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NEWSLETTER

ral History Association

JANUARY 1968

ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION: 1968 ELECTION RESULTS

OFFICERS

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FORREST C. POGUE......George C. Marshall Foundation.....THREE YEAR TERM WILLA K. BAUM.....TWO YEAR TERM JAMES V. MINK.....University of California, Los Angeles.....ONE YEAR TERM

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST:	115	<u>Yes</u> : 11	2 <u>No</u> : 1	Abstention:	2	RESULT:	APPROVED
		CONSTI	TUTION AND	BY-LAWS			
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST:	115	<u>Yes</u> : 11	2 <u>No</u> : 3	Abstention:	0	RESULT:	ADOPTED
SIDELINE ON THE OUTO	COME						

Certainly there is nothing in the above statement of results to indicate that Election Committee Chairman Enid H. Douglass and committee members Jane A. Kimball and Robert Knutson enjoyed a less than smooth ballot-counting session. But the fact of the matter is something else again. On the afternoon of 15 January, the ballots had all been counted. And recounted. There was a tie for the two-year council berth.

On the 17th, a call from Jim Mink interrupted the committee's quandary. His car, which had been in the garage for extensive repairs since the day he had posted the ballots to the membership, had just been returned to him. And in the front seat, he explained, he had discovered a single unmailed ballot.

Needless to say, the committee lost no time in contacting the neglected voter, extending their apologies, and soliciting his decisions in the election. Results? The beginning of a two-year council term for Willa Baum, and the end of a two-day dilemma.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT I am honored to have been elected the first president of the Oral History Association. We have many problems and a world of work to do, but I think that, thanks to James Mink and his colleagues, we have made an auspicious beginning. No one at Lake Arrowhead in 1966 nor at Arden House in 1967 could fail to sense that the men and women

in this movement are both enthusiastic about it and quite selflessly devoted to furthering it. We are fortified by the conviction that the future is on our side, for oral history will inevitably loom larger in the world of scholarship as collections accumulate, as more and more programs are initiated, and as word of them spreads.

It is for the Oral History Association to foster this growth, to encourage the development of improved techniques, to explore in new directions, and to consider mutual problems---intellectual, legal, financial, administrative, topical, and archival problems---to the end that we may serve the world of learning in the most effective ways conceivable.

As chairman of the Second National Colloquium, I wish to thank AND each participant for helping to make it the success it was. I feel CHAIRMAN no immodesty in acknowledging success, for in working meetings success OF is a collective achievement --- in this instance, manifestly so. THE Those who have chided us that Arden House set an impossible standard SECOND for the Association will, I think, see that it can be surpassed. NATIONAL As your president, I take that as a goal, and I know the COLLOOUIUM officers elected to serve with me will consider it one of theirs. AT In a world too full of meetings that should never have been held, we ARDEN have an opportunity to win for the Oral History Association a HOUSE reputation that will make its invitations treasured, its conferences truly memorable. Nothing we do as an association will do more to stimulate interest in oral history and elevate its standing. We now have the organization and the membership to achieve this, and more.

PRESIDENT ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

ARDEN HOUSE: PART THE FIRST

I am calling a meeting of the new executive council at the earliest possible date to consider a host of organizational matters, but with our next meeting, and Philip A. Crowl's generous and warmly received offer to arrange it at the Nebraska Center in Lincoln, uppermost in mind.

Steering Committee Chairman James V. Mink manned the rostrum for the Oral History Association's two business meetings held at Arden House during the Second National Colloquium. The first meeting, conducted on Sunday, 19 November, resulted in the tentative adoption of the constitution and by-laws, and their submission to the membership for approval. The second, conducted Tuesday, 21 November, was given to the consideration of new business and is the burden of this report.

In recognition of Allan Nevins' role as "the founding father of the oral history movement" and as an expression of regret for his absence, a resolution of salutation to Professor Nevins was adopted by acclamation. The resolution, which extended the Association's "deep appreciation for his far-reaching contributions to the development of oral

history" and conveyed its "affection and well wishes," was recorded. The tape was later presented by Jim Mink to Professor Nevins at the Huntington Library, California, where the latter is a senior research assistant. Following Albert Lyons' presentation of the nominating committee's recommendations, a call for further nominations brought the single addition of Benis M. Frank as a candidate for council, and the nominations were closed. It was the sense of the meeting that immediate steps be taken to secure proper tax exemption for the OHA from the Internal Revenue Service. President Louis M. Starr writes that such steps are now being taken and that he will submit a report in the April issue of the Newsletter. Speaking on behalf of Philip A. Crowl, chairman of the history department at the University of Nebraska, A. Stanley Trickett suggested that the Association's "having had one very successful meeting on the Pacific Coast and another on the Atlantic Coast, oral history might gain a great number of additional supporters by meeting next at Lincoln, Nebraska, near the geographic center of the country." It was the sense of the meeting that the executive council be asked to consider this. E.W. Robischon of the Smithsonian Institution told the gathering he hoped the national capitol would be considered for a subsequent annual meeting which, he added, the Smithsonian would be glad to host. Consonant with this, several speakers urged that the council consider planning meetings several years in advance, taking care to minimize conflicts by deliberating at length the selection of dates. Warren Albert of the American Medical Association asked that the council consider issuing an equipment guide, that it study the possibility of a union list of oral history holdings, that it consider continued work on goals and guidelines for oral history, and that it look into the possibility of a column in the OHA Newsletter on the legal aspects of oral history. The meeting then entertained and passed a motion to forward these suggestions to the council, and adjourned.

ARDEN HOUSE: PART THE SECOND

"One of the best meetings I've ever attended" seems to be the predominant theme among those who took part in the Second National Colloquium at Arden House, according to Mrs. Susan Davison, who handled the correspondence for the Columbia University sponsored meeting. "I heard it there repeatedly," she observed, "and I've read it ever since, from every part of the country."

Both the scholarly distinction and the geographical distribution of those in attendance are noteworthy.

Chairmen of history departments (12) barely outnumbered heads of major libraries (11). Historians, including those engaged primarily in oral history, predominated, while archivists and librarians constituted a strong second.

Counting intra-day visitors, a total of 151 persons from 34 states, Canada, and Israel taxed the facilities. The California delegation was second only to New York's, and both the South and the Midwest were represented in approximate proportion to their percentage of the national population.

Mrs. Davison reported that any possibility of geographically disproportionate representation was deliberately avoided. Instead of mailing all of the invitations at once, distances of the addressees from New York were taken into account and the mailings were staggered accordingly. This done, the reservations could still be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis without any danger of geographic skewering.

The food, service, atmosphere, and accommodations at Arden House drew scarcely less in the way of comment than did the program itself. One wonders if Edward H. Harriman, the railroad czar who built Arden House in 1907 to serve as a private home, may finally have redeemed himself in the eyes of some historians.

Thanks to Miss Georgia Pugh of Philadelphia, who designed and lettered the name tags, the Colloquium was spared the necessity of featuring the 'convention of conventions.' As for the kits distributed to everyone, the customary rosters and information sheets were supplemented by <u>A Bibliography</u> <u>Of Oral History</u>, published just in time for the occasion by UCLA's Oral History Office on behalf of the Association.

The Nation saw fit to furnish each

of the Colloquium-goers with a copy of its November 20 issue, which featured an article by Alfred B. Rollins Jr. on the Second National Colloquium.

In addition, the conference was covered for the news fronts by reporters from the NEW YORK TIMES and U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, and the December 11 issue of <u>Publishers' Weekly</u> included a brief account of the Colloquium in "Currents," a regular column of news items.

It was, in sum, a most memorable gathering and, in the words of one participant, "worthwhile on both the practical and the philosophical levels...a unique conference in my experience."

The following financial report on the Second National Colloquium on Oral History at Arden House, 18-21 November 1967, has been prepared and submitted by Elizabeth B. Mason, assistant director of the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University—sponsor for the national conference.

RECEIPTS

EXPENDITURES

Colloquium Registration:	\$12,345.50	Cancellation Refunds	\$ 780.00
the second s		Printing and Mailing:	510.73
		Conference Supplies	88.10
		(Kits/Name Tags/Etc.)	
		Travel:	738.39
		(Guest Speakers; Station	
		Wagon/Bus Rental.)	
		Executive Secretary:	1,162.64
		(Mrs. Susan Davison,	
		hired expressly	
		for the Colloquium.)	
		Transcribing	368.30
		(Plenary Sessions)	
		Arden House	7,723.02
RECEIPTS TO DATE	\$12,345.50	EXPENDITURES TO DATE	\$11,371.18
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ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	
U.S. Government Check:	100.00	Telephone Company	50.00
	100.00	(Estimated Amount of Bill)	
		"Proceedings" Production:	1,024.32
		(Projected Cost of	
		Multilithing and Mailing.)	
TOTAL ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$ 100.00	TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ 1,074.32
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$12,445.50	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$12,445.50

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MARY ELLEN GLASS JEAN C. JONES Center for Western North American Studies American Psychiatric Association Museum Desert Research Institute 1700 18th Street N.W. 20009 University of Nevada Washington, D.C. Reno, Nevada 89507 KNOX MELLON FRANCES L. CAREY Chairman, Department of History Immaculate Heart College Assistant Director of Libraries 2021 North Western Avenue Naval War College Los Angeles, California 90027 Newport, Rhode Island 02840 DEAN ALBERTSON PROFESSOR HENRY E. SIMMONS Director, Oral History Research Office 164 Red Gate Lane Chicago State College Amherst, Massachusetts 01002 West Center 500 North Pulaski Road A. STANLEY TRICKETT 509 South 58th Street Chicago, Illinois 60624 Omaha, Nebraska 68106 PROFESSOR K. JACK BAUER Department of History and CHARLES W. CRAWFORD Director, Oral History Research Office Political Science Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Memphis State University Memphis, Tennessee Troy, New York 12181 38111 SANDRA GUILLAUME GOULD P. COLMAN Director, Cornell Program in Oral History Ontario Institute for Studies in Education 102 Bloor Street, West 502 Olin Library Cornell University Toronto 5, Ontario Ithaca, New York 14850 Canada DOUGLASS G. ADAIR DAVID F. MUSTO, M.D. 489 West 6th Street 4507 Dorset Avenue Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015 Claremont, California 91711 ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART LEHIGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY Lehigh University 5200 Woodward Avenue 48202 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015 Detroit, Michigan NURSING ARCHIVE --- SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SERIALS DEPARTMENT University of Pittsburgh Library Mugar Memorial Library Boston University University of Pittsburgh Boston, Massachusetts 02215 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

A FEW CHANGES HERE AND THERE.....

As of this issue, the OHA <u>Newsletter</u> becomes a "quarterly publication." It will appear in January, April, July, and October of each year. And, in order that the editors, printers, and postmen involved in the perpetration of the foregoing may in fact do so, we announce the following deadlines.

ALL COPY MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE 15TH DAY OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE PUBLICATION MONTH IF IT IS TO RECEIVE CONSIDERATION FOR THE ISSUE FORTHCOMING.

Thus, kindly mark the 15th days of March, June, September, and December with BIG BLACK LETTERS in your 1968 calendars. Unless, of course, you are prone to procrastination. If so, kindly mark the 12th or 13th days---just to be on the safe side.

With your help, the 'publication month' will be more than the date on the cover; it will be the month during which you may expect to receive your copy. And during which you will.

How's that for a change?

ORAL HISTORY: A CLASSROOM TOOL

Some 200 students and teachers attended a conference on "Oral History As A Classroom Tool" held recently in the State House, Montpelier, Vermont, under the joint sponsorship of the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Council for the Social Studies, the Vermont State Department of Education, and the American Historical Association Service Center for Teachers.

In his introductory remarks Charles T. Morrissey, director of the Vermont Historical Society and former chief of the John F. Kennedy Library Oral History Project, outlined the need for "exhilaration in the teaching of history and for moving away from the textbook approach." Morrissey also cited some of the ways in which oral history is equipped to meet this need in today's classrooms.

Tapes could be used to present divergent points of view on national historical events and phenomena such as the New Deal, the New Frontier, the Great Society, the Viet Nam war, and the Korean crisis. By the same token, tape recordings could prove invaluable in documenting local histories and governments simply by bringing accounts of the personalities effecting and affected by these spheres close to the student via the immediacy of the human voice.

By way of a practical example, Morrissey conducted a demonstration oral history interview with Vermont Governor Philip H. Hoff. As the audience listened, Hoff recalled and discussed his record-breaking campaign of 1962 as a result of which he was elected the state's first Democratic governor in more than a century.

Also speaking at the conference were Lester F. Jipp, social studies consultant for the Vermont State Department of Education, Lieutenant Governor John Daley, and Dean Albertson, professor of history at the University of Massachusetts.

Albertson, co-founder and former assistant director of the oral history project at Columbia University, is the author of <u>Roosevelt's Farmer</u>, a study of Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture from 1940 to 1945, for which Albertson recorded many hours of oral history interviews.

Currently preparing a biography of Warren G. Harding, Albertson cited difficulties in reconciling conflicting evidence as a point in favor of taped recollections being made and preserved. He cites William Manchester's controversial Death of a President, which lists 371 oral history interviews in its making, as a remarkable example of the use of oral history.

ORAL HISTORY: UNIVERSITY BOUND?

Question: is there a role within the liberal arts college for a program in oral history, or should such efforts be confined to the large university?

According to Knox Mellon, chairman of the Department of History at Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles, this is the crux of a pilot study "to test the validity of oral history in a small liberal arts college" recently initiated by Mellon and his colleagues.

Also from IHC comes a bibliography of six special projects which represents a total of 43 completed oral history interviews and indicates several more forthcoming.

Of these 43, eleven interviews were made for "The Simon Casady Crisis and The California Democratic Council," an in-depth study of the events preceding the 1966 convention of the council at which Casady was forced to resign as president.

Another project accounting for eleven interviews to date is "Job Harriman: Practical Socialist and Utopian Idealist." The interviewees, Californians who were active in the rise of the Socialist Party in the state, have given their accounts of the party, the radical press and the utopian cooperative ideal, as well as their impressions of Harriman.

The remaining four special projects are: "The Real Estate Industry in Southern California"; "Ernest Dawson: Pioneer Los Angeles Bookseller"; "Dr. T. Perceval Gerson: Early Los Angeles Reformer and Cultural Leader"; and "La Beneficencia Mexicana de Los Angeles, Inc.," a study of the corporation organized in 1931 to help Southern California Mexican-Americans economically, culturally, and socially.

INTER-PROGRAM EXCHANGE INITIATED

Professor Henry E. Simmons, director of the Oral History Research Office at Chicago State College, and Professor Floyd A. O'Neil, director of the University of Utah's Western History Center, recently began an interchange of non-restricted tapes of mutual value to the two organizations.

The first tape to be exchanged was a recording of the American Indian Conference which was held in Chicago in 1961 and dealt with the problems of reservation Indians. The Oral History Research Office at CSC supplied Professor O'Neil with a copy of the tape, and the Western History Center's transcribers in turn furnished CSC with copies of the typescript.

One of the leading proponents of inter-program cooperation and exchange, Professor Simmons came out strongly for reciprocal arrangements of this sort at the Second National Colloquium on Oral History at Arden House in November.

CURRENT PROJECTS LISTED

Charles W. Crawford, director of the Oral History Research Office at Memphis State University, reports the following oral history projects, some recently approved and others already underway, as the latest to be taken on:

The Organization of Labor in West <u>Tennessee</u>; Interviews with <u>Memphis</u> <u>World War I Veterans</u>; Documenting <u>Memphis</u> <u>Jazz and Blues</u>; Interviews with <u>Southern Writers</u>; A History of the <u>Memphis Jewish Community</u>; A History of <u>Memphis State University</u>; Recent Changes in the <u>Hardwood Lumber Industry</u>; Interviews with <u>Associates of E.H. Crump</u>; and Interviews relating to the Development of Memphis Theatre.

The purpose of the Memphis State University program is the documentation of currently significant developments in the region including as many areas of activity as possible. Although the interviews at MSU are generally conducted by faculty members with a specialized knowledge of the subject, a few of the interviews for these projects are being done by graduate students.

JEWISH BIOGRAPHY A COOPERATIVE VENTURE

"Northern California Jewish Community Series," an oral history project financed by the Western Jewish History Center of the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum in Berkeley, California, is being produced at the Regional Oral History Office of the University of California, Berkeley, under the guidance of a special advisory committee. Members of the latter include faculty advisors Moses Rischin, Department of History, San Francisco State College, and James D. Hart, Department of English, University of California, Berkeley, as well as leading members of the Jewish community. Mrs. Harriet Nathan is the project director.

Interviewees for the project will represent five areas of inquiry: <u>pioneer</u> <u>Jewish families</u>, <u>community leaders</u>, <u>religious and institutional leaders</u>, <u>Jews</u> <u>prominent in the development of California</u>, and <u>representatives of early rural</u> communities.

Copies of each of the transcripts are to be deposited in the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, as well as in the Bancroft Library.

SERINUS CANARIUS: OF PERCHINGS PRECARIOUS

From Chita Fry, ROHO (Berkeley) interviewer-turned-humorist, comes this tale which, since its telling at Arden House, has been dubbed "How To Run An Oral History Office."

As the traffic signal flashed red, a sedan and a large, enclosed van pulled up side by side at the intersection. The driver of the sedan looked on as the truckdriver, metal rod in hand, leapt from the cab and proceeded to beat violently upon the side panelling of the truck. This done, he raced back to his seat in the cab and drove off as the light changed to green.

A few blocks down the same street the sedan and the truck again stopped side by side at a red light. The truckdriver leapt from his cab to repeat his performance, while the man in the car simply stared in astonishment.

By the time they came to the third red light the open-mouthed onlooker could bear it no longer. He too leapt from his seat and raced to the side of the truck, where he demanded of the truckdriver how it came to pass that he was moved so to beat upon his own truck.

The truckdriver lowered his rod with a sigh of patient resignation. He had obviously been asked the same question several times prior to this.

"It's like this, Buddy," he began, as one who would explain to a child. "This is a one-ton truck I got here, see? Now inside this one-ton truck I got a two-ton load of canaries. So, because I ain't in the market for trouble, I gotta make certain that half of 'em stays in the air."

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Oral Research Abstracts is the title of a journal published monthly since April, 1966, by the American Dental Association.

VOLUNTEER INTERVIEWERS SOUGHT

Faced with the sheer impossibility of recording all of the worthwhile reminiscences pertinent to the development of California, Berkeley's ROHO has come up with a program to encourage volunteer interviewers, particluarly members of local historical societies.

Interested parties who contact ROHO at Room 486 in the Bancroft Library are given the following materials: a list of simple instructions for producing a tape-recorded interview; suggestions for time-indexing the tapes; an agreement form for donating the tapes; and a sample information form for use in describing the topics covered in the interview.

The Bancroft Library has initiated a "Donated Tapes Section" so that volunteers can donate their tapes to the University of California should there be no local library or historical societies to accommodate them.

ROHO RECORDING HISTORY ON FHS GRANT

A history of the Eddy Tree Breeding Station, provided for in a grant by the Forest History Society at Yale University, is currently being prepared on tape by Berkeley's ROHO.

Inspired by Luther Burbank's success in plant breeding, Washington timberman James G. Eddy established a tree breeding station near Placerville, California, in 1926, to improve the quality of western trees. By 1936, the station had won international reknown for its significant genetics studies, imaginative techniques, and its results: varieties of pine that proved faster growing, more staminal, and more resistant to disease.

Two veteran station members, F.I. Righter and W.C. Cumming, are participating as interviewees. Dr. Nicholas T. Mirov, who is acting as faculty advisor, has agreed to write an introduction to the history.

Papers concerning the station's early days will be deposited in the Bancroft Library to complement the recorded history.

FHS RECEIVES SIMPSON GRANT

Yale University's Forest History Society was the recent recipient of a special \$2,000 grant by the Simpson Timber Company of Seattle, Washington, for the production of an oral history interview with C.H. "Chris" Kreienbaum, former Simpson executive.

Kreienbaum, now living in Rancho Bernardo, California, was one of the principal architects of the Shelton Sustained Yield Unit, a 100-year cooperative management contract between the Simpson Timber Company and the U.S. Forest Service.

EMPHASIS ON FINE PRINTING

"Books and Printing in the San Francisco Bay Area" is the title of a series of interviews being conducted by Berkeley's ROHO. While the emphasis is to be placed on fine printing, related factors which have made San Francisco an industrial printing center are also being investigated.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS INITIATED

Professor 0.0. Winther of the Department of History at Indiana University reports that he and his colleagues have initiated an oral history program within their department. Other institutions with oral history programs in the formative stages are: San Fernando Valley State College; the Regional Enrichment Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Riverhead Library in Riverhead, Long Island, New York.

Reels will roll for a second year for the American Indian Oral History Project at the University of Utah, thanks to the personal support and contributions of Miss Doris Duke, noted philanthropist.

The project, directed by Dr. C. Gregory Crampton, author of Standing Up Country, is given to the accumulation of primary source material documenting American history from the Indian point of view. During the first year of the project, tape-recorded interviews were conducted with members of the Ute, Shoshoni, Bannock, Zuni, Paiute, Hualapai, Havasupai, Crow, and Navajo tribes. To date, 2,700 pages (70 per cent of the recorded material) have been transcribed, and the Utah team is justifiably proud of its recent cataloguing of this information in bound-copy form.

In addition to recording the oral histories of living Indians, the project calls for the researching of existing documentary and manuscript material reflecting the Indian viewpoint on historical matters. The oral history tapes and the researched data will be used to create an "Archive of Indian History" at the University of Utah and, owing to their exceptional significance, they may eventually lend themselves, in whole or in part, to publication.

The authenticity of the Indians'

historical recollections is attested to by one member of the Crow tribe:

"The white man has his Bible, but the Indian has his stories, stories that are passed down as part of his ways, so he never adds on to them nor deletes anything from them when they are told. They are for us a sacred part of life."

Overriding the project is a sense of urgency. As older members of the tribes die, valuable historical recollection and reminiscence die with them. But a sense of patience and diplomacy is just as essential, and as many as 25 hours per every one hour of recorded interview time are spent courting the subject and gaining his cooperation.

As Dr. Crampton observes, "In any program involving the oral exploration of a person's past, the approach is of the utmost importance. This is particularly true with the American Indian, who thinks of the white man as being far too concerned with the factor of time."

The existence of a body of prime source material preserving Indian history should prove invaluable to linguists, historians, sociologists, and other scholars. Certainly such a collection will provide new insights and guidelines for the future.

Grants for the collection of Indian history have also been made by Miss Duke to the Universities of Arizona, Illinois, South Dakota, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

FORUM: FORUM

Once a year we get together at a national colloquium and spend four full days exchanging ideas and opinions, discussing problems and suggesting solutions. We pack a lot of associating into four days. We have to. We have a good 361¹/₂ more days to cover.

Think we could use more than four days? We do too. So we're announcing FORUM. Come April, in addition to the national summaries, executive reports, membership rosters and news notes, the <u>Newsletter</u> will feature FORUM---a section reserved for letters to the editor. Letters of suggestion and comment. Letters of debate and resolution. Your letters.

Not sure what we're looking for? You've run into problems; we all have. There are topical limitations, procedural inefficiencies, production hold-ups, ethical considerations, legal intricacies, and archival dilemmas. What's your biggest headache? How are you handling it? If you've found a solution, why not share it? If you haven't found one, are you in the market for suggestions?

Now you know. We're looking for trouble. Your trouble. Why FORUM? Because a "forum" is a medium for open discussion. How will it work? We'll provide the medium. You'll provide the open discussion. And it will work like a charm.