ⇒ French Philosophical Thought
  - ⇒ 20th Century American Poetry--Part II
  - ⇒ Current Issues of American Foreign Policy
  - ⇒ Study of Scientific American
- The workshop offering will be "Understanding the Stock Market".

## Omniole Profiles - Bette Henning

by Norman Lobenz

When Bette Henning moved to Los Angeles in 1948 a question she got used to hearing was, "How come a nice Jewish girl like you grew up in Salt Lake City?"

The answer involved Cossacks, American Indians, and a lot of Horace Greeley's "Go west, young man" advice. Her grandfather left Russia in the 1870's, found work in Salt Lake with a hide and fur company, and earned enough money trading with the Indians for furs and deer hides to send for his wife and daughters. At the turn of the 20th century Bette's father left Russia to escape conscription in the Czarist army. After a stop in Chicago, where he worked as a traveling salesman, he too reached Salt Lake and opened a clothing store. Bette (nee Pomerance) arrived on the scene soon afterwards, and Salt Lake City was never the same.

Bette's main interests -- art and writing -- grew out of her early school years. A fourth grade teacher turned her on to art appreciation, and spent extra time teaching her the basics of watercolor painting. In high school, an English teacher noticed Bette's way with words and asked her to write school news for the Salt Lake City Telegram and several community weeklies.

At the University of Utah, where she majored in English and speech,

Bette continued to "string" (write college news items) for the Telegram, as well as work on the college daily and humor magazine.

After graduation Bette was hired as a general assignment reporter on the Salt Lake City Deseret News and soon was promoted to the feature desk where she specialized in interviewing the Hollywood celebrities who came through Salt Lake to promote their films or work on location.

"Most all of them were easy to talk to," Bette says, citing interviews with such stars as Gary Cooper, Ezio Pinza, James Craig, Jerry Colonna, pianist Arthur Rubinstein and conductor Claudio Arrau. "The only difficult one was Shirley Temple!"

When Bette knocked on Shirley's hotel door, Mrs. Temple shooed her away, thinking she was a fan. Bette's story in the paper next day started this way: "Shirley Temple was not at home today to the public that has made her famous." Result: Shirley's mother promptly called to invite her to breakfast and the interview. Moral: Don't mess with Bette!

At 22 Bette was editing the paper's feature section and won a national award as the youngest newspaper section editor in the nation. In 1948 Bette moved to LA where she

worked for a while in television and public relations before getting married. But even while she was raising her two children the lure of newsprint continued; Bette wrote features and local news for the Pasadena Star-News and several community papers. Since moving to Redondo Beach in 1977 Bette has concentrated on volunteer activities. She is an 11 year veteran at the L.A. County Museum of Art, where she has been newsletter editor, secretary of the Executive Committee, chaired the education committee, and supervised the training of new volunteers. This year she is Vice-President of Training and a member of LACMA Volunteers Board of Directors.

Bette was a member of UCLA's Plato Society for six years, but has given that up to return to her first love, Omniole. "It's closer to home, and more fun," she says. Bette loves art, opera, concerts, theater, Thai food, chocolate ice cream, and cats (the animal, not the musical); and she enjoys traveling to exotic places. Recent destinations include Turkey, India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Egypt. On New Year's Eve she leaves for Viet Nam.

Pet peeve: anybody that spells her first name with a "y".

### TO SUNNY with love



Sunny Golombek, one of the busiest and most talented members of Omniole, retired a few years ago as an advertising artist. One of her jobs in Omniole was on the "Writers' Workshop - Fact and Fantasy" publication. Her illustrations enhanced the text with appropriate drawings. The members of the writers' group have wanted to thank her most publicly. By an oversight they didn't do it at the '96 meeting and the '97 meeting left no space or time to do it.

But now a "Big thank you, Sunny. You're the best!"

... if you know of any member in our midst who is having difficulty of any kind. Omniole members want to respond with offers of help, transportation, a phone call, flowers or whatever. Please notify Marie Huntley at (310) 376-6261 or a member of the Executive Committee.

## We Want to Know

### REMINDER

Before leaving classrooms, please remember to:

- ⇒ Put away coffee pot and fixings
- ⇒ Shut off all lights
- ⇒ Close all windows
- ⇒ Lock all doors

## OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 1997-1998

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| November | 6 Board of Directors' Meeting<br>Swearing in of New Officers<br>Review of Annual Budget |
|          | 17 Spring Session Classes & Schedules Announced   |
| December | 4 Board of Directors' Meeting   |
|          | 12 Coordinator's Training Session ( for Spring S/D Groups)                              |
|          | 15 Deadline for January Newsletter  |
|          | 19 Fall Session Ends  |
| January  | 8 Board of Directors' Meeting   |
|          | 5 Spring Session begins<br>Summer S/D Topic Suggestion Forms Distributed                |
|          | 30 Deadline for Spring Membership Fee (new members only)                                |
| February | 6 Deadline for Summer S/D Topic Suggestions   |
|          | 15 Deadline for March Newsletter  |
|          | 18 Winter Colloquium  |
|          | 23 Distribution of Proposed Summer S/D Topics   |



### Regular Monthly\* Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated all meeting are held in Room 7

- |                         |  |                    |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Board of Directors      | 1st Thursday                                 | 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM |
| Standing Committees     |  |                    |
| Curriculum              | 1st Monday                                   | 10:00 AM - 12:00 M |
| Chair - Jim O'Neill     |  |                    |
| Membership              | 2nd Thursday (off campus)                    |                    |
| Chair - Michael Grinde  |  |                    |
| Communications          | 22nd of month before press time (off campus) |                    |
| Chair - Ronnie Saunders |  |                    |
| Colloquium              | 4th Monday                                   | 10:30 AM - 12:00M  |
| Chair - Patricia Morris |  |                    |

\* Except for major holidays or conflicts with events listed on the above calendar.

#### IMPORTANT

Please Note: All changes and additions to the Omnilore Calendar must be cleared with the Vice President, Administration in order to avoid conflicts in scheduling or use of rooms.

No study/discussion groups, workshops or special activities should be scheduled at the time of the Annual Omnilore General Meeting, nor should any group or activity schedule a meeting in Room 7 during the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.

Room 8 is unavailable to Omnilore on the following days: November 17,18, December 1,2, January 7, 8, 21, 22, February 4, 5, 18, 19, March 4, 5, 18, 19, April 1, 2, 15, 16, May 6, 7, 20, 21, June 3, 4.



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