



OMNIOLORE NEWS

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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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OmnioLore 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
Ronnie Saunders

Curriculum Update

Ever wonder what happens at a meeting of the curriculum committee? To give you a bird's eye view, Chairman Burt Cutler has summarized the first meeting of the new year.

Study/topic ideas for the summer semester were discussed. Proposed topic were submitted by: Ray Allen, Les Berg, Betty Cooper, Mary Delia, Michael Grinde, Fred Kiefer, Margaret Koch, Virginia Levanas, Aileen Myers, and Alan Scharff, in addition to several members of the committee.

OmnioLorians who have not submitted topic suggestions before are reminded that when they do they should write a short paragraph defining the subject (similar to the paragraph descriptions on the summer ballot). A title without a description is incomplete and cannot be accepted.

The committee aims at offering 50% more ballot topics than the number of anticipated final

courses. This summer, for example, since we anticipate active participation by 70-80 members (compared to 104 during the spring and fall semester), the committee expects to offer about seven courses. Therefore the committee was faced with the task of reducing the 17 topics submitted to 11 topics on the ballot which would provide broad interest and prove academically challenging. In several cases where similar suggestions were submitted by two people they were combined into one topic.

A new evaluation and critique system will be introduced this year. After the semester is over, the coordinators will meet with the curriculum committee and with OmnioLore officers charged with curriculum and academic responsibility. They will decide what works well and what need improvement.

Curriculum committee members include: Burt Cutler, chairman, Dean Dwyer, Mike Scordan and Rose Shields.

Summer Ballot Topics

The study/discussion topics on the ballot for this summer include

- Twentieth Century American Literature
- Contemporary Moral Issues
- The Romance of the Rails
- The Beliefs of the Native Indian Tribes of North America
- Creative People and What Makes Them That Way
- The End of History and The Last Man
- Pick Your President
- The Writers' Workshop
- The Development of the Detective Novel
- How World War I Shaped the 20th Century
- Current Issues in Science

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT
BY March 10, 1995

Education to Be Focus of March Current Topics

Education will be the focus of discussion at the March meeting of Current Topics. The meeting will take place in Room 7 Thursday, March 16 from Noon to 2 p.m.

In the absence of discussion leader Marilyn Denno, Peggy Houghton will facilitate discussion of the topic "What Can Be Done to Improve the Education of our Primary and High School Students?" The group will probe the question "Can we meet the challenge of the future without a better educated society?"

All OmnioLore members are invited to bring a sack lunch and participate in the discussion. Coffee will be provided.

Guest Editorial

Core Books — YES OR NO?

Recently there has been some discussion about the desirability of using core books. Sometimes they are fairly clearly counter-indicated. For instance, should a course on American novels of the 1800's have a core book? Clearly not. However, a course called by the name of a book almost certainly (nothing is certain) does. For example, the book, "The End of History and the Last Man", by Fukuyama¹, lends itself to being the name of a course.

Further, a didactic course almost has to have one. The recent excellent course on atomic physics had a good one. The more knowledgeable members fudged a little towards the end of the course and used other books too. That is, having a core book did not prevent them from going beyond it.

Some fairly good core books have snarls that can be pretty tedious to untangle. When they are badly written - and that happens - the whole program struggles.

When a subject is not didactic, a core book can be constricting. The course - "In Search of Human Nature" - which had no core book, got people to develop their favorite themes, new themes, odd themes. The course had a personal flavor and pertinence to the great world outside the window that any core book would have crippled. A subject like "The Current Great Religions" or "Bureaucracy", should probably not have a core book.

In general, but only in general, in my opinion, given the maturity and the interests of our membership, we should probably lean somewhat toward the topics that emphasize group discussion rather than factual presentations; topics that frequently do better without a core book.

Dean Dwyer

Editors' Note: OmniLore members are invited to contribute guest editorials. Please submit your contribution to one of the editors: Ginger Engstrom or Ronnie Saunders. If your article is composed on an IBM compatible computer please submit on a 3 1/2 or 5 1/4 disk with a notation as to software used.

New Member Coffee Draws 25 Attendees

by Margaret Kock

The OmniLore Coffee for new and prospective members for the Spring semester was a gathering for more than 25 new and current members on January 17 in classroom 7. We had an active working session; interest and enthusiasm ran high. Ten new member signed up in January, eight more at the coffee, and three more joined a couple of days later.

Much of the interest was generated by Mary Guthrie's article in the South Bay supplement of the Los Angeles Times. Edith Garvey did yeoman duty, responding to all inquires and sending out packages of materials and invitations to the coffee. Much of the credit of our success goes to Edith. As Membership Chair, I am happy to find that OmniLore is flexible enough to accommodate a 25% growth in two weeks with only a minimum of growing pains. Our special thanks to our study group coordinators for graciously welcoming all newcomers. Kudos to all who rose to the occasion and coped so well.

This increase is the best kind of growth - it just happened, without our intervention!

Members who joined in January include:

Ann Speed Booth
Virgil Erickson
Richard J. Hottenroth
Frank & Joann Ludwig
Bea Vendouris
Gregory P. Vore
David Arant
Monroe Haas
Jack Laughlin

Other recent new members are:

Mary Lou Elsner
Mary Varieur
Hal Fenton
Ruth Cohen
Anne & Richard Faass
Michael Grinde
June Hather
Marie Huntley
Connie Kramer
Elaine Polin
Margaret Storkan
Frank Wolf

Hikers Schedule Second Event

by John Taber



On Friday, January 27, eight OmniLore members met at the Interpretive Center on the west coast of the Palos Verdes Peninsula to have a picnic lunch

and enjoy a short walk along the cliffs north of there. These activities were supplemented by pleasant conversation and, for some, a tour of the Center following the walk.

All suggested we schedule similar events in the future so; mark your calendars for March 31, 1995 noon to 2:00 p.m. for the next one. The location is still being researched and interested parties are asked to call either John Taber (831-4768) or Sunny Golombek (371-4358) after mid March for the particulars.

The walk will follow a picnic lunch and will be at a leisurely pace for about an hour in a scenic area of the peninsula. In the event of rain the outing will be canceled.

Trail Balloon Deemed Success

In an experimental mood last fall when twice as many members signed up for the Great Composers as one class could accommodate, OmniLore tried an experiment. One class met during the day on campus, and a new approach was tried for the second class — It met at night in the homes of participants.

How did this work out?

Participants were asked that question at an evaluation session at the last meeting of class. The group deemed it an overwhelming success, citing two pluses. Not only did they get to hear great music in quiet surroundings on excellent sound systems, but they developed feelings of kinship within the group.

No general rule can be drawn from this experience, the group agreed, except to note that there is some value in limited flexibility.

Welcome New Members

Omnilore Profiles

Jim O'Neill

Executive Committee Member at Large

If the sounds rolling off Jim O'Neill's tongue put you in mind a wee bit of Bobby Burns don't be surprised. It's because the laddie is a Scotsman. — Or at least was a Scotsman.

Although a naturalized American by choice, Jim was a Scotsman by birth. Born and raised in Glasgow, Jim received his training as an engineer at the University of Glasgow after a two year stint in the RAF. Upon his graduation from the university Jim worked in London for two years designing large scale mine fans before coming to the United States for what was to be a two-year stint, but turned out to be the rest of his life.

Originally Jim came to the United States on a two year contract with Cooper-Bessemer Corporation in Mt. Vernon, Ohio where he automated their engineering division.

Finding he had entered a love affair with this country, when the two years were up he tossed his passport and migrated to Buffalo where he did similar work for the Joy Manufacturing Company.

By 1961, Jim had decided to make his home in sunny California. His aerospace career began with a stint at Northrup, which in true aerospace form, ended with the cancellation of the program in which he was involved. After working on the Apollo project with North American from 1963 to 1966, he joined the Douglas Corporation where he introduced computer graphics to the engineering division. His most unusual memory of this phase of his career is the time the cargo door of a Douglas DC 10 flew open over Lake Michigan and a coffin flew out. Despite this mishap in his early Douglas years, Jim remained with Douglas for 24 years, leaving in 1990 when he retired.

In his retirement, Jim has been active in Greenpeace, the National Abortion Rights Action League, the Coalition to Prevent Violence and the Habitat for Humanity.

In addition, he and his wife, Mary, enjoy walks on the beach, ballroom dancing, traveling, Great Books, Toastmasters, Omnilore, and — Jim adds with a twinkle in the Scottish lilt — "the company of eccentric friends"

WE WANT TO KNOW . . .
 . . . Please call the Membership Committee 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. Call Margaret Koch at 373-9979. Margaret also needs a volunteer to coordinate this very important task.

Theatre Party Set Saturday, May 13
 Omnilore will hold its first theatre party Saturday, May 13 at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, located at Manhattan Beach and Aviation Boulevards. Curtain time will be 8 p.m.
 Featured performers at the folk-singing event will be Glenn Yarobrough, the Limelitters, and the Kingston Trio.
 Tickets are \$45, orchestra; \$35, middle; and \$20, rear.

If you are interested in attending with other Omnilorians, please contact Virginia Levanas, social chairman, at 375-0424.



Reminder to Coordinators
 Have you spent, or do you plan to spend money for materials for your study-discussion group? Money is available for reimbursing coordinators' expenses for such materials. If you wish to be reimbursed, turn in you receipts to Gloria Jacobsen, treasurer.

Tours of Capitol Offered



Omnilore has received a letter from Close-Up, a non-profit organization, which sponsors one-week educational tours of Washington, D.C. in cooperation with AARP.

If you are interested, literature is available in the Omnilore library. The library, chaired by Joyce Zima, is located on the book shelves in the locked cabinet in Room 8; and is opened at the beginning of each study-discussion group meeting.

Omnilore News.
 Comments and input can be sent to

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CALENDAR

March 9	Board of Directors Meeting
March 6-17	Distribution of Summer Study/Discussion Registration Forms
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 24	Deadline for Summer Study/Discussion Registration
April 2	Passover
April 6	Board of Directors Meeting
April 6	Deadline for May Newsletter
April 16	Easter
April 17-21	Summer coordinators meeting with Curriculum Committee
May 4	Board of Directors Meeting
May 15	Deadline for Fall Study/Discussion Topic Suggestions



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