



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 14 Issue 3

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May 2005

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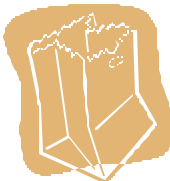
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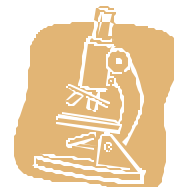
Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor	Ronnie Saunders
Associate Editor	Diana Cutler
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## Brown Bag Science (Science for the Non-Scientist)

by George Clark



### May 19: String Theory and The Universe

When we look at the world around us, chairs and tables appear solid, a rock thrown into the air describes the predictable arc and falls to the ground as we knew it would. We agree to meet for a class in Room 7 at 1:30 p.m. and everyone is there. Space has three dimensions. We all pretty much agree what time it is. Things make sense.

This is an illusion; the real world is much different. Chairs and tables are almost entirely space. The rock moves in a straight line; it is space that is curved. Empty space is not empty; there is frenetic activity as particles pop into and out of existence. Time, itself, does not march along steadily as it should, but is different for different observers. We would doubt the truth of these statements, but the same equations that tell us these things allow us to make calculations that agree with physical measurements to fantastic precision. The theories, however weird, must be true. As the late physicist Richard Feynman concluded, nature is absurd.

Brown Bag Science is venturing into this absurd reality in a series of panel discussions on **string theory**. The second in the series will be held **Thursday, May 19, at Noon in Room 7**. The panel, **John Stevens, Dan Stern, and George Clark**, will talk about the origins of string theory, its goals, its successes, and its failures. Is everything really made out of tiny vibrating strings? Why does anyone think it is?

### June 16: Is the World Running Out of Energy?

As the population of the world increases and more countries become industrialized, the world's use of energy must increase. However, the rate of production of the fossil fuels we depend upon most, oil, coal, and natural gas, will peak in the next few years and must decrease from then on as resources are depleted. We are caught between increasing demand and shrinking supply. What can we do? Wind power? Hydrogen fuel cells? Atomic energy? Will we have to return to a less energy-dependent life style? Physicist Eugene Turner will report on his energy research and discuss possible solutions on **Thursday, June 16, at Noon in Room 7**.

### Don't Miss It!

#### DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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OMNIOLORE PROFILE – TOM VINCENT

A native of Los Angeles, Tom Vincent, our treasurer, spent his pre-school years growing up in Maywood.

At the age of five he moved with his family to Colorado, where he lived until he was 18 years old. Upon returning to Los Angeles, he enrolled in UCLA where he majored in physics. He began to work on the Apollo project in Downey and later returned to college to study for a Master’s degree in business administration.

At the end of the Apollo program he

went into computer programming for North American Aviation. For three years he worked at TRW in Redondo Beach where he did scientific programming for satellites.

He spent the final 25 years of his career at Xerox where he did programming for computer networks until his retirement in 2001.

A widower for the past two years, Tom lives in Torrance with his dog, Basil. Tom and his wife of 37 years planned on staying in the house they bought in 1967 for the rest of their lives. Now Tom

spends his spare time fixing up and “regrouping” the house.

Prior to his retirement, Tom loved traveling. He visited Europe several times, as well as China, Central America and North America. For many years he was involved in playing duplicate bridge and was a member of the American Contract Bridge League.

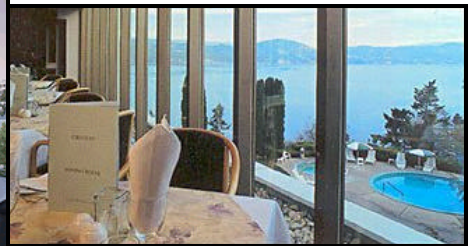
Active in *Omniole* since his retirement, Tom became a regular at all Brown Bag Science meetings and the Computer & Technology Special Interest Group before being appointed as treasurer last January.



A classic picture of what is known as the Canadian Rockies.



The Angus Bowmer Theatre where the Shakespeare Festival is held in Ashland, Oregon



A view of Lake Kelowna from the resort dining room.

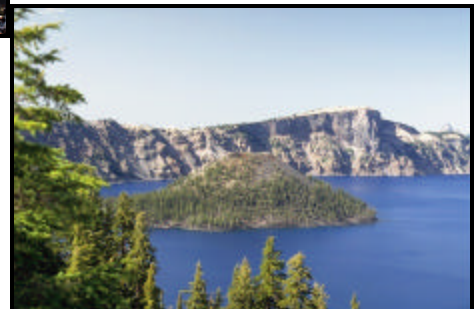


Beautiful Lake Louise (Banff National Park) with its view of Mount Victoria and some of its six breathtaking glaciers. Chateau Lake Louise is in the foreground.

Travel Program

by John Taber

Thanks to all who attended our planning meeting and/or completed and returned our travel survey. Your travel committee has been working hard to shape a travel program that enhances our learning experiences and meets the desires of our membership in large. From your responses we have gained new insight into achieving this goal.



Crater Lake with its island lies within the caldera of Mt. Mazama, a volcano of the Cascade Range that erupted about 7,700 years ago.

We received responses to our survey from over sixty people, all but a few of which felt a travel program would add to what they get from *Omniole*. Based on the results and from other comments, we believe there is sufficient interest in travel to proceed in the planning of a few new trips. We found that about half the responders would be interested in a trip to British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies and we are planning a 12 or 13 day trip to coincide with the fall colors. It would include Vancouver, Victoria, Whistler, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Kelowna. For the Spring of next year we are planning a trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon with a possible side trip to Crater Lake.

We will need 20 to 25 people (*Omnioleans*, spouses and friends) to have our own custom tour. Once a tour has been designed with dates and price we will ask for a small deposit to be sure there is sufficient interest. If you would like to help or desire more information please contact:

**Emil Raulin** [316-5750 - E-BRaulin@verizon.net] or  
**John Taber** [831-4768 - ledwards\_92648@yahoo.com]



Vancouver, B.C. as seen from one of its many marinas. Below, Vancouver from a 180° vista, including mountains and islands. White section in the middle is the cruise ship accommodations.



## DRUM ROLL PLEASE . . .

by Patricia Edie



The Website Working Group (Myron Pullen, George Clark, Blanche Herring, Mary Oran, Jay & Patricia Edie) are pleased to inform you that Phase 2 of [www.Omniole.Org](http://www.Omniole.Org) is almost ready for unveiling.

In the next couple of weeks you will receive specific instructions on how to enter the "*Members Only*" section. It is accessible only to current members of *Omniole* and requires using a logon ID and a password. Both of these will be sent to you.

A word about this part of the website:

We envision this "*Members Only*" section to be a place where you can go to receive timely communication and to send communication to the rest of the organization. It will also be a resource to you, giving you access to updated *Omniole* documentation.

**Over the next few months you will see the following items appear on this part of the website. Continue to sign in to the site to see the latest additions.**

### 1. Announcements

Check this regularly for noteworthy items that did not make it into the newsletter.

### 2. Class Roster

Who is in what class and who is the coordinator? You received this in the mail but it is also here for ready recall.

### 3. Classroom Schedule

Forgot what room your class is in? Want to see if a room is available for a pre-meeting or committee meeting? **Carol Johnson** will keep this schedule current on the website.

### 4. Audio-Visual Equipment and Laptop Reservation Schedule

Lists of the equipment we have for use and its availability

### 5. Copies of handouts:

- Presentation Pointers
- New Member Guide
- Coordinator Responsibilities

### 6. Organizational Chart

Forgot who does what? Check the organizational chart.

### 7. Important Links

This is a resource of many links to other websites that members have found helpful or interesting.

### 8. Newsletters

Current and previous copies of *Omniole* Newsletters in beautiful living color!

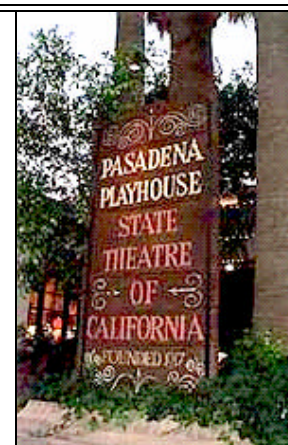
### 9. *Omniole* Sounding Board

This is a bulletin board containing different subject discussion forums where you can post questions or comments and reply to those posted by other members. We think this will be a very dynamic part of the website and fun! There are some specific instructions you will receive on how to use this part of the website.

The "*Members Only*" section of the website will continue to evolve. We have some "sophisticated" ideas and we hope to get ideas from you as to what will continue to make this website a dynamic resource for all of us.

# PASADENA WALK

by John Taber



On Friday, April 15, twenty-seven people braved the Metro light-rail transit system and a few miles of walking to hit some of Pasadena's highlights. Specifically, we had an architectural tour of the Caltech campus and the Pasadena Playhouse. In each place we were led by knowledgeable docents who explained historical and architectural aspects of their domains.

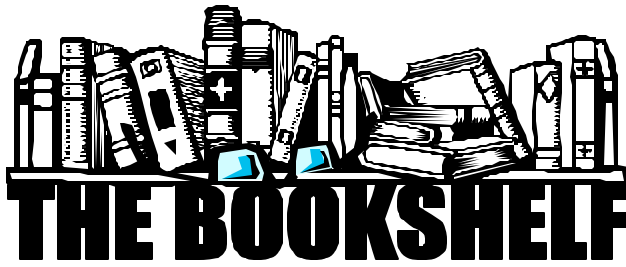
We were told of "Thinker, Tinker and Stinker" the three men whose hard work created the great institution that Caltech is. We saw old architecture as exemplified by the Athenaeum and other old campus buildings, architecture of the sixties as exemplified by the Milliken Library and the Beckman Auditorium and new architecture such as the recently completed Broad facility.

At the playhouse we were given a tour of much of the back-stage workings of a "thirties" era theater trying to keep up with modern techniques. Until the 1960s the playhouse ran a drama school in which a significant number of well known actors polished their skills. The Pasadena Playhouse is California's official state theater.

Plans to see Pasadena's beautiful City Hall and Public Library were canceled as most attendees desired to conserve their remaining stamina and begin the long ride home. Most felt the tour to be rewarding and the day a pleasant though tiring one.



Broad Center for the Biological Sciences. Caltech's new Brain Imaging Center is in the basement.



by Mary Oran

This month's selections are good books to take with you - on the plane, at the beach, in the waiting room; wherever you may go, they will keep you engrossed.

First up is *The Interpreter* by **Suzanne Glass**. This novel is about a translator at an international medical conference who accidentally overhears about a potentially revolutionary HIV cure. Unbeknownst to her, the secret is being kept by an Italian researcher that she is close to. Suspense, moral dilemma, love story, and insight into an interpreter's job are all offered here in a short but intriguing tale. (Please note: a movie by the same name is about to be released; from the looks of the trailers, the movie is not related to the book!)

If you are in the mood for a good mystery series, and you haven't yet become acquainted with **Martha Grimes**, check out her *Man With A Load of Mischief*, the first of 18 books in her Richard Jury

series. Jury is a Scotland Yard Inspector, intelligent and introspective, who has some delightful friends and neighbors who are "regulars" in the books. These are suspenseful stories with heavy doses of wit. Each title in the series refers to an English pub. If you want escapism, try these!

**Paul Theroux's *Dark Star Safari*** is the story of an overland journey from Cairo to Cape Town. The natural order of Africa is frolicking children, laboring women and idle men. In Africa, unfortunately, no one's lifetime is long enough to accomplish anything substantial or see any task of value completed. This is what Theroux shows in the 500-page New York Times bestseller. It is an interesting story of a troubled continent and is sure to appeal to anyone with an interest in Africa.

*Child of My Heart* by **Alice McDermott** shows us a summer through the eyes of Theresa, the 15-year-old narrator. She is on the brink of womanhood, an only child, who interacts with various people on Long Island, revealing her hopes, her wisdom, and her caring. It is an engaging story that reminds you of the potential and yet the bittersweet reality of life.

*A Natural History of the Senses* (**Diane Ackerman**) was a text in one of our discussion groups, and a participant thought it was so good that she recommended it for this column. The book is composed of a series of essays grouped according to the human sense with which they deal. The opening sentence of the book - "Nothing is more memorable than a smell" - launches one into some rich writing that is a splendid example of creative non-fiction. There is much to learn here and it is all fascinating as the author (whose life experiences are broad, unusual, and often surprising) plays with your mind.

And finally, **Lewis Thomas**, a biologist who writes fascinating essays on a variety of topics, has a little gem of a book called *Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler's Ninth Symphony*. This series of essays is about humanity, life, science, and their interconnectedness. Read about the brain, altruism and music, and much more. A delightful variety is offered in splendid prose.

Whether you're packing your bags, your purse, your picnic basket, consider one of these readings to entertain and enlighten!

*Thank you to Merle Culbert, Marilyn Denno and Patricia Edie for contributing to this list. Please send your titles, with the author's name and a brief description to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put "Omniole books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you!*

Invitation

As announced previously, Lynn Edwards and John Taber were married privately last December. Now they would like to share with all their friends, past, present and future, the joys of their new life in their freshly remodeled home. Join the celebration, arriving any time between 2:00 and 6:00 pm at their home, 37 Harbor Sight Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, on **Sunday, May 29th**. Drinks and light food will be served. No gifts, please, except your friendship.

Out on a Limerick

by Edward H. Green

Doin' its Own Thing

The first law of Newton I sing  
My voice has a relevant ring:  
"An object left free  
Of hassles will be  
Engrossed in just doing its thing."



Hats Off!

The Coordinator Committee, **Mary Jo Little, Joe Carrier and Dorothy Fahrney**, want to give a special thanks to all the coordinators and co-coordinators of the Spring 2005 courses. Without the efforts of **Ralph Brown, Marie-France Brush, Marian Buck, Marvel Burke, Echo & Perry Davis, Ann Du Puy, Jay & Patricia Edie, Sam Feinstein, Hal Fenton, Sheila Hoff, JoAnna Kerrigan, Sally Konstan, Helen Leven, Gemma Sharfenberger, Mary Jo Little, Joyce Loranger, Jeanne Miller, Tom Rische, Mike Scordan, Nancy Sinclair, Sandra Spearman, Rick Spillane, Marty Stevens, James Sweeney, John & Lynn Taber, Grace Tanaka, John Vehrencamp and Whit Wilson**, the trimester would not have been the success it was.

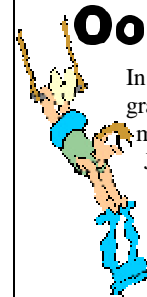


Welcome New Members!

- Jan Avent
- Robert Beach
- Marianne Brandt
- Brad Carss
- Karen Du Pree
- Hal & Ruth Hart
- Elizabeth Kramer
- Russell Lefevre
- Gorden Reiter
- Carole Simone
- John Smith
- James Stewart
- Eleanor Weaver

**Janice Plank**, also a new member, asks that her name be pronounced Jan-EESE' - not - JAN'ice! "In the part of the country where I grew up (Kansas)," she says, "almost all of the girls who were named Janice were pronounced Janiece, but here in California that is not the case."

Oops! We Goofed!

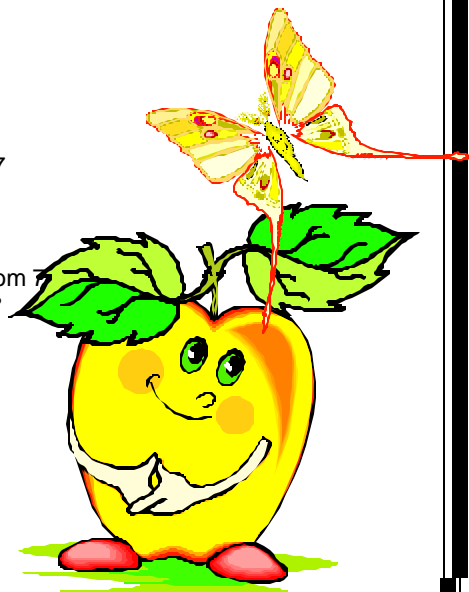


In the last newsletter we congratulated **Walter Skiba** upon marrying **Amy Jackson** on January 15th. It turns out his blushing bride was and is **Pam Jackson**, so now we're blushing at getting it wrong!

Pam Skiba: We wish you and Walter the best that love can offer - including a well-deserved sense of humor!

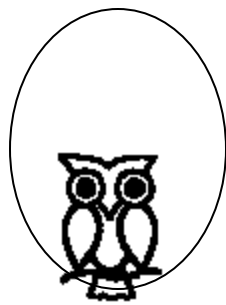
OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2005

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| <b>May</b>  | 2   | First Day of Summer Trimester  |
|             | 8   | <b>Mother's Day</b>  |
|             | 9   | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8  |
|             | 10  | Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7  |
|             | 12  | Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7  |
|             | 19  | Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12 to 1:00 p.m. - Room 7<br><i>String Theory and the Universe (see article, page 1)</i><br>Panel: John Stevens, Dan Stern, George Clark |
|             | 20  | Hiking Group - 10 a.m.   |
|             | 23  | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8  |
|             | 26  | Computer Talk - 12 noon to 1 p.m. - Room 7<br>Carol Johnson: <i>Excel for Class Schedules</i>  |
|             | 30  | <b>Memorial Day</b>  |
| <b>June</b> | 9   | Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7  |
|             | 13  | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8  |
|             | 14  | Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7  |
|             | 15  | Input Deadline for July-August Newsletter  |
|             | 16  | Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12 to 1:00 p.m. - Room 7<br>Gene Turner: <i>Is the World Running Out of Energy?</i><br><i>(see article, page 1)</i>                     |
|             | 17  | Hiking Group - 10 a.m.   |
|             | 19  | <b>Father's Day</b>  |
|             | 23  | Computer Talk - 12 noon to 1 p.m. - Room 7<br>Ginger Engstrom: <i>Digital Photography</i>  |
| 27          | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |  |



**IMPORTANT:**

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



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