

# SILVER BULLETIN

Newsletter of CSU, Sacramento Emeritus Association

Fall - 2000

## ON THE SENATE CIRCUIT

JERRY TOBEY, PRESIDENT

The Faculty Senate has so far had only one regular meeting, involving two fundamental issues--the FMIs, of course, and a question concerning conscientious objections to contributions to CFA.

**FACULTY MERIT INCREASES** The University has a new FMI policy. There are some improvements over last year's version, but to me the system remains fatally flawed in concept and in the implementation provided. The Senate's Spring semester recommendation attempted to restrict the changes which college deans and the President could make in departmental recommendations. Departments were to review work in the four areas of teaching effectiveness, scholarship and creative activity, service to the University and service to the community, giving each a weight consistent with the department's RTP policy. After satisfying departments that they had performed adequately in all four areas, faculty were to choose one (or more) areas to justify a FMI. President Gerth rejected the right of faculty members to pick one area for fundamental argument and insisted that the deans and he must have greater discretion in modifying departmental recommendations.

As it stands, the policy would, I think, allow a dean to find a faculty member's work in any one of the four areas of assignment inadequate and so reject the entire FMI request. If so, we will be back to last year's confusion about what happens to the request after it leaves the department. I imagine that the faculty appeal committees will be busy again.

**Conscience and Union Dues** Last year Governor Gray Davis signed legislation requiring all CSU faculty to pay CFA dues. The measure included a provision that faculty with conscientious objections to the payment would be exempt, provided that they contributed an equal amount to another non-profit cause. The *implementation* system for the provision, however, requires that an effective conscientious objection be on religious grounds.

Don Hall of Physics raised the issue before the Senate as a "First Reading" item--with discussion to continue at the next meeting. Hall, who has himself won exemption, asked the Senate (1) to condemn the requirement of religious conscientious objection, and (2) demand that an independent body, rather than CFA itself, judge requests for exemption.

(1) According to Don Hall, the enabling legislation (SB) 645 provides simply for conscientious objection and does not limit such objections to religious grounds, yet the implemented exemption plan insists on a religious justification. Hall argues that the provision allows CFA to probe religious opinions, for many people a highly private matter, and unreasonably excludes non-religious conscientious objection. He believes that compulsory contributions are a violation of academic freedom, and that hence refusal to pay is a matter of professional conscience.

(2) According to Don Hall, SB 645 does not assign responsibility for judging such requests--a most peculiar oversight--and CFA voluntarily took on that delicate task and last Spring turned down most requests.

To me, the arrangement includes two outrages. First, the limitation of objection to religious grounds: Does CFA seriously believe that there are no nonreligious objections to giving money? What is their argument for such an assumption? So far as I can see, the religious test requirement narrows eligibility pretty close to zero, for I don't know of any religions which would forbid contributions unless it's Amish Protestantism or Ayn Rand style libertarianism. Were there impish smiles on CFA faces when they came up with that one?

The claim that conscientious objection is a defense of academic freedom seems to me a wild stretch, but I certainly do not doubt the sincerity of faculty who think that freedom is at stake.

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**ANNUAL DINNER  
FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 3  
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 7**

On the Senate Circuit (continued from page 1)

Secondly, Hall is quite right in claiming that elementary justice rejects the notion that people can properly judge their own case, and every time CFA turns down a request for exemption, it makes money for itself.

However, that said, I oppose any action by the Senate; the Senate should refuse to meddle in union affairs. The Senate has no authority to correct the situation and a formal opinion invites future CFA meddling in the Senate's chief business -- control of curriculum. The objectors proper recourse is court action.

### **Remote Adventure**

Bob Phillips writes us from Tillamook, Oregon to let us know that he operates "Mekong Tours," leading tour groups to remote areas. Earlier this year, he organized and led a tour to Laos, accompanied by Lee Kavaljian and Hal Wiedman. The tour sounds spectacular, as did Bob's descriptions of other tours to Thailand, Cambodia, and Burma. For more information, write to: "Mekong Tours," Dr. Robert Phillips, 7135 Fawcett Creek Road, Tillamook, OR 97141.

### **PERS LOOKS FOR SOLUTIONS TO HIGH HEALTH PLAN COSTS - WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

PERS staff projects that costs will grow at a 10% annual rate over the next 4 years, with the biggest rise in the Medicare PPOs (PERSCare & PERS Choice) and in the Medicare HMOs. Main factors are the huge rise in the cost of prescription medicines, high consumer demand, failure of the federal government Medicare payments to keep up with inflation, financial instability of medical groups and hospitals, new drugs and new technologies, and legislative mandates (e.g. equivalent coverage for mental health, length of stay, the prudent person standard for ambulance use).

Last year your ERFA representative (many of you have joined our state organization to support our efforts on your behalf) argued against increasing copayments as the primary means of meeting higher costs. Our reasoning was that this can place a high burden on the chronically ill when they have larger copays for prescription drugs or office visits.

It seemed fairer to spread the risk with a slightly higher premium, especially since the employer contribution for retirees is based on 100% of the average premium in the 4 plans with the largest active enrollment, plus 90% of this for the dependent spouse.

This meant that the employer contribution rose from \$181 to \$201 for one person this year, and to \$382 for two. This works for now, but costs are rising much more in the Medicare plans than in the active plans (mainly due to prescriptions) so we can't depend on the 100-90 formula in the future to offset all or most of a premium increase.

**How can we contain these future costs?** Some of the proposals:

1. Increase co-pays but have a ceiling for very high users, or stop-loss insurance.
2. Promote mail-order pharmacy use - get more medicine with one co-pay.
3. Mandatory generics in the PPOs (with safeguards) - HMOs already do much of it.
4. Change the employer contribution formula (by legislation) - maybe base it on the largest Medicare plans as well as the largest active enrollment plans.
5. Cut prescription cost with larger purchasing pool.
6. Educational campaign on cost-containment, plus wellness education.

Wilma Krebs, ERFA Legislative Chair

### **MEMBERSHIP STATS:**

"Statistics are like a bikini swimming suit. What they reveal are suggestive, but what they conceal is vital." So take these stats with a grain of salt.

560 faculty members have retired from CSUS. We have records that 187 are now deceased. 70% of us live within commuting distance of CSUS and could easily attend our events. 250 of those who have either joined our Emeriti Association in the last 5 years or who have retired in the last five were sent a dues reminder letter and only 95 so far have paid their \$10.00 dues for 2000-01. Readers who have not yet paid their dues for whatever reason and want to reconsider, should send a check for \$10.00 made out to our treasurer Floyd Mullinix, at 1539 Gannon Drive, Sacramento, CA 95825-4008.

**WORKING SACRAMENTANS NEED A LIVING WAGE**

by Manny Gale

I have just begun my third year of FERPing. In addition to teaching my classes in Social Work and Gerontology, and having fun, I have been actively involved in organizing the Sacramento Valley Progressive Agenda.

The Agenda is a broad coalition of 22 community organizations, committed to acting collectively to achieve a human values agenda re the critical social problems, i.e. role of government, the political system and campaign financing, military spending, taxes, the economy and jobs, the global economy, welfare reform, social security and Medicare, health care, education, environment, housing and community development, transportation, immigration and equality for all. One of the key agenda items is a living wage for working Sacramentans.

A developing coalition of individuals, community organizations, labor unions and representatives of the faith communities, are planning and organizing the Sacramento Living Wage Campaign. As of this date (10/4), 42 groups have endorsed the initiative, as has Bishop Richard Garcia of the Diocese of Sacramento.

A recent Legislative analyst's report documents the widening disparity in incomes in California. Comparing 1975 tax returns with 1998, the lowest quintile has lost 25% of income, at the same time that the top quintile has gained 66%. The current minimum wage in California is \$5.75 per hour, below the poverty level.

Sacramento City data for 1999 (HUD), indicates that 29% of the population are very low income, and 18% are low income - i.e. 47% of the city residents. An estimated 250,000 persons (23%) in the County lack health insurance.

A preliminary estimate is that the living wage in the city would be \$9.35 per hour without health benefits, and \$8.10 per hour with benefits.

The Sacramento campaign has the potential of making a real difference in the lives of thousands of poor people in our city. The goals of the campaign are to ensure that employers who receive tax dollars from the city, in the form of contracts or financial subsidies, pay their employees living wages and health benefits. And, that workers have the right to join a union, without employer interference.

Almost 50 communities throughout the U.S. have approved living wage ordinances. In California, the cities include Hayward, Los Angeles, Oakland, Pasadena, San Francisco, San Jose and West Hollywood. Santa Monica is currently considering a similar ordinance.

The current Sacramento timetable is a kickoff on November 18th, presentation to the City Council in mid January 2001, and enactment in mid February.

Emeritus faculty and friends interested in working for the Progressive Agenda and/or the living wage campaign are encouraged to call me at: 923-2621 - or E-mail - [galee@csus.edu](mailto:galee@csus.edu)

California State University, Sacramento GERONTOLOGY CENTER Presents THE DECISION OF YOUR LIFETIME! The future of SOCIAL SECURITY? MEDICARE? SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2000 Music Recital Hall - PUBLIC POLICY FORUM -

PANEL - Representatives of Bush, Gore & Nader QUESTIONS - Consumer representatives & Audience 9 - 10:45 a.m. SOCIAL SECURITY - Proposals for Change 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. - Break - coffee, tea, etc.

11:15 - 1 p.m. - MEDICARE - Proposals for Change Supporters of the Dialogue: AARP, Congress of California Seniors, Gray Panthers, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Older Women's League.

Info: Manny Gale - 278-7060

**"NO ON O"**

Measure O will be on the Sacramento County Ballot. Readers of the Silver Bulletin are urged to vote against it. If you have the time and inclination to read the 40 or so pages describing it in the voter's pamphlet, do so. It will be an instructive exercise in how not to make land use decisions. Please note below the elected officials and other prominent area people who oppose Measure O. If you need further information, please check the website at: [www.NoOnMeasureO.org](http://www.NoOnMeasureO.org). Or call your editor, Alan Wade, at 455-7083, e-mail [wadea@csus.edu](mailto:wadea@csus.edu). The developer behind the measure has already spent over \$800,000 on publicity. The "no" campaign folks have thus far spent \$27,000.

Elected officials opposed to "O":

State Treasurer Phil Angelides. State Senator Deborah Ortiz State Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg Sacramento County Supervisor Illa Collin Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli Sacramento County Supervisor Roger Dickinson Sacramento City Council members: Mayor Jimmie Yee. Dave Jones. Heather Fargo. Rob Kerth. Bonnie Pannell. Robbie Waters, Joseph Yee Lauren Hammond and Steve Cohn. Former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin. Former Sacramento Vice Mayor Michael Sands, SMUD Board Directors Peter Keat and Susan Patterson Gait City Council member Tim Rabov. Organizations opposed to "O":

Age Well, ACORN Political Action Committee, American Lung Association of Sacramento Emigrant Trails, Alliance of Folsom Residents, California Native Plant Society, California Oak Foundation, California Senior Housing Coalition, Congress of California Seniors, Democratic Central Committee of Sacramento, (ECOS), Environmental Council of Sacramento ( Friends of Mather Park, Friends of Swainson Hawk, Gray Panthers, Green Party of Sacramento, Habitat 20120, League of Women Voters, Mercy Housing of California, "No Way L.A.!" Coalition, Ted costa, Planning and Conservation League, Rosemont community Association, Sacramento Audubon Society, Sacramento City Taxpayers Org., Rights League, Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods (SCAN), Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Sacramento County Taxpayers League, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Board of Directors, Sacramento Old City Association, Sacramento Open Space, Save the American River Association (SARA), Sierra Club, Sierra Oaks Vista Homeowners Association, South County Citizens for Responsible Growth, Southside Park Neighborhood Association. The Nature Conservancy, Town and Country Democrats, Urban Creeks Council (partial list) 10/11 Individuals listed separately.

Press endorsements against "O": Sacramento Business Journal, Sacramento Bee, Sacramento News and Review.

**CSU-ERFA**

Wilma Krebs, our state legislative chair, reminds us that CSU-ERFA depends on Sacramento people to watch legislation, attend PERS meetings on health benefits and retirement, and generally serve as eyes and ears for governmental activities as they affect the lives of retired faculty members.

Wilma urges Sac State retired faculty to help ERFA fight for better benefits, and to keep what we have. She adds, "Have fun! Meet new friends! Make a difference!"

Call Wilma at 489-6919, or [e-mail:wilkrebs@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:wilkrebs@saclink.csus.edu)

**SHATTUCK'S FEAST ON DENMARK** As Elizabeth and I walked through a little tourist town in Denmark last August, a reporter approached us and requested an interview. "Is the cool, drizzly weather spoiling your holiday?" she asked. I made a quick conversion from Fahrenheit to Celsius, and told her, "It's 40 degrees (104F) where we come from, so we're very happy with this weather." She gasped in horror at the idea of so high a temperature, and made "40 degrees" the headline for her story. If any of you find the triple-digit Sacramento summers hard to take, you might consider a visit to Denmark, where the range goes from 55 to 75 - and that's Fahrenheit.

Most people in Denmark speak English fluently; they drive on the right-hand side of the road (note to my British friends; I said "right-hand," not "right"), and they make excellent beer. If that's not enough, they have two magical parks, outstanding music, and wonderful food. Tivoli, in the heart of Copenhagen, is one of the most delightful places I have ever visited.

Jerry McDaniel's wife, Ulla, is from Denmark, and she says that Danish is not a language - it's a throat disease, (and remember, Danny Kaye to the contrary notwithstanding, Copenhagen is pronounced "hay-gen," not "haw-gen") - and don't even try the Danish pronunciation.

Entertainment ranges from commedia del arte to a marching band of teen-age boys in sailor uniforms to jazz to oompah music to Bach to fast rides to slow miniature antique cars for the under-ten set. The lights make everything look newly invented, and the restaurants serve the products of the Baltic Sea, very well prepared. Elizabeth ordered mussels as an appetizer; there must have been more than a hundred in the heaping bowl.

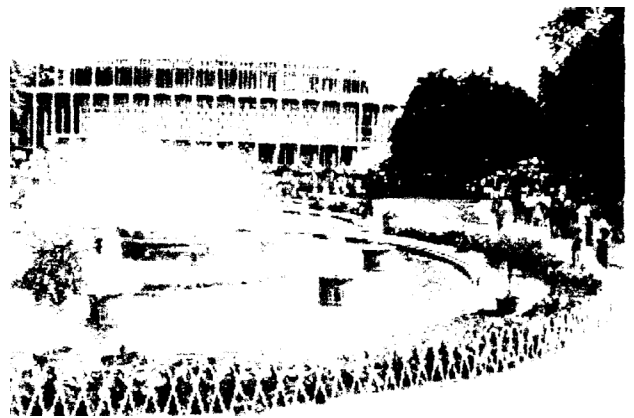
Outside of Copenhagen, in Jutland, we found the original Legoland, founded by the inventor of Lego blocks. Amsterdam, a North Sea oil rig, the Munich airport - all constructed of Lego blocks. A park worker stepped in to the heart of Amsterdam to make a repair, and he suddenly seemed gigantic.

In three days in Copenhagen, we heard Bach's Well-Tempered Klavier, and in Tivoli, in a baroque church, his Organ Mass. On the island of Funen (or Fyn) which seems to be pronounced "Funen") we stayed in an 18th-century manor house. We were told that dinner would be early, because of the concert at 8:00 that night. "A rock concert?" I asked, apprehensively. "No: operatic arias and classic violin." In our third-story room under the eaves, we sat by our window and looked down at the stage, and the 500 guests spread out on the lawn, and listened to Verdi and Puccini, Beethoven and Mozart. After intermission, the tone lightened to include a comedy routine by the violinist (Elizabeth's journal notes that "listening to a comedy routine in Danish was a treat we could not fully savor"), and a medley of World War II songs, concluding (ah, globalization) with the soprano singing, the violinist playing, and the audience joining in - all in English - Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love with You." To put the frosting on the cake, or more accurately the smoked salmon on the rye bread, by marvelous coincidence Ulla McDaniel was visiting her mother, who lives less than ten miles from where we were staying, and she insisted on inviting us to lunch. "A simple Danish lunch," she said. A simple Danish feast, rather: open-faced sandwiches with shrimp, herring, gravlax, liver pate, fromage blanc with radishes, and of course snaps (what we call akvavit) and Tuborg (what we call beer).

## TIVOLI

You'll have to check the McDaniel family schedule to see whether you can enjoy that sort of memorable hospitality, but even if you can't, we still would highly recommend a trip to Denmark. Neolithic burial sites, Viking forts, large and small castles, wondrously painted churches and cathedrals, and more scenery than such a small country should contain. World-class food, and two of the finest country-house inns to be found anywhere. We enjoyed it so much that we're already working on plans to return next summer. Next time I meet Jerry on the golf course, I'll have to ask about Ulla's travel plans.

Peter Shattuck



**IN MEMORIAM**

Elizabeth Austin -- 9/00 - Biological Science -- 1955-7\_S  
George Creel -- 3/98 -- English -1948-81  
Henry Hansen -- 10/00 -- Education -- 1948-?  
Edna Hein -- 12/99 -- Music -- 1976-87  
Isabel Hernandez-Serna - 9/00 -- Ethnic studies, Academic Affairs VP - 1980-2000  
James David Lucas -- 3/00 -- Psychology -- 1950-88  
Paul Murray -- 4/00 - Government - 1951-82  
Letha Polenske - 3/00 -- Music - 1957-75  
Elmo Slider - 7/00 -- Coach, Outreach Counselor -- 1976-2000  
Norbert Torzyn - 11/98 -- Electrical & Electronic Engineering -- 1962-92  
Betty Austin

*Betty Austin died of cancer on September 20, 2000, at the age of 88. Wilma Krebs reminds us that Betty will be remembered for working for women's rights, and for leading a CSUS Fullbright group to India to study the changing role of women there. She will be remembered also for having brought together a Yoga group consisting of Peg McKoane, Jo Lonam, Pearl Spade, and Wilma. The group stayed together for more than 95 years. At Betty's request, no service will be held.*

*Paul "Ben" Murray*

*Professor Paul "Ben" Murray, emeritus professor of Government and one of the earliest members of the CSUS faculty, died in April of this year. A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, November 11, from 5 p.m. to "whenever" at the home of Jerry and Ulla McDaniel, 311 Messina Dr., Sacramento, CA. There will be food and drink aplenty along with the good memories. Ben's three children are expecting to attend.*

*Please RSVP by November 6 to one of the following numbers:*

**McDaniel's:** 457-8498 ...

**Department of Government:** 278-6202

**Marsha House: (Ben's daughter)** 454-1006

**Jerry McDaniel**

"We must remember that intelligence is not enough.  
Intelligence plus character--this is the goal of true education" Martin Luther King, Jr.

**NEW PROVOST TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL DINNER**

Bernice Bass de Martinez will be the featured speaker at our association's annual dinner on November 3. Dr. Martinez, whose appointment was announced by President Gerth on May 25, holds the post vacated this past summer by Jolene Koester. The New Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will speak on "California Democracy and Public Universities."

President Gerth notes in his announcement of her appointment that Dr. Bass de Martinez "brings to her role as Provost an understanding of higher education developed through multiple leadership roles as professor, teacher education coordinator, department chair, dean of a college of education, dean of graduate studies, and a senior associate vice president." She has served in administrative posts at Seton Hall University, Mills college, and most recently at Indiana State University, where she was Dean of Graduate Studies. Her faculty appointment is in the Department of Teacher Education.

**CSUS EMERITUS ASSOCIATION FALL DINNER**

**DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2000**

**RECEPTION**

**DINNER**

**LOCATION:** FOREST SUITE - (2nd Floor)

**FOOTHILL SUITE - (3rd Floor)**

**TIME:** 6:15-7:00 RECEPTION (with no host bar)

**7:00 - 9:00 DINNER (with no host bar)**

**The menu:** **Mixed Green Salad**  
**Garlic Roasted Red Potatoes**  
**Seasoned Vegetables**

**Vegetarian Lasagna**  
**Grilled Chicken Breast**  
**Carrot cake and coffee**

**Please choose one entree offering and write in the number of persons for each choice.**

**Chicken Breast:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$15.00**

**Vegetarian Lasagna:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$15.00**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY-STATE- ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet with your payment, which may also include your 2000-2001 dues of \$10.00, to: Floyd Mullinix -1539 Gannon Drive - Sacramento, CA 95825 DEADLINE FOR YOUR RESPONSE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2000

Emeritus Association #117480  
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Emeritus Association Board of Directors - California State University, Sacramento

2000-2001

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

The Silver Bulletin will be much more interesting (and maybe more fun) if more members will send news items (about you and your colleagues) to Alan Wade, Editor - 2916 - 25<sup>th</sup> Street - Sacramento, CA 95818 (e-mail & fax listed above). Photos from trips etc., can be included and will be used if space permits. Black and white photos are best. ATTENTION : Articles for the Spring, 2001 issue of the Silver Bulletin should be in the editor's hands by:

MARCH 5.