



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 13 Issue 5

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OMNILORE NEWS

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

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Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

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Can You Believe What You Read

by Carol Kerster



In the play *Born Yesterday*, Billie Dawn, played by Judy Holliday, says that her father "... always used to say: Don't ever do nothin' you wouldn't want printed on the front page of the *New York Times*." The implication, of course, is that what we read in the newspaper is believable because it is true.

Within the last few years, there have been two major exposés of reporters who knowingly submitted stories that were patently false: one in the *New York Times*, another in *The New Republic*. In light of that, and perhaps of other cases less well-known, the answer to the question "Can You Believe What You Read?" is dubious.

For *Omnilore's* Annual Meeting on October 29th at the Marriott, we will be truly fortunate to have as speaker, **Jean Adelsman**, a woman who is well qualified to examine, if not answer, this question. Her impressive resume includes 17 years as managing editor of the *Daily Breeze*, journalism teacher at USC and CSU Northridge, and master's degree recipient from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. In 2003, she was named Best Journalist of the Year by the Los Angeles chapter of Professional Journalists.



Jean Adelsman

Additionally, as this is our annual Halloween bash, the day will be as much fun as it will be informative. And just as "strength and wisdom are not opposing values," (Bill Clinton), neither are entertainment and education. You won't want to miss this Four Star event; your chance to elect the next officers of Omnilore, Halloween Fun (surprise us with your creative costumes), a gourmet luncheon, and this very special speaker.

To reserve your place, you can use the reservation form on page 5 or wait for a flyer with more details which will be in the mail to you shortly.

Terry Savage Remembered

by Mike Scordan

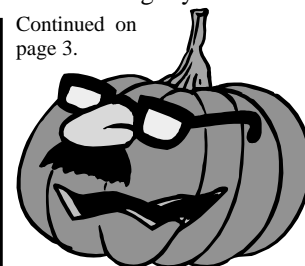
I first met Terry in 1997 when he signed up for the Philosophy series I was coordinating, and was overjoyed to learn that he had his Ph. D. in the subject. Here was someone who had far more philosophy than I had and he wanted to be part of our class. Terry, Kathy Fitzgerald, Neale Lehman and I have studied and shared together ever since. In 1999 we were joined by Dan

Stern and later, by Myrna Browning. His knowledge of twentieth century philosophical thought was extensive and profound, but he was never overbearing or patronizing with the rest of us. He always entered into a discussion with the attitude of an exchange among equals. This was also the case in the Stock Market Class, which he organized and coordinated for the last eight years.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By George Clark

Get The Word Out

The Membership Committee, chaired by **Edith Garvey**, conducts meetings with prospective members to tell them about *Omnilore* and give them an opportunity to join. During these meetings, she asks people how and when they first heard about *Omnilore* and they often say they came as soon as they heard. That is the way it was in my case. *Omnilore* and I coexisted in the South Bay

for nine years before I heard of it, and when I did, I joined immediately. I wish I had heard about it sooner.

People hear about *Omnilore* principally through friends, and secondarily, by notices in newspapers. We have business-size cards and brochures we can hand out to friends that provide additional information about *Omnilore*. Also, **Lori Geittmann** of the Membership Committee is developing a

personal invitation card that we can give to our friends.

Many *Omnilorians* have had interesting careers, perform community service, or participate in other interesting activities.

These may be the basis for human-interest stories in the *Daily Breeze*, *PV People*, *Beach Reporter*, or *Easy Reader*.

Let's use every opportunity to get the word out. It is not that *Omnilore* needs more people; more people need *Omnilore*.



Jim Bouchard

New Lifelong Learning Coordinator says "Watch OLLIonline!"

by **Jim Bouchard**
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning
College of Extended and International Education
CSUDH



As many of you know, I have taken over for **Letty Rodriguez** who has returned to Texas for work and family, and it's my intention to live up to her role working with *Omnilore* as Coordinator of Lifelong Learning.

Having worked with lifelong learning for over a year I am excited about developing new opportunities. Many of you may be familiar with OLLIonline, a project funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation. OLLIonline brings the pleasure of a live, interactive presentation through television and/or computer to those who aren't able to attend a live lecture.

This fall's television/online series is *Perspectives on the 2004 Presidential Election*, and parallels our live lecture topic for the first time. Topics which will be examined vis-à-vis their relationship to the 2004 election include terrorism, the senior vote, social services, policies on aging, Middle East politics, minority voting patterns, and presidential debates. The broadcasts will take place Wednesdays from 1pm to 2pm PST, starting September 15 and ending in December. We hope to provide a unique, more academic perspective on elections than you will find on news and talk shows.

While television viewing is limited to those in the city of Los Angeles (channel 36 on cable), and El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and Torrance (channel 6 on cable), anyone can watch the series live via the computer. I encourage you to go to our website (www.ollionline.tv) and see how to download the necessary software to watch the series live.

If you appreciate the level of programming we provide, you can show your support by logging onto the OLLIonline website and participating in our discussion forums. As we develop our OLLIonline program, I will be looking for volunteers who would be willing to be "pen pals" via e-mail with OLLI participants, or be willing to host a discussion group online following presentations. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please e-mail me at jbouchard@csudh.edu, or phone me at (310) 243-3729. I look forward to seeing OLLIonline grow, to find further sources of funding, and to eventually receive an endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation so that we may provide quality, college-level lifelong learning for many years to come.

Call For Topic Suggestions

by **Burt Cutler**
Curriculum Committee Chairman

As you receive this newsletter the fall classes will have begun as of September 1st. The beginning of each new trimester is also a wake-up call for the Curriculum Committee to begin to prepare the NEXT trimester's offerings. So, *Omnilorians*, please let us hear your ideas.

Topic suggestion forms are available in the Curriculum Committee box in the Room #7 closet; please write your suggestion(s), following the standard format, and either return it to the same box in Room #7, mail it to: *Omnilore* Curriculum Committee, Div. of Extended Education, PMB 236, P. O. Box 7000, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-8710 or e-mail the brief information requested on the form to either BurtC@cox.net or to JohanSmith@comcast.net.

Your ideas can leap right out of your inquiring wish-to-know mind, from books you've read, from commentaries or authors you hear on CSPAN-2 or PBS, browsing the new books section in your local library, etc. etc.



To allow time to collate and evaluate topics, to present selection choices to our membership, collate the responses, select the coordinators and to mail the class rosters---all well in advance of the coming (spring '05 trimester) we need your suggestions by September 15th. And **Thanks Thanks Thanks** for your extra effort!

OMNIOLORE PROFILE – MARY ORAN

Mary Oran grew up in Naperville, Illinois, “. . . a wonderful little town where everyone knew everyone, and there was a lot of generational history.” Mary’s great grandfather was a drummer boy in the Civil War at Gettysburg; and further back in her family history, there was a Minuteman in the Revolution. Her great aunt traced the maternal line back to England in the 1400s. None of that, however, prepared her for discovering on a visit to Naperville a few years ago, the fact that the family home she grew up in until the age of 22 was part of the Historic District.

Naperville was a college town 25 miles from Chicago. Mary did her undergraduate work in English and Education at North Central College in Naperville, the same college her grandmother had graduated from in 1902.

Her favorite extra-curricular activity in high school was singing. As a member of a Mary Trio (Mary Kay, Mary Lynn and Mary Ruth), she sang at civic and school functions and at summer band concerts. The three Marys won a radio contest on WGN and were part of an octet that sang with Mahalia Jackson one evening in Joliet, IL.

While teaching high school English for three years in Palatine, IL, Mary began working on the masters program in English at Northeastern University.

In 1968 she heard that the Department of Defense needed overseas school teachers. Within two months she was in Japan on an Army post called Camp Zama - about a 30-minute train ride from Tokyo - where she taught 500 Army and Navy children at the American High School. She taught English, Drama, Speech and Yearbook for two years during the Vietnam War. This past July Zama High School held a reunion in Las Vegas and Mary spent a weekend with about 20 of her former students.

While teaching in Japan, Mary did a great deal of traveling. She saw the Cambodian ruins of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, visited Bangkok, North Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and most of Japan.

One of her favorite teaching experiences in Japan was taking students to the Kabuki Theatre in Tokyo where the students were given a backstage tour before the performance.

Upon returning to this country, she accepted a friend’s invitation to come to California, and was promptly offered a position teaching at Rolling Hills High School. Within two days of her arrival she had been hired as an English teacher, found an apartment and had purchased a used car.

She taught there from 1968 to 1978. From 1975 to 1978 she studied for her library credential at Long Beach State College, nights and summers. After receiving her library credential, she transferred in the fall of 1978 to Miralste High School and became the school librarian. She stayed there for ten years, at which time she returned to Rolling Hills High School as librarian. In 1990 the school district consolidated from three schools to one school. Mary was in charge of consolidating the three libraries and all the textbooks. She remained at Peninsula High School from 1988 until her retirement in the summer of 2000.

During the 70’s and 80’s Mary was very involved in community theatre, acting at Torrance Community Theatre, Chapel Theatre and the Palos Verdes Players.

Upon her retirement she sold her house in Waleria and moved to The Gardens in San Pedro.

She joined *Omniole* in the fall of 2002.



Need *Omniorian* with good decorating skills to create table centerpieces for the Forum Luncheons. Good working conditions, short hours, and great co-workers. Call **Diana Cutler**, 541-8973, or put your "resume" in the Forum Committee box in Room 7.



Shortly after joining she became a member of the Forum Committee; and this fall she will be coordinator for the study group on English language. An avid reader, she started the Book Shelf column in *Omniole News*.

During her working years, she was named High School Educator of the Year in 1995 and served as a mentor teacher when the mentor teacher program was introduced.

A former student of hers who is now a Harvard University professor recently recommended her as an educator who had an impact on her life, which resulted in Mary’s being awarded the Harvard Teacher Initiative award from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In recent years she returned to Japan to accompany two students who had won essay contests, visited Spain shortly after 9/11, and this past April returned to Hong Kong where she discovered they now boast a subway.

Her hobbies include going to the theatre, discovering fine food, and laughing. “I think a good sense of humor is just about the most important attribute a person can have,” Mary laughs.

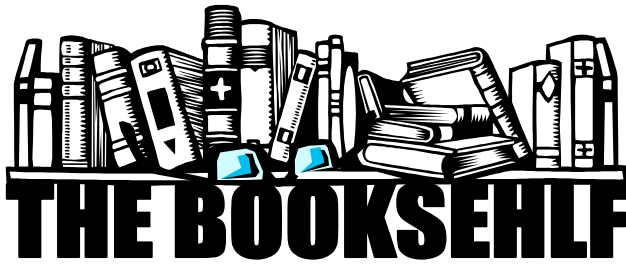
Terry Savage Remembered

(Continued from page 1)

Terry took his Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania (about the same time as Noam Chomsky) and taught there for two or three years before entering the Army. After completing his military service he did research work at IBM where he was part of the group that developed some of the original computer languages and invented the punch card as a way of inputting data into the computer. He joined *Omniole* after retirement from TRW.

Terry and his wife, Sue (who passed away in Dec., 2002) were very active in theater and the arts in the Peninsula area. They are survived by three sons, all successful in their own fields. Although he was always active in *Omniole* and hosted many physics and philosophy discussions in his home, Terry remained a very private person who never wanted a fuss made over him.

As per his wishes a memorial service will be small and private. This private man will be missed by many.



by Mary Oran

The possibilities for good reading are endless, as you will see by the recommendations in this issue. Again, we welcome your suggestions. What we ask is that you stay away from proffering the current best sellers that most people are aware of and, instead, suggest lesser known good works. Is there a book you read years ago that made a lasting impression? Or one that provided a great escape? Please share. That said, here we go!

Interpreter of Maladies, by **Jhumpa Lahiri** is a collection of stories about Indians who have emigrated to America. The culture that comes with them does not always fit easily into this baffling new world. These stories reveal humor, courage and pathos, and feature delightful characters.

Shadows of the Mind: A Search for the Missing Science of Consciousness is written by **Roger Penrose**, referred to as "perhaps the world's greatest living mathematician AND a *New York Times* best-selling author." The work involved in reading this tome is rewarded by an

intuitive understanding of modern physics and some interesting theories about consciousness.

84 Charing Cross Road, by **Helen Hanff** is a little gem of a book that contains letters between a writer living in New York and a London used-book dealer.

Although the two never meet, they build a warm friendship through their natural love of books and their 20 years of correspondence.

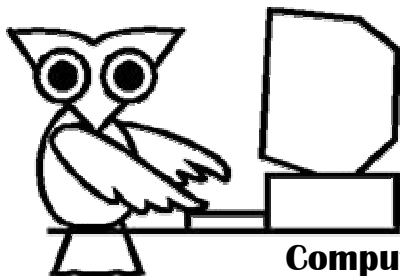
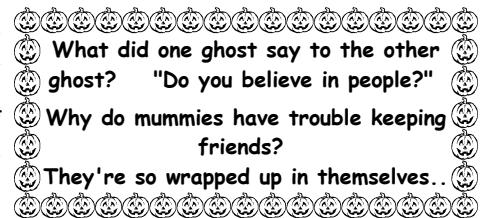
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by **Mark Haddon** is written from the point of view of a 15-year-old boy, an autistic savant, whose mind is incapable of processing emotions. A literalist by neurology, he deconstructs life into math equations and physical laws. This heart-warming novel is an old fashioned mystery, a coming-of-age story, and an insightful glimpse of what it is like to live with a different view of the world.

A Very Long Engagement, by **Sebastian Japrisot** is a World War I story about five French soldiers and the mystery revolving around their deaths in "no man's land." The wheelchair-bound fiancée of one of the men is determined to find out the truth about what really happened. A mystery, a labyrinth of sorts, memorable characters and vivid war scenes contribute to a compelling reading experience.

Godel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid by **Douglas R. Hofstadter** won a Pulitzer Prize several years ago. It is a mind-expanding experience that ties together the last few millennium of math, art and music. This book also takes effort, but the result is pieces falling into place that seemed forever separated. The philosophy that is included is an added bonus.

The Soloist by **Mark Salzman** is a short novel about a man who was a cello prodigy; at the height of his success he develops a handicap, and rather than performing, he ends up teaching cello at UCLA. After 16 years of teaching, two "intrusions" change his life: he becomes a teacher to a nine-year-old Korean prodigy, and he is assigned to a jury trial of an acolyte who murdered his Buddhist Zen master. This is a reflective presentation.

(Thank you to **Patricia and Jay Edie, Edith Garvey, Blanche Herring, and Dan Stern** for contributing to this list. Please send your titles, with author's name and a brief description to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Put "Omnilore Books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you!)



**Information Bytes
from the
Computer & Technology
Special Interest Group**

by Carol Johnson

Computer Newbies Welcome!

The Computer SIG meets two Fridays a month, and various people give presentations, usually related to PCs. We would like to be helpful to *Omnilorians* who are not heavily into computers but would like to learn more. We are gathering ideas on what subjects should be covered, so we want your input.

Taking a cue from the Curriculum Committee, we have made our own topic suggestion form. You can use that form, which is available on the bulletin board for Special Interest Groups in Room 7, or you could send e-mail as shown on the form. Topics can pertain to a single talk or a series of talks during several SIG meetings.

The format for the two-hour meetings on second and fourth Friday afternoons is somewhat flexible, but potentially the first hour will be for "newbies" and the

second hour will be for "nerds." The first hour will include an "easy" presentation and an open session for news, questions, and answers. After refreshments, the last part will have a more esoteric presentation and planning the next meeting. *Omnilore* members are welcome to come for either hour or both, for whichever meetings are of interest. No one is required to give presentations.

Presentations and demonstrations often use *Omnilore's* laptop. This is a good place to get familiar with how to use this new resource. The next meeting is September 10th at 1:30 p.m. in Room 7. Announcements about meeting agendas are sent out by e-mail. If you want to join the e-mail list, you can send an e-mail to me at CNordJ@sprynet.com.



Brown Bag Science

BBS Restarts After Summer Hiatus Series to Meet on 3rd Thursdays

by George Clark

The Brown Bag Science series will start up again in October after a summer hiatus. Reminder: Brown Bag Science now meets on the *third* Thursday of each month at 12:00 Noon in Room 7.

Schedule for September and October

September	No Meeting
October 21	A panel discussion on <i>I.Q., Its Significance and Heritability</i> by Dan Stern, George Clark and Burt Cutler



The following is an introduction to the IQ controversy, not a summary of what the panel will cover.

The first half of the 20th Century was the heyday of intelligence testing. As late as the 1950s, both the psychometric experts and the informed public believed that IQ tests measured intelligence and that both genetic endowment and environment played a role in differences in IQ scores. This view came under attack in the 1960s and 1970s with the claims that everyone is born with the same intellectual potential (the blank slate idea), no one knows what intelligence is and whatever it is, IQ tests don't measure it because they are biased. There were impassioned attacks against the idea that intelligence had a genetic component. The hottest topic of all was whether the measured differences in average IQ among different human races had anything to do with genes. The news media jumped in with programs like the hour-long CBS special, *The IQ Myth* and Steven Jay Gould published *The Mismeasure of Man*, an attack on both the reality of general intelligence and the scientific integrity of many earlier scientists who had measured IQ, brain size and brain weight. We are still under the influence of the anti-IQ-testing movement. IQ tests are used less and less and in some cases are banned by law. SAT tests have been changed so that their scoring is more subjective and the questions have been changed so that they are now weighted more toward acquired knowledge and less toward cognitive ability.

The anti-IQ movement created a disconnect between public perception and expert opinion. The public, along with the journalists and editors that tend to form public opinion, tended to believe that all babies were born equal, and cognitive ability was either entirely or mostly due to environment and little or not at all due to genes. Most professional psychologists and IQ experts, on the other hand, still believed that intelligence was inherited to a considerable extent, but their views were often greeted with hostility and personal attacks and all but a few maintained a low profile.

It was in this intellectual atmosphere, in 1994, that Herrnstein and Murray published *The Bell Curve*, a book comparing people at the two ends of the IQ distribution. At the high end, we have people who exhibit the qualities we consider socially positive: they work, they raise their children, and they are generally socially responsible. At the low end of the IQ distribution, we have school dropouts, drug addiction and crime. Herrnstein and Murray wrote that there was probably a cause-and-effect relationship between these observations, with low IQ being a significant contributor to social pathologies. The book was immediately the center of a huge controversy, which is still going on. Each member of the Brown Bag Science panel will have a different focus and no doubt a different view of the significance and heritability of IQ.

Out on a Limerick



A history scholar named Georgia
Expounds on the family Borgias:
"Such evils they've done!"
She cries, "Better run
If you see a Borgias come torgias!"

There was a young man with a hernia,
Who said to his doctor, "Gol dernia,
When improving my middle,
Be sure you don't fiddle
With matters that do not concernia."

A publisher once went to France
In search of a tale of romance;
A Parisian lady
Told a story so shady
That the publisher made an advance.

Seat belts are great in a wreck,
But they sure make it harder to neck.
Buzzered, then belted,
No gal's ever melted -
The best you can get is a peck.

The greatest discovery of any generation
is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes.

Albert Schweitzer

OMNIOLORE Annual Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: Friday, October 29th, 2004 – 11 a.m.

WHERE: **Torrance Marriott Hotel**
3635 Fashion Way
Torrance, CA

Reservations are
required by October 22nd,
please!

Please make ____ reservations for the **Omniole** Annual Luncheon @ \$20 each:

Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

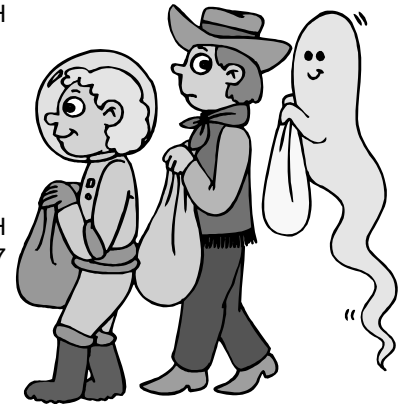
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Enclosed is a check for: \$20 Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH, Omnilore**, c/o Diana Cutler
and put in the Forum Committee's 10 S. Middleridge Lane
box or send to: Rolling Hills, CA 90274

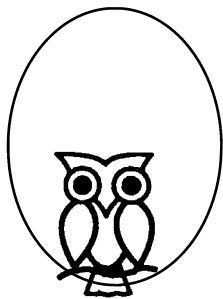
OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2004

September	1	CSU . . . Presidential Election 2004 - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
	6	Labor Day
	9	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	10	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7
	15	CSU . . . Presidential Election 2004 - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
	17	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	20	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	24	Curriculum Committee Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Room 8
	24	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7
	30	Curriculum Committee Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Room 7
October	4	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	6	CSU . . . Presidential Election 2004 - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
	8	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7
	12	Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7
	14	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	15	Input Deadline for November-December Newsletter
	15	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	18	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	20	CSU . . . Presidential Election 2004 - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
	21	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12 to 1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>I.Q. Its Significance and Heritability</i>
	22	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7
	29	Annual General Meeting - 11 a.m. - Torrance Marriott Hotel
31	Halloween	



IMPORTANT

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Carol Johnson
(310) 372-8535 - CNordj@sprynet.com.



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