

THE RETIREES' NEWSLETTER

Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association University of Windsor

Number 8, June, 1994

COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES' GROUPS

At an exploratory meeting held in Calgary during the Learned Society meetings in June, a five-person committee was set up to "determine the feasibility of a national association of university retirees' groups across Canada. As an initial step, the committee will canvass all faculty associations in the country and invite comment.

Walter Romanow, a member of our (retirees') Ass'n who recently moved from Windsor to Edmonton, first brought the meeting to our attention in February, and agreed to attend on behalf of Windsor (at no cost to us!).

Walt now reports that 41 people attended the meeting from all parts of the country. A guest speaker from UCLA reviewed the benefits to be had from a national association, and related California's experience. The potential benefits of a Canada-wide association, particularly from the point of view of retired faculty members-librarians still actively engaged in research, were the meeting's main topic. (See our Retirees' Newsletter, No 4, June 1993, p.1, Suggestions Made to University to Encourage Research by Retirees).

Romanow is the Ontario representative on the newly-formed committee. He is preparing a more complete report on the Calgary meeting, which will be covered in the Sept/Oct issue of The Newsletter. Meanwhile, interest in the formation of retirees' groups is growing rapidly at Canadian universities. It seems clear that the Association at Windsor, now in its fifth year of operation, has blazed the trail and is well ahead of the pack.

OUR TOTAL PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP NOW STANDS AT 80

This issue of The Newsletter carries a list of names and addresses of the current paid-up membership (see p.4). The total is now 80.

Association membership is open to every faculty member and librarian who has retired under the provisions of the University Pension Plan. This being June, we want to invite all currently retiring persons to join. For an incredibly low \$1.00 annual fee, the Association provides your best way to maintain your link to the University, to keep on top of developments that affect you, and to continue personal relationships.

As well, you will enjoy a number of benefits arranged by the Association, including reduced-rate parking at the University, access to the University computing facilities, library privileges; plus social activities, a fitness program exclusively for retirees, informal luncheon meetings, special interest groups. All of these have been outlined in previous issues of The Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER NOW TO BE PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY, SKIPPING SUMMER

The Newsletter will henceforth appear bimonthly, excepting July and August. Issues will appear five times a year: in Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun, Sept/Oct and Nov/Dec. This issue, Number 8 for June 1994 (a bit late at that!), is intended to fill the gap before the more regularized schedule begins with the Sept/Oct 1994 issue. Contributions from members (personal news, research activities, points of view, comments) are invited. and welcomed.

WHAT'S INSIDE? ... P.2: "Surfing the Internet" on Your Computer at Home / Fifth Annual General Meeting Slated for October / Association Picnic date set for Sunday, August 28th; P.3: The LETTER BOX; letters concerning retirees' benefits; parking discounts; life in Spain; the Tuesday luncheon group; practising yoga. P.4: List of Membership as of June, 1994; P.5: Notes from the Editor: Putting out The Newsletter.

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AS RETIREES, YOU MAY NOW "SURF THE INTERNET" ON YOUR OWN PCs AT HOME

Did you know that, as a member of the University Retirees' Association, you now have access to the Internet? Exactly. You can spend interesting hours "surfing the Internet" from the comfort of your home. You will find on the Internet the fascination of an almost infinite variety of information sources.

For those of you with a home computer, not already linked up with the University's computer facilities, the following tips will enable you to "catch a wave". Some time back, the Association's executive obtained the approval of the University to allow the necessary access by retired faculty members and librarians. (See The Newsletter, No. 5, Nov/Dec 1993).

First, your computer must have a modem. Ask your dealer about prices and installation. It's not a big deal. Then you must ask for, and receive, from the Computer Centre at the University, an ID number and a password. For that, call the University at 253-4232, Ext.4440. The Centre will also provide you with the necessary software program known as KERMIT, and with plenty of help thereafter. That's all you need.

So armed, you can set out to make good use of the University's computer facilities. You will have access not only to the Internet, the so-called "information highway" but to sending and receiving E-mail (electronic mail) to and from virtually anywhere.

You will be able to peruse at your leisure the catalogue of the holdings of the University library, and copious info about the U. of W. and other universities. Incidentally, a modem also gives you the opportunity to access a large number of other info sources, such as the Windsor Public library system catalogue and endless bulletin boards.

If you have a problem with these directions, or you feel a bit lost, give a call to Bill Phillips (972-0588), who is lost much of the time too. But he may have a suggestion or two which will help.

ASSOCIATION'S FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 20TH OR 27TH

It's not too early to mark alternative dates on your calendar, The Annual Fall General Meeting will take place on either of the last two Thursdays of October. Which one, will be announced in The Newsletter, No. 9, (for Sept/Oct) due out around the end of September.

In accordance with the Constitution, the annual election of officers will take place. It is also expected that some important proposals concerning the structure and functioning of the Association will be put before the membership for consideration.

At least one major policy matter will be up for decision: namely the proposal for building up a retirees' bursary fund to assist students at the University. (See The Newsletter, No.7).

***The Association's
Annual Summer Picnic
will take place
Sunday, August 28th at 3:30 pm
at the home of Carol and Bill Libby
4240 Riverside Drive, East
(near Pillette: it's about a t minute walk from the
Peace Fountain)***

*Bring your swim suit for a refreshing dip in their pool overlooking the river.
There's plenty of sun. Bring a hat.*

John La Gaipa advises: You can bring salads, desserts, wine, snacks. We will provide hot dogs & hamburgers. We need to know who is coming and what you are bringing. Please phone John La Gaipa (966-2390) or David Booth (966-2547).

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THE LETTER BOX

Walt Romanow, who has spearheaded the Association's efforts to persuade the University to encourage retirees in the continuance of their research activity (see p.1), has suggested a questionnaire to find out members' views on this and on other

issues He writes (25 May 94), "The idea of a questionnaire might have some merit. For example, some retirees might well have valuable constructive commentary to make about their earlier teaching-research environment ..."

Seems like a good idea, Walt.. It might surface again at the fall meeting. **Ed.**

Meyer Starr had some observations about benefits. He writes (21 Apr 94) "for whoever is in charge of monitoring **our benefit package**. Post-retirement benefits at U. of Western Ontario (which does not have a union), include: Members with at least 5 years of service when they retire receive: 1) All extended health benefits (including prescriptions and all dental at no cost; 2) 50% of Basic life Insurance to a maximum of \$15,000. I think U. of Windsor should. also pay extended health, prescription and dental benefits".

Bob Doyle passed along to the Association a suggestion from our Tuesday-luncheon-group-at-the-Faculty-Club (see **Issue No. 7** that a window sticker **replace the current parking booklets for retirees**. At present, thanks to the Association President's discussions with the Campus police three years ago, retirees can buy (from the (Campus Police) a book of ten tickets for \$10., each ticket good. for parking on M Lot, a substantial saving for retirees below the regular fee.

Tim Suttor writes that he is enjoying his retirement. in Spain. He reports: (29 Apr 94): "Every Newsletter carries its In Memoriams. Inevitable, no doubt. As I prepare for volleyball beside the palm-treed sunlit Mediterranean, I realize, that I have been extraordinarily lucky in my cultural as well as my physical horizons - many weeks each in Rome, Florence, Nice, Barcelona, Madrid, and the completion, to my own satisfaction at least, of the two great meditations I set myself to conduct, Religion and Senses and Nature, Grace and Language. Though I dispersed most of my library when I retired, I have been able to reconstitute all the essentials, mostly here in Spain, the rest from London ... Only today on my way from volleyball I chatted with an elderly scholar who is translating Henry George into Dutch. I have always been a fan of Progress and Poverty, which has more relevance than ever today, but admit that, like Marx he criticizes Malthus in a way that shows he has not read him closely. We. have also had numerous visits from former students who have become lifelong friends - we expect Pat Flood's son Mike shortly ... I note your remarks on travel. I like what happens when I get there but frankly, I don't find the travel that easy...".

Joe Habowsky advises, by telephone, as follows: The Tuesday luncheon group is continuing to meet, throughout the summer months at 1 p.m. at the Dominion House. (See The Newsletter No. 7). As expected, summer attendance is down from the academic year, but members are welcome to join in any Tuesday. Joe is continuing to make available at the luncheons, copies of the University publication **Newsline**. In fact, between luncheons, members can still pick up a copy of **Newsline** if you ask at the D.H. The Tuesday luncheons at the Faculty Club will resume in the Fall.

A few more of **Val Cervin's** observations from his earlier letter. "...I have been practicing (raja) yoga for many years and have achieved some peak states of altered consciousness. Now, at my advanced age I am trying to extrapolate a little to the point in time when my present existence will be coming to an end ...I think everybody can get his own view of possible alternatives of dying. There does not have. to be anything macabre about the event: after all, dying is part of living. I throw this in as a point of discussion and of coming to terms, with oneself. Anyway, I can recommend yoga to anybody as a help in overcoming or at best in bearing the difficulties of life."

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*Faculty and Librarian Retirees' Association, University of Windsor Sep/Oct
1994 Issue 9*

A REMINDER CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF DUES FOR 1994-1995

Members are reminded that the annual fee of the Association is \$10. This becomes payable for the academic year 1994-1995, at the Fall General Meeting, October 27th. Fees remain payable at any time between the Fall Meeting and the end of December, 1994.

TO DATE, SIX 1994 RETIREES HAVE JOINED THE ASSOCIATION

At publication time, six of the current year's retirees had indicated their desire to become members of the Retirees' Association. They are: Mansell Blair, Soc & Anth., Alan Brown, Econ., Bob Chandler, Soc. Wk., John Manzig, Law, Ed Rosenbaum, Bus Ad., and Don Stewart, Soc & Anth.

What is Uni-Com?

Its new head explains...

Most members of the Retirees' Assoc'n have heard of **UNI-COM** (short for University-Community) but many of us are still a bit unsure of what it is. In a recent note to **The Newsletter**, **Stuart Nease**, UNI-COM's president and a member of the Retirees' Association, did much to fill the gap. What follows is a synopsis of what he said.

UNI-COM is **an independent body**, with its own letters-patent and by-laws. Its prime purpose is to develop research projects and other activities within the University setting.

UNI-COM enjoys the support of the University. Its finances are administered by the University under the direction of the UNI-COM treasurer. It has an office located in Assumption University. Members are chiefly **retirees** from the University and from the community at large.

Stuart described some of the ongoing research projects. "This past spring the Department of National Health and Welfare approved \$54,500. under the Seniors Independence Program for Project C.A.R.E. Community Alzheimer Resident's Education. The CJAM Radio Evaluation project has been completed. The Barbara Perry Cancer Kit for Children is under way with the assistance of the U's School of Music.

"A beginning has been made on the Renaissance of the Family Unit. Two years ago, UNI-COM was asked by the Museum Committee of City Council to conduct a survey of senior secondary-school students to ascertain what they would like to see in a community museum. All secondary schools in Windsor and the county were canvassed. It is expected that a third exit poll will be conducted by UNI-COM at the 1994 Senior Independence Day exposition.

"This summer, UNI-COM sponsored the first Elderhostel program held in Windsor..."

Five meetings are held each year: on the second Wednesday of Sept., Nov., Feb., Apr., and June. Some of the meetings are of the Wine and Cheese type; agendas include reports of on-going activities and often guest speakers from the community.

If you would like to join UNI-COM, or to get further info, call **Bill McRae**, the Secretary, at 253-4232, ext. 3430. (Use the answer machine if Bill's not there). Or call **Stuart Nease** at 948-2678.