

Retirees' Newsletter

Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association, University of Windsor

Issue #14 -- October, 1995

Editor: Bill Phillips

THIS YEAR'S FALL GENERAL MEETING SET FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26TH IN VANIER LOUNGE AT 2.30 P.M.

ED HABIB, our President, has announced that this year's fall meeting - the Annual General Meeting - will take place Thursday, October 26th in the Vanier Lounge of Vanier Hall, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

This is one of **two meetings, spring and fall**, - which our Constitution requires be held per year, at a minimum.

THE AGENDA isn't yet final, partly because a planned annual meeting with the University Administration has not yet taken place. The agenda will include items arising from that meeting, as well as further consideration of a national association, our bursary fund for students, and continued access to the University facilities for retirees.

NOT EXACTLY EARTH-SHAKING. The main thing about our meetings is that they give us a chance to visit with old friends, to **socialize** (... hate that term! it's so, uh, *political*-sounding). Anyway, the meeting will be, as always, a good warm **friendly** get-together.

OH YES! Jim Skinner will be there from Human Resources to discuss with us developments in our pensions and health benefits and answer questions.

HMMM... There's also the matter of the \$10. **Annual Dues**, which become payable as of the Fall Meeting each year or any time between then and the year-end. **Always a friendly topic!** More inside...

TWO OTHER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR THIS FALL TUESDAY, OCT. 17TH, 1995

A visit to the 12 Oaks Mall in Novi, MI.

Visit: The Shopping Mall

Borders Bookstore

Vic's World Class Market

Lunch; at Country Epicure Restaurant

Leaving: at 9 a.m.

If you need a ride: From the east side, call Bob Whitehurst (735-6134); elsewhere, call John LaGaipa (966-2350) or Dave Booth (966-2547). Please call by **Friday, Oct. 13th**.

See also below, p.8.

SATURDAY, DEC 9TH, 1995

CABARET SERIES at the Capital Theatre.

Dinner at Franco's: at 6.30 p.m.

Theatre show time: 9 p.m.

TheatreTickets \$15.00: includes hors d'oeuvres and dessert; Cash Bar.

Please phone ahead and order your own tickets.

Phone early, as the Joy Theatre seats only 130.

Reserved seating is not available.

For dinner reservations, phone either John

LaGaipa or Dave Booth (see above) **by Dec 1st**.

For further information on the show, see below, page 8.

PENSION UPDATE

by Norm Shklov

THE FIGURES ARE OUT for the fiscal year July 1, 1994, to June 30, 1995, and the news is great, especially for those whose pensions have reached the **Money Purchase** level. The increase for people whose pensions are on the **Minimum Guarantee** level is more modest.

THE INCREASE in the Money Purchase Pensions was 7.25 per cent, which was, perhaps, unexpected, but most welcome. We say "unexpected" because one of the two investing companies was a replacement for a previous company. It was not contemplated that such a good result would occur this early.

For those still receiving a **Minimum Guaranteed Pension**, the increase was 1.09 per cent. This was the percentage increase in **Consumer Price Index** from July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995.

TO HELP YOU INTERPRET YOUR RECENT LETTER from the Pension Administration regarding these changes, we offer these suggestions:

1) Starting from the left of the **table on page 1** of the letter, look at the second and third boxes in the table. If the amount in BOX 2 is **less than** the amount in BOX 3, you are on **Money Purchase**. If the amount in BOX 2 is **more than** the amount in BOX 3, you are on **Minimum Guarantee**.

2) If you are on **Money Purchase**, multiply the amount in BOX 3 by 1.0725. This will give you the amount in BOX 7, the amount of your pension during 1995-1996.

3) If you are on **Minimum Guarantee**, multiply the amount in BOX 2 by 1.0109. This will give you the amount in BOX 6, the amount of your pension during 1995-96.

BOX 1	BOX 2 MGB AT 1 JUL/94	BOX 3 MPP AT 1 JUL/94	BOX 4	BOX 5	BOX 6 MGB AT 1 JUL/95	BOX 7 MPP AT 1 JUL/95	BOX 8	BOX 9	BOX 10
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THE FACT THAT THOSE ON MINIMUM GUARANTEE get a considerably smaller increase than those on Money Purchase is, naturally, a source of concern for those people on Minimum Guarantee. This begs from the people on Minimum Guarantee the question, "How long will it be before I get on Money Purchase?"

A subsequent issue of The Newsletter will carry an article showing how *you* may estimate this length of time on the basis of estimated average rates of increase over a period of years, first in the fund earnings, and second in the index of consumer prices.

Also, some of our members may feel they are a bit rusty on what is the difference between the minimum guarantee and the money purchase pensions and how these are calculated for individuals under the plan. A clear and simplified explanation of this is available in the Retirees' Handbook, which the Association prepared. We'll have copies available at the October meeting. You can get one there, or write and we'll send you one.

The Retirees' Newsletter is published by the Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association of the University of Windsor five times per year (Feb., Apr., Jun., Oct., and Dec). The Editor is Bill Phillips; Contributing Associate Editor, Joan Hackett. Contributions of news items and articles of interest to our membership are REQUESTED AND WELCOMED. All correspondence should be addressed to The Editor, Retirees' Newsletter, Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Assoc'n, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON., N9B 3P4. Or use our e-mail address - philli3@uwindsor.ca

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
from Edwin Habib, Association President

Apart from the devastating storms that struck cottage country last July, this summer brought us many warm days with lots of sunshine. We are looking forward to continuing good weather in the Fall.

The barbecue party at Bob Whitehurst's place on Riverside Drive was well attended and it was a great opportunity to meet and exchange stories with old friends. The other piece of good news is that, in spite of the poor performance of the pension fund during the first part of the fiscal year, the fund's Rate of Return was 13.26 per cent. This means that retirees on the Money Purchase Pension will get a 7.25 per cent increase in their pensions retroactive to July this year. Those on Minimum Guaranteed Benefit will get an increase of 1.09 per cent. This good news may be marred by the coming referendum in Quebec. We hold our breath while the debate rages. The Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois seem willing to put the livelihood of the citizens of the best country in the world at risk for the sake of a national dream. Once again national ideology has triumphed over common sense.

Your Executive Committee met this summer and, among other things confirmed the appointment of Bill Phillips as Editor of *The Newsletter*. Our newsletter has drawn praise from all and sundry and you will surely agree that Bill is doing a great job!

The Joint Retirees - University Administration Committee will meet soon to discuss pensions, benefits and other matters of concern to the membership. These meetings take place about once per year. If you have any concerns or suggestions to make, please get in touch with any member of the Executive Committee. Also, if you have items for discussion at the Association's Fall General Meeting, please let us know.

HEALTH PLAN UPDATE

AS A REMINDER to members of the Retirees' Group Medical Plan, and as information to prospective retirees, we quote the monthly premium rates for the extended care, semi-private and dental option.

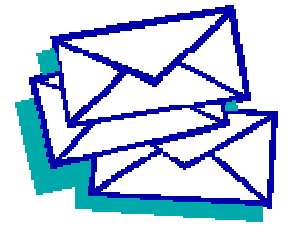
They are as follows:

Individual \$45.90

Family \$107.00

This, as indicated, covers extended care, semi-private room and most dental care. However, it **does not cover prescription drugs** over and above what O.H.I.P. covers.

For people who require, or think that they may require, expensive drugs not covered by O.H.I.P., there is, for their consideration, a prescription drug **option**. The monthly premiums are rather high, as may be expected. Prospective users should contact Mr. Jim Skinner at Human Resources.



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The Letter Box

CHARLES MURRAH WRITES ABOUT LACK OF REPLACEMENTS IN ENGLISH

Dear Bill, (22.vi.95)

I thought you wouldn't mind a few personal thoughts from a fellow retiree. First of all, I enjoyed your latest newsletter, which I read with great care. Congratulations on acquiring **Joan Hackett** as Associate Editor. She is one of my cherished memories, in my former connection with the School of Dramatic Art - a highly intelligent and artistically sensitive lady. It is not surprising that her amusing contribution to *The Newsletter* should take a *dramatic* form ("Bad Hair Day", June 1995). Through her expert selection of details, I could visualize the whole scene, in real life or *on stage*.

To get back to more mundane matters, a number of recent retirees from the English Department should be added to your mailing list. I add these names:

Roderick Huang, Peter Stevens, Edward Watson and Eugene McNamara.

I realize, of course, that we all have to die, and the old must give way to the young. But what bothers me is that none of the worthies mentioned above has been *replaced*. [President] **Ianni** talks of "underfunding" and I don't know what. But I do know one thing, a university without a strong English Department is not really a university. It sinks to the level of Podunk. As I'm sure you are aware, the skillful use of one's own language is essential to the intellectual way of life. And one gets that desideratum not by parsing sentences but by reading books in which the art of language - its astounding power - is displayed.

Believe me, I don't disparage other disciplines. Sometimes, when my bank account goes awry, or my rich brother-in-law tells me how much he is getting from his investments, I wish that I had taken some additional courses in economics. They might also make me better understand what I read in the newspapers and hear in political debates...

With regards and thanks,

Charles Murrah (English).

Editor's Note:

IN A REPLY TO THE ABOVE, I wrote a note to Charles, a longtime friend, in which I asked him to pass along my greetings to **John O'Farrell** (History); and I mentioned the interest John and I had shared for many years in the little **Church of St. Anselm and St. Cecelia**, tucked away inconspicuously in the heart of London. In reply, Charles wrote the following, which many may find of interest.

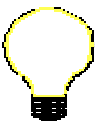
Dear Bill, Canada Day, 1995

... I will certainly pass on your greetings to John O'Farrell, the next time we are in touch. I suppose you know that he wrote an interesting brochure on the history of St. Anselm and St. Cecelia, still distributed by the Church. When John's mother died, I arranged to have a *Latin* mass for her to be said there. I used to go to Sts. A. and C. myself until I discovered **St. Ethelreda's**, even more tucked away. It used to be the London Chapel of the Bishop of Ely and is the only edifice that has been reclaimed from the Anglicans by the Catholic Church since the Reformation.

Charles.

(For anyone interested, just where is St. Ethelreda's located in London?)

Charles?



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UNSOLVED MYSTERY

Joan Hackett

Setting: Interior of a car in a parking lot adjacent to a park.

Time: Summers of 1994 and 1995.

Cast: A Man and a Woman.

DAY AFTER DAY they stare through the windshield at the public toilets. One day the hood was up but they stared at the toilets anyway. The Woman is a blur of frizzy hair sitting motionless beside the Man, who is more conspicuous. Once he got out, kicked the left front tire, then moseyed over to the **Mens**. Back in the car when he isn't staring he sleeps with his leg stuck out of the open door, his foot resting on the pavement. He's not very tall, has a pinched face, rimless glasses and thin reddish hair. He sports a red underwear top, blue work pants (held up by suspenders *and* a belt) and scuffed boots.

IN THE LOT EARLY LAST FALL he swapped his decrepit sedan for another man's battered station wagon, then he and the Woman disappeared. But in June they were back in a snazzy white Oldsmobile staring at the doors labeled **Ladies** and **Men**.

Is he a demented used car dealer? Is she a stuffed life-size doll he likes to tote around? Or are they government workers doing a *study* of public toilets?

Who are these people and what are they doing?

Any suggestions?

INCREASE IN PARKING RATES FOR RETIREES

Parking rates for our members have gone up. A book of ten tickets for parking on the church lot - off University Ave., now costs \$12., up from \$10. This is still less than half the rate normally charged.

The reduced rate for retirees resulted from an understanding reached between the Retirees' Association and the University. Similar understandings are in place covering the use of library facilities, access to the University computer, to the Office of Research Services, use of the University Post Office and others University facilities.

INVITATIONS SENT TO NEW RETIREES

Pres. Habib has sent written invitations to this year's new retirees to join the Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association.

This follows the practice in place since 1990. By far the majority of retirees join, but each year there are a few who prefer not to.

This year's invitations went to Kumar Chatterjee, Olga Crocker, Eric Channen, Sek Chee, Krishan Duggal, Roland Englehart, Charles Fantazzi, Gino Fracas, Nigel Hedgecock, and Ed Watson. We at *The Newsletter* echo Ed Habib in saying we hope you'll join!

OUR STUDENT BURSARY NOW STANDS AT \$5,000.00

A Fund which this Association started one year ago, to finance bursaries for needy students, now stands at \$5,000.

The Fund is administered by the Awards Office of the University and by a Bursary Committee of the Association. The current objective is to build it to \$10,000., and then to begin the first bursaries.

The Fund depends almost wholly on contributions from members. **The Committee is urging all members to donate this fall to the University's Annual Giving Program and to designate their gift to "Retirees Bursary Fund"**.

THE "LIFE LEASE" AS A RETIREMENT HOUSING OPTION

Ralph Cowan

IN A WORLD OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY, retirees should use particular caution when making decisions on their housing. A house is one of our most valuable and volatile assets, perhaps even the most vulnerable. In most cases it is the largest part of our net worth and mortgage free!

For many retirees, their house was built to house a family of 4 to 6 people, and its space is more than adequate for our present and future needs. Taxes, utilities, maintenance etc. could be lower for a less spacious mansion. By selling, we might realize a capital gain (tax free) and spend less on a smaller replacement.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS? Should we sell, and downgrade to a smaller house? Should we sell, and rent satisfactory housing? Or should we go into a "Life Lease" which in recent years has captured certain retirees?

In my view the most risky option is the Life Lease. Since it is a relatively new concept and the complaint level is high, if you are considering this option, I would ask you to consider these points:

1. **TALK** to as many people as possible who have had experience in housing with the life lease.
2. **READ THE CONTRACT** carefully, keeping in mind that the Board of Directors administering it will probably change and may interpret the Lease differently from what the earlier Board did.
3. **GET GOOD LEGAL ADVICE** (and heed it!) regarding your responsibilities and rights as well as those of the Board of the Leasing Group. **Don't let down your guard because that group represents a religious or charitable organization.**
4. **REMEMBER**, if you sign the Life Lease and find that the Board of the Life Lease group have violated the lease, and you decide to sue, you may have to wait six months to two years to get your day in court. Also don't forget you will likely have heavy legal fees, court costs, etc.
5. **WHATEVER OPTION YOU CHOOSE**, keep an eye on the possible impact on your "cash flow" and "net worth". Keep your equity up as long as possible. One way to do this is through ownership and control of your assets (especially housing) as you glide through your retirement years.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

New addresses are as shown:

John F. Callaghan,
Assumption Church, 350 Huron Church Road,
Windsor, N9C 2J9. 253-2493.

J. Francis Leddy,
1333 Ouellette Ave., Apt. 1210,
Windsor, N8X 4V4.

Peter Sonnenfeld,
Apt. 305, 280 Simcoe Street,
Toronto, ON., M5T 2Y5. (416) 598-0469 (416) 598-0469 .

Maurice B. Powley,
3691 Charlevoix Ave.,
Windsor, N9E 3B4. 966-0640 (A correction)

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association consists of six members as follows: the two elected officers of the Association (the president and secretary-treasurer), the two Association members who were elected to the Committee, and two additional members ex officio. Currently, the Committee is made up as follows: president Edwin Habib and secretary-treasurer William Libby; elected members, David Booth and Robert Whitehurst; ex officio members: immediate past president, currently Norm Shklov, and editor of The Newsletter, currently Bill Phillips.



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(Advertisement for Retirees' Bursary Fund, which now stands at about \$5000)

PLANNED OUTING TO CABARET SERIES DECEMBER 9TH
AN EXCITING WARM-UP TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON is promised in early December as our Entertainment Committee's planned outing to the Cabaret Series at the Capital Theatre takes place. John LaGaipa, Committee Chairman, advises that "André Bernard has a soaring voice that can move an audience, from swaying to the stillness of her smooth ballads, to rocking with her fingerpoppin jazz and favourite pop hits". The show will follow a 6.30 p.m. Dinner at Franco's.

Concerning reservations, see page 1 above.

AND DON'T FORGET "SHOPPING IN DETROIT" -- AT 12 OAKS MALL

That will take place Tuesday, October 17th, leaving Windsor at 9 a.m. The trip will include shopping and lunch, and rides can be arranged. *For further details, see page 1 above.*

A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF RETIREES' ASSOCIATIONS?
AS REPORTED IN THE JUNE ISSUE of *The Newsletter*, little enthusiasm seems to have been shown in Montreal for the idea of a national federation of retirees' associations across Canada. Our own Association, while responding to the questionnaire, took a decidedly show-me stance, as apparently did most others.

THE IDEA IS NOT WHOLLY DEAD, however, nor should it be. It is true that a full-blown national federation with headquarters and secretariat would be well beyond the reach of most local retiree groups. Nevertheless, the alternative surely need not be (and should not be) total isolation. Questions arise continually where a national expression of the position of retirees is desirable, even essential.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Steering Committee which pioneered the idea of a national association, is looking into the option of an electronic network as a practical alternative to be explored. This seems to have real potential. Who knows? **One day soon, our own Association may establish a home page on the WWW, and *The Newsletter* itself may go on-line.** The Steering Committee is to be commended on this initiative, which will be carefully watched.

EDITORIAL RAMBLES

Perhaps I've rambled enough already... There's no way to tell...
w.g.p.