PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I’d like to thank you for taking the time to read the RAPS Sheet. The individual contributors and our fine editor, Jack Cooper, invest one of our most important resources, time, in preparing it for you. Jack (shown in the photo below) has been our editor for three years now, and his term will end with this newsletter. Jack, we all thank you for your efforts and passions on our behalf.

In past columns I have brought up the continuing education, and the valuable use of time during retirement. Membership RAPS is certainly a step in the right direction to satisfy those goals.

This month our featured event is the RAPS Annual Holiday Dinner, which will be held Thursday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Athletic Club. This event will provide the opportunity for you to socialize, develop/expand friendships, savor good food, and enjoy entertainment in the form of jazz. The cost to you for the event is $29.50 per person. RAPS is subsidizing the cost of each meal by about $10 in order to keep things affordable for you. RSVP’s for the event will be taken until December 12.

Speaking of friendship, my three favorite quotations on the subject are:

The shifts of fortune test the reliability of friends. (Cicero)

The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed. (Carl Jung)

My mother used to say that there are no strangers, only friends you haven’t met yet. She’s now in a maximum security twilight home in Australia. (Dame Edna Everage)

Hopefully, our annual holiday dinner will bring you together with former colleagues who (in Carl Jung’s words) provide positive reactions. On the other hand, you might want to avoid the behavior (in Dame Everage’s words) that will place you in a maximum security twilight home.

I look forward to seeing you at our events.

Bruce Stern
RAPS ACTIVITIES

RAPS BOOK CLUB

At our last gathering on November 15th, seven RAPS members took part in a discussion of Lost in Translation by Eva Hoffman. It is Hoffman’s memoir about her childhood in Poland, her emigration in 1959 to Vancouver, Canada, when she was eleven, and her subsequent life in the United States. She vividly describes her life up to 1989 in three phases, childhood in Poland, life in Canada, and college and adulthood in the USA. The book gave us insight into the difficulty of moving from one culture to another. Hoffman explained how she struggled with balancing her Polish culture with American culture. Laray Barna, one of the discussants, noted that she and other instructors have used this book in their multicultural classes with students from various countries.

Because of the holidays, we will not meet in December. Please join us in January for a discussion of the Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood. This book was suggested by Sally Jacobsen, our newest member, who is an expert on the novels by this author. It will be interesting to have her lead us in our discussion of this book. The RAPS book club will meet at 1:30 on Tuesday, January 16th, hosted by Sally. Further details will be provided in the January RAPS Sheet. The book selected for February is Saturday written by Ian McEwan, an award winning author.

Enjoy the holidays and keep reading!

Mary Brannan

RAPS HIKERS

On Friday November 17th, six hikers took a leisurely stroll through the Portland Riverplace area. There was actually sun and blue sky as we traveled on the streetcar from PSU to the end of Fareless Square at Riverplace. From there, we walked down to the tram and observed the construction of the tram and several of the condominiums. The new OHSU building was open with several areas open to the public. We walked back to Riverplace and had lunch at Stanfords. Larry’s wife Diane joined us for lunch, and we spent some social time at the restaurant before walking back to PSU.

There will be no hike in December because of the holidays. On the fourth Friday in January, we will hike 3 or 4 miles in the Springwater Corridor near Powell Butte and have lunch at a restaurant in Gresham. On the fourth Friday in February, we will hike a section near Vernonia of the Banks-to-Vernonia Linear Park, with lunch at a restaurant in Vernonia. We are open for restaurant recommendations for these hikes.

As both hikes are local, we will meet at 9:30am. More meeting information will follow in 2007. As we anticipate better weather in the spring, we will return to hiking in the woods with sack lunches when no restaurants are available.

If you have questions about the hikes or the hiking group, contact Larry Sawyer at 503-771-1616 or larrysawyer@comcast.net.

Larry Sawyer

RAPS ANNUAL DINNER
MULTNOMAH ATHLETIC CLUB
DECEMBER 21, 2006
RSVP to RAPS by DECEMBER 12

RAPS Hikers. L to R: Robert Pearson, Robert Tufts, Marge Terdal, and Mary and Laird Brodie
**RAPS PROGRAMS**

**DECEMBER EVENT**

Our Annual Holiday Dinner celebration is Thursday, December 21, at the Multnomah Athletic Club (MAC). It begins at 6:00 p.m. with a no-host bar (cash only), with dinner at 7:00. Entertainment, following dinner, will be provided by the PSU Jazz Studies program, which is under the leadership of Darrell Grant, jazz pianist and composer. So, come and enjoy some of PSU’s own.

You should have received a flyer around Thanksgiving about this event. Reservations are required, with a check payable to PSU Foundation, to be received at the RAPS office no later than December 12. Cost is $29.50 per person. As in the past, this cost is partly underwritten by RAPS for its members and guests. The invitation includes a selection of entrees.

The MAC is located at 1849 SW Salmon Street, with covered parking available. Dinner is in the Lownsdale Room, on the second floor. Please check in at the front reception desk. Cell phones must be kept quiet in the Club except for designated areas, such as hallways.

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM**

The second presentation of the current year was held November 16, in SMC 236, with light refreshments and thirty-some members and guests.

Our speaker was Dr. Robert C. Donnelly, Assistant Professor of History at Gonzaga University, who received his MA from Portland State University in 1997. Charles White, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, provided the introduction of his colleague and former advisee. He pointed out that Dr. Donnelly was an expert on Portland corruption, as well as on immigration.

Rob Donnelly acknowledged that Dr. Joseph Uris, Associate Professor of History, and Uris’s doctoral work on Portland’s corrupt practices inspired him. Rob noted that his own sources included the Oregon Historical Society, city archives, police and FBI files, presidential libraries, and tapes presented to him of illegal wiretaps.

Rob began his topic with the period 1948 to 1952, the time of reformist Mayor Dorothy McC. Lee but also of Portland’s reputation as a wide-open city for vice. His talk culminated with a discussion of the 1956 exposé in *The Oregonian*, in which James Elkins revealed the Teamster Union’s plans to take over Portland’s rackets. Elkins was known as Portland’s “Vice Czar” because he controlled much of the criminal activity in the city.

Elkins tried to work with the Seattle-based Teamsters’ Union, including agreeing with them on the need to corrupt city officials. He apparently became concerned, however, that the Teamsters might take over control from him. He therefore gave them a room in the King Tower, a building that he owned, and secretly recorded their conversations there. The resulting “King Tower Tapes” revealed the Teamsters’ involvement in criminal activity.

Rob traced a complex path of investigations and allegations from local, top-level public officials to a grand jury and the involvement of the Governor. The Federal Government became involved when Robert Kennedy came to Portland with the aid of Elkins. The local situation helped to bring about Kennedy’s Senate Hearings on labor racketeering, which eventually led to the convictions of national Teamster figures, Dave Beck and Jimmy Hoffa. Locally there were scores of indictments. Among those implicated were the police chief and the district attorney. Four charges against Mayor Schrunk, however, were dismissed. *The Oregonian* received a Pulitzer Prize for the story. Elkins’ death at sixty-seven in Nevada was, according to the coroner, caused by a “heart attack,” but there are persisting suspicions of foul play.

The question period involved Joe Uris and Charlie White. Discussion included the rivalry between the two daily newspapers and Elkins’ likely motive for his clandestine taping, namely to be able to blackmail Seattle racketeers moving in on his Portland operations.

*See picture on page 4*
A LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

This is my final issue of the RAPS Sheet. I have been your editor for three years, and it seemed to me time for me to move on to other activities. If this newsletter has been an interesting read for you, it is very much because of the contributors, the regular ones like the Presidents and Vice Presidents—Maxine Thomas, Richard Brinkman, Mary Brannan, Bruce Stern, and Robert Tufts, the reporters for the various RAPS activities, and the colleagues who have shared their travel experiences. Stan Johnson has brought us news from the world of crime fiction. Vic Dahl deserves special thanks for writing the obituaries for our colleagues who have left us. My thanks to all of them and to all our Office Managers, including the current Darshana Patel, who have prevented many a typo from being published.

Doug Swanson, who retired as director of the Office of Publications, will be your new editor, starting with the January issue. Doug, with his professional background, brings much more practical knowledge to the task than I did, three years ago. I am afraid that you had to endure my on-the-job training.

A number of us attended the last meeting of the Ferdinand Society in November. Ending it was a sad but necessary decision on the part of Scott Burns the president or “Matador.” What had begun as an exclusive social club for male faculty of the “greatest generation,” evolved into an inclusive club for faculty to socialize but also to listen to important outside speakers on socially significant issues. Attendance by working faculty dropped off drastically in recent years, mainly, according to Scott, because teaching faculty now have such heavy work burdens that they cannot afford the time to attend one luncheon a month, however rewarding and pleasant the experience. An overworked faculty and staff have had to deal with student load that has increased without a corresponding increase in their own numbers.

Something important has been lost to PSU beyond the demise of the Ferdinand. Eating lunch at the desk may be efficient in the limited sense of getting your work done, but it is isolating. A university is, ideally, a community, a place where people with different disciplines and occupations can socialize and exchange ideas. The life of the mind is demanding, but it requires leisure. Even before we had retired, most of us saw the workload increase and that feeling of community decline, and the process continues.

As editor of the RAPS Sheet I tried to help maintain your connection with the PSU community to which you dedicated so many years of your life. If you know ways in which that could be done better, please let your new editor, Doug Swanson, know.

In the meantime, my thanks to the RAPS Board and to RAPS members for letting me do work that I have really enjoyed.

John Cooper

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Coming Events

In January, we will tour the new Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. This facility at SW Fourth and College opened its doors last Winter Quarter. Please mark January 18, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

In February, our speaker will be Dr. Thomas Potiowsky, Professor of Economics at PSU former department chair of Economics, and, until this year, Oregon state economist. He will provide a talk on the state’s economy. Please mark February 15, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
OUR ACTIVITIES RETIREES - NELSON “TOMATO” TANEDO

Twice this year RAPS members have listened to retired faculty colleagues, Ladis Kristof and Basil Dmytrishin, tell the story of their escape from tyranny and the Second World War to arrive eventually at Portland State University. A member of the staff also experienced some of the horror of that war before a long journey to Portland State. Nelson Tanedo was a five-year-old boy in Luzon, in the Phillipines early in 1945 when the Americans were liberating it from Japanese occupation. One day he was walking down a tree-lined road with his aunt and two older sisters when an American plane overhead began a bombing run. They hid behind a tree, his aunt protecting Nelson. A bomb exploded nearby, killing the aunt, who died protecting him with her body.

We skip the next quarter of a century, to a time when Nelson was a married postmaster whose wife taught high school. Hoping to enjoy the American dream, they moved to Portland in 1972. They arrived unemployed, homeless, and friendless. Nevertheless, Nelson found employment, eventually working as a night auditor at a hotel. Successfully taking a civil-service examination, however, allowed him to work at Portland State University, where he worked for nineteen years. Many of us saw him in the men’s locker room in the gym where he worked Performance and later the Physical Plant. He was recipient of the “exemplary public service award.”

Now retired, he has taken up a new form of public service in the company of Roger Moseley, emeritus professor of Business. magician since he was a teenager, and Nelson as his clown assistant. They have performed between twenty and thirty shows a year. Roger estimates that in the course of some 150 performance, entertained some 4500 children. In addition to being Roger’s assistant and clown (using the stage name “Tomato”) Nelson has his own specialty, making balloon animals in front of the children as in the above photograph.

I had the opportunity to watch Roger and Nelson perform before about forty pre-school Head Start children. The children were completely absorbed in and delighted by the show. Instructed by Roger, “Dr. M.,” they shouted the magic word “Please” in order to make silk cloths disappear into eggs and a wooden egg become a real egg. Nelson’s clown act and his balloon act were big hits with the children. For half an hour, forty children with difficult lives were happily entertained. Nelson Taneda and Roger Moseley, like so many of our other retirees, use their new freedom to contribute to make Portland a better community.

John Cooper