



OMNIMORE NEWS

Volume 6 Issue 4

July 1997

OMNIMORE NEWS

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

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Omnimore 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
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	Peggy Houghton
	Ronnie Saunders
	Joyce Zima

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: SECURITY at KNOB HILL FACILITY



For several years OMNIMORE has had a practice of providing keys to the outside doors of rooms 7 and 8 at Knob Hill to those needing them. Those who needed a key could obtain one by depositing \$10 to the Friends of OMNIMORE account, which would be reimbursed upon the return of the key.

However, in May, our Administrative liaison at CSUDH informed us that the management of the Knob Hill facility would be changing the locks shortly. Action was to be delayed until we worked out a schedule for the key changeover and mutually agreed upon a new limit to the number of keys which would be available.

CSUDH at first granted us permission to replicate only 12 keys. We had 52 keys outstanding. CSUDH was alarmed at this high number; and so was I. I immediately wrote to CSUDH and identified a number of people who would need keys. The list included a number of members of the Board, the secretary/stenographer, the computer manager, and 24 coordinators and co-coordinators - totaling 35. Fortunately CSUDH agreed, and I was able to have the keys made up at once.

While this was going on, a break-in to rooms 7 and 8 took place which caused the Knob Hill people to immediately change the locks before notifying us or CSUDH.

However, we have managed to provide keys to the majority needing access and I hope that others weren't too inconvenienced. John Vehrencamp is currently working out details for a key control plan for the future which will be announced shortly. Although our key usage has not compromised security so far, it is obvious that Omnimore will have to operate with much tighter key control in the future.

For now I recommend the following action:

- Key holders with old keys should return them to the Treasurer and get the reimbursement;
- Coordinators and co-coordinators can obtain keys from the Treasurer. For those who were coordinators last term and who are coordinators again this term, all that is needed is a simple exchange;
- When you finish with your coordinating duties please return your key immediately.

Please note that although there was no theft of equipment due to the break-in, one of our newly installed sound - proofing doors was badly splintered. John Vehrencamp did an excellent repair job on it and deserves our thanks. It was an unsettling experience and points up the need to guard your key, make certain that the outside doors are locked when you leave, and immediately report the loss of a key.

Fred Kiefer

DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

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TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

by Ethel Alien, University Liaison, ALIROW Region 3 Director

April 18-20, 1997 was a landmark weekend for Omnilore. It was the occasion of the tenth biennial meeting of ALIROW (Association of Learning In Retirement Organizations in the West). ALIROW is our regional umbrella organization which serves 22 affiliates. It is, at present, the only LIR regional organization in the nation. Elderhostel Institutes "EI", (not to be confused with Elderhostel), is our national umbrella organization, which has grown from 32 in 1989 to over 200 affiliates this year. ALIROW and EI are not legally affiliated, but they cooperate fully. The biennial conference is a good example; it was a joint enterprise of both organizations. Both organizations share the same goals:

- * To assist new organizations to start in the rapidly growing LIR movement.
- * To serve as a platform for existing affiliates to exchange ideas and share resources.
- * To stimulate ideas, growth and to deepen the development of all their member affiliates.

Fred Kiefer, president of Omnilore, and John Taber, a past president of Omnilore, were presenters at two of the thirteen weekend's workshops. Fred very ably addressed the problems of "Conflict Resolution" and John explained his revolutionary and effective Job Manual as the first step in solving the problems of "Maintaining Continuity". Attendees were most impressed, snatched up their hand-outs avidly, and were eager to set Fred's and John's ideas into action at their home affiliates. For Omnilore the weekend was truly a triumph. Omnilore members should have been very proud of the leadership role our group has achieved.

And yet the meetings ended in tragedy: Francis and Eleanor Meyers were killed by a drunk driver on their way home. This is a terrible loss to ALIROW and to us all. As past president of PLATO, founder and first president of ALIROW, Francis stayed on the ALIROW board as its president emeritus and continued to offer us inspiration and leadership. Indeed, the underlying theme of the meetings (Third Age Learning In The Third Millennium), was a plea for intergenerational dialogue rather than the generational conflict Francis saw on the horizon. He had recently established an under-graduate honors program at PLATO, and had just chaired the "Reaching Out To Other Learners" workshop at the biennial meetings. His report to the biennial business meeting was overflowing with ideas for future ALIROW efforts. Among his many ideas, he suggested a closer, more "legal" association with Elderhostel Institutes.

Francis strongly encouraged all affiliates to establish a computerized data base, with a personal profile for each member. He also recommended that ALIROW go "Online" with a web page that would include a directory of individual affiliate web pages. Eventually, there could be a lively exchange among and within affiliates, including publication of local newsletters.

But Omnilore lost even more than this great man's leadership. We lost our patron saint and our guardian angel. It was to Francis, personally, that we turned when founding Omnilore. It was his Handbook for LIR Organizations and Institutes, first published in 1987 and revised several times since,

that we used for our guide. He stood by us all the way. He met with CSUDH administrators in our behalf, and provided advice and TLC whenever needed. Many of our members consulted his Compendium of Study Topics for inspiration when developing our early curricula.

He not only founded ALIROW, the first LIR umbrella in the world, but generously came to the aid of Elderhostel administrators when they formed the entirely separate division of Elderhostel Institutes (inspired by ALIROW). It was most gratifying to hear James Versheurin of Elderhostel and Elderhostel Institutes speak of Elderhostel's debt to Francis at the memorial service for Francis and Eleanor. Indeed, we are all greatly in his debt. Perhaps the greatest memorial we can raise in his honor is to help further the LIR movement he so fervently supported, and to make Omnilore the best LIR Institute it can possibly be.



JOAN BEBB, Omnilorian

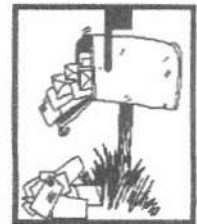
Omnilore member Joan Bebb, 58, died April 27. A 25-year South Bay resident, Joan retired in 1995 from TRW as a division manager after 21 years of service. She is survived by a son and daughter.

MEMBERSHIP CAP SET

Recently the board voted to set the OMNIOLORE membership cap at 170. A great deal of discussion of criteria for setting that cap went into making the decision. In the near future all OMNIOLORE members will receive a letter from President Fred Kiefer explaining the criteria considered before arriving at this decision.

OmniLore News

Comments and input can be sent to



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Phone (310) 540-6011

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 **July 17** we will talk about the private lives of public people. It seems that these days no issue of a public person's life is off limits. The press competes to put out there whatever dirt they can dig up and their readers lap it up. Is this the way it should be? Would we have been better off knowing about the private indiscretions of FDR and Eisenhower? Does it matter if the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs had an affair 10 years ago? Lots of timely examples could be mentioned. Let's discuss it.

Over the last year or so at any number of hot topic discussions the talk has drifted to "Affirmative Action". Now we are seeing some results of the passage of the recent California proposition against affirmative action. On **August 21** we will share our thoughts pro and con on this topic. I'm always open for suggestions on topics. Give me a call at 377-4989.

**THEATER FLASHES**

"HAMLET" will be presented at the Torrance

Cultural Arts Center, 3350 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, July 10, 11, and 13. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday performances will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances at 6 p.m. The outdoor production will be staged in Torino Plaza.

Tickets are \$10. For reservations, phone 781-7171.

"AS YOU LIKE IT" will be presented on Sundays at 4 p.m. from July 6 through September 14 at the Theatrum Botanicum, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Topanga. For ticket information call (310) 455-3723.

BARD HONORED AT COLLOQUIUM

by Lindie Banks, Writers Workshop Press Corps

Dr. Lois Feuer, English professor and Dean of Arts and Sciences at CSUDH, proved at the May colloquium that having fun with Shakespeare is a challenge worthy of Omnilorians.

"Take Shakespeare off the pedestal," she advised. "Forget the culture hero stuff. Shakespeare was the Steven Spielberg of his time, an entertainer enjoyed by everyone from Queen Elizabeth to the lowliest teenage apprentice whose plays were the bestsellers of his day."

How do you have fun with Shakespeare? Dr. Feuer offered the following recipe:

- See his plays acted. Attend Shakespeare festivals in Ashland or San Diego - or see local productions, she advised. To illustrate her point she showed videotaped scenes from "Macbeth," "Hamlet," and "Much Ado About Nothing,"
- Listen to how Shakespeare plays with the language. Dr. Feuer suggested, describing various ways the same line may be interpreted. "Shakespeare lived at a time when language was more fluid, allowing him to invent words," she added. "His use of language gives us a clue to the characters he portrays."
- Share the story of his plays with a child, she advised. Recalling the time she and her husband took their 10-year-old nephew to to see his first Shakespearean production at the Old Globe in San Diego. Dr. Feuer said they erred by refraining from telling him the story of the play beforehand. After it was over, her nephew commented "'Why didn't you tell me? You never told me what good stuff this is.'"
- Read the plays aloud. "This is especially helpful when you are confused by a line or a passage," she said.
- Look up the sources Shakespeare used. "When we read the source itself," she stated, "we can better appreciate how Shakespeare changed the original story to bring out richness and depth of character. "A Winters Tale," she explained, "is based on a prose romance by Robert Greene entitled 'Pandosto.' Shakespeare transformed Greene's story to bring out a vision of change which emphasizes the theme of forgiveness that triumphs over tragedy."
- Study Shakespeare in the context of his times. For example, she pointed out Shakespeare wrote his histories at a time when there was great concern over who would succeed the "Virgin Queen", Elizabeth the First. "Another advantage of knowing the customs of the age in which he wrote is that it helps the theatergoer understand actions of a character which otherwise might be difficult to understand today," she stated.
- Read modern criticism of Shakespeare's plays. Dr. Feuer pointed out that current critics tend to read Shakespeare with a feminist eye.
- Finally, compare different interpretations of Shakespeare's plays. Whether live or on film, each interpretation varies the relationship between characters. Both casting and the historic time in which the play is produced affect the interpretation.

How did Shakespeare's contemporaries regard him? Dr. Feuer stated that he was so beloved by the majority of his fellow actors that they collected his plays in a book, "The First Folio." No other playwright of his day had been so honored, she said.

Omnilore Profiles

Michael Grinde, co-ordinator

For those who have known him as an outgoing eager participant in OMNIOLORE groups or who have witnessed his hearty renditions on the stage it is hard to believe that Mike Grinde was once a withdrawn shy bookworm who never spoke in class or social situations and spent most of his time reading about history, math and science.

But, according to Mike, that is exactly how it was. What turned his personality around, he claims, was getting involved in acting. But that did not happen until the early 1980's when he joined Parents Without Partners.

Before that Mike's love of the theater was strictly confined to theater-going. Born in 1941 in Aberdeen, Washington, Mike was the son of a radio engineer in the community of 20,000 that Mike claims is the only city in the West that has lost population since 1940 and which has the dubious distinction of averaging 380 inches of rain a year--making it the rainiest city in the continental United States according to Mike.

When his father got a job with ABC in 1945, it was a bigger change for both his parents who had been born and raised in Aberdeen than it was for four-year-old Mike. The family settled in Hollywood and later moved to Inglewood, where Mike graduated from Inglewood High School. After receiving his A. A. degree from El

Camino College, Mike was drafted and stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon his discharge two years later, he returned to Inglewood and got a job in the accounting department of Continental Airline. For four years he enjoyed the perks his position offered--traveling to Australia, Scandinavia, Hawaii, and throughout the United States.

In 1970 he went to work for the postal service as a letter carrier, and remained with them for 22 years, at which time he took early retirement.

Parents Without Partners not only provided him with the opportunity to discover his acting potential, but it also provided him with an opportunity to meet the love of his life, Marlene, whom he married in 1985. Marlene's hobby was acting. Together they enrolled in an evening acting class at El Camino College. When the acting department advertised auditions for "Othello" Mike went on the audition as a lark. To his surprise he made his stage debut as Lodovico in "Othello."

Mike and Marlene became active in local community theater, joining the Courtyard Playhouse ten years ago and the Palos Verdes Playhouse six years ago. Before its demise, they were also members of the old Torrance Community

Theater. In addition, the pair acted in plays on the Queen Mary, at Veterans Park in Redondo Beach and at Mira Costa High School. For three months they performed at a dinner theatre at the Sheridan Hotel in San Pedro.

For the past four years Mike has also worked as an extra in television and films.

Besides theater, he and Marlene share two other avid interests--history and travel. In their 12 years of marriage they have crossed the Atlantic at least six times. They are currently planning a trip to Spain and Portugal next Spring.

Mike, who never goes to an OMNIOLORE session without his dictionary tucked under his arm, is an avid fan of quotations. His favorite is one he attributes to Somerset Maugham: "It is better to wear out than to rust out."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The annual meeting will take place October 23. Our guest speaker will be Ann Harmer of CSUDH who will discuss "The Enigma of the Immune System." Details and reservation forms will appear in the next newsletter.

CALENDAR

July	3	Board of directors meeting
	18	Hiking Group 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August	7	Board of Directors Meeting
	15	Deadline for September Newsletter Hiking Group 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
	29	SUMMER SESSION ENDS
September	1	LABOR DAY
	4	Board of Directors meeting
	15	Fall Semester Begins



FALL SEMINARS SHAPING UP

Fourteen study-discussion groups will be offered during the Fall semester which begins September 15 and ends December 19. Courses will meet as follows:

Name	Time
Alexis de Tocqueville	1st & 3rd Thursday a.m.
Architecture: Its Meaning & Evolution	2nd & 4th Thursday p.m.
Astronomy; Our Significance in the Universe	2nd & 4th Wednesday p.m.
Determiners of Civilizations	1st & 3rd Thursday p.m.
The English Civil War & Its Effects on the U.S.	2nd & 4th Thursday p.m.
Great Explorers and Their Explorations	2nd & 4th Tuesday a.m.
Hard Times: The Great Depression	1st & 3rd Monday p.m.
Jane Austen	2nd & 4th Monday p.m.
Musical Theater in America	2nd & 4th Tuesday p.m.
The Ocean: Conservation in the 21st Century	2nd & 4th Wednesday p.m.
19th & Early 20th Century British & American Philosophy	1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m.
20th Century American Poetry	1st & 3rd Wednesday p.m.
The 7 Deadly Sins	1st & 3rd Wednesday p.m.
The Writer's Workshop	1st & 3rd Thursday p.m.

THANK YOU

The Curriculum Committee wishes to extend its thanks to the following members for their excellent Study/Discussion topic suggestions which constitute the offerings for the Fall 1997 session. The topics show a freshness, originality, and scope not often seen in such lists. Our thanks to each of them!

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Bob Bacinski | Greg Vore |
| Michael Grinde | Ceil Woods |
| Ronnie Saunders | Gordon Kehmmeier |
| Edith Garvey | Ethel Allen |
| Mike Scordan | Dean Dwyer |
| Bob Saunders | Ray Allen |

Ray Allen, Chairman, Curriculum Committee

REMINDER

- Before leaving classrooms, please remember to:
- ⇒ Put away coffee pot and fixings
 - ⇒ Shut off all lights
 - ⇒ Close all windows
 - ⇒ Lock all doors



WE WANT TO KNOW . .

If you know of any member in our midst who is having difficulty of any kind. OmniLore members want to respond with offers of help, transportation, a phone call, flowers or whatever. Please notify a member of the Executive Committee or leave a message at (310) 540-6011.

We Could Have Danced All Night



A wonderful evening of dining and dancing was enjoyed by OMNIOLORE members and guests at the San Pedro Elks Club on May 25. We thank everyone who attended and made this a special fun event.

Mary O'Neill

