

Litterae Societatis

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL SENIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
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Florida Fun in the Sun!!!

The cliches just keep coming along folks!

August is on its way. Now, you from the North may be asking yourself, "Why in the world would anyone go to Florida in August?" Some of you from the South could be asking the same thing. Well, there are several reasons. Most of them in Orlando, Miami, Tampa and the Keys.

However, as amazing as it may seem, there is more to the state than beaches, Backstreet Boys, hurricanes, and Disney World. People actually go to college there. Which means there are college campuses. Which means, there is a place for us to have convention. Will wonders never cease?

So, pack your bags kiddies. We're going to Tallahassee.

Sinister things are currently being planned to make you crave insane amounts of sugar and little

or no sleep. I have managed to break into the officer think tank (being that I am one) and sneak out some of blue prints.

Our vice-president, Arianne Baker, plans to corrupt the young ones as soon as possible. "I don't have anything very new planned. I am hoping to be able to do registration for Olympika on the computer but am still trying to work out those details. I would also like to get the newest SCLers as involved as possible so they feel welcome. And then, I am just hoping for everything to run smoothly."

For those planning political futures, avoid Reeeeeeebeca Rabenstien at all costs. Besides snapping pictures of our weakest moments, she holds evidence of past indiscretions. "My main thing is transporting the spiffy scrapbook that I am cur-

rently working on to Florida along with its brethren, the scrapbooks of yesteryears." I believe I heard something about bribes for destroying evidence.

Secretary, Rachel Ritchie, plans are still fairly veiled. When asked, she played innocent. "I humbly attempt to fill the shoes of great SCL secretaries of the past by taking witty minutes, which although they are likely never to be read in an assembly, they will at least amuse my successors. If Sara, Goddess of Computer Wisdom, shall see fit, I hope to write a little daily blurb aimed specifically at high school seniors in the *Convention Ear* about the raucous good times we have in SCL assemblies in the hopes more will join our dangerously cheesy league." Now, I, Sara Radosevich, editor, scoff

at the fact that she brings my name into this. I deny any wrongdoing or evil plans, except getting flunkies to do my bidding. But that's not the point here.

Brian "City Of" Compton (a.k.a. Mr. Bigglesworth*), parliamentarian wonderkid, listed his plans. "1. My own sheets (hey, it saves \$20). 2. Amendments, amendments, amendments. 3. Smooth elections. 4. A wacky road trip with my old crew, who I'd never go to convention without (sorry I'll miss the trip home). 5. Blowing lots of money on t-shirts."

For some odd reason, Steve Barnes of Ohio was there and blurted out. "Tell them I am living on the edge, but they'll have to go to convention to find out what I mean." You've all been warned. Come at your own risk.

HISTORIAN

Officer Notes



PLEASE! If anyone has pictures please send them to me to be immortalized in the scrapbook! I would be forever in your debt!!! Send to: 918 Taylor Tower, 50 Curl Drive, Columbus, OH, 43210

Rebecca Rabenstein

PRESIDENT

Convention packets are now available for Florida State! You can get your packet by sending \$50 deposit to the ACL. Total registration is going to be \$270 plus \$20 for an optional linen package. There's a limit of 1500 people this year, so make sure you register early. I hope to see you all there!

Peter Sommer

EDITOR

I would like to thank those of you who helped me out with this *Letter of the League*. I know I gave you all rushed deadlines and yet you came through. Thanks. I owe you.

Sara Radosevich

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Think about running for office. We need good candidates for everything. And if you want to run, contact the current officer. It can only help you.

Brian Compton

VICE-PRESIDENT

I need volunteers to be chairs for Olympika and Ludi events as well as the SCL Banquet and That's Entertainment. Interested SCLers should e-mail me (alb14@cornell.edu).

Arianne Baker

Did the Romans go to Disneyland?

A student's take on the *Ecce Romani* textbooks.

-- Melissa "Vesta" Gutierrez, Colorado SCL

Marcus oversleeps and misses seeing a slave get crushed by stone blocks falling off a cart. However, he is

In an anonymous high school in Colorado, Latin students add their own comments to their textbooks after purchasing them. After tutoring several lower-level students, I began to notice a central theme in their annotations to the full-page illustrations that begin each unit: Disney. Whether it was the famous quip "We're going to Disneyland!" or multiple instances of Disney characters cavorting with Roman children, the theme played itself out in book after book. Unable to convince Zack to let me borrow his book long enough to scan his annotations, I have included my own pristine copies with a short summation of the comments I've seen on each. Please note that the *Ecce Romani* books are copyrighted by Longman Publishing Group and the images are by Yao Zen Liu.

Book I-A: Meet the Family: The first book contains the greatest amount of visual clues to understanding the text. We meet the Cornelia family as they are in the final stages of the Publishers' Clearinghouse

multi-million sweepstakes. To ease the tense atmosphere, the children resort to amusement through mischief. Unit three introduces us to the Cornelia boys, Marcus and Sextus. To expend excess energy, they run around the garden pool until -- oops! -- a statue falls into the pool. Despite the great visual gag, the slave watching them is NOT amused and yells, "Abite, molesti!" This means, "You'll never go to Disneyland, you little maggot!" Sextus enjoys climbing trees, whether for personal amusement or because he's afraid of wolves. In unit four, we find him in a tree scaring his sister Cornelia. Before she can manage more than a frightful face, Marcus runs up and saves her. In anticipation of the media coverage, the Cornelia family leave their summer home on the Bay of Naples for Rome. Their slave Syrus is given the task of driving their luxurious carriage. In the back, the women are sleeping and Marcus is doing strange things to Cornelia with his foot. They are run



Murder at the happiest place on Earth? Can't be!

Dean!" **Book****I-B: Rome**

At Last: The Cornelia family are forced to stay in the Roman equivalent of a Motel 8 before they continue on to Rome. Mrs. Cornelia is dissatisfied with the apparent lack of housekeeping and informs the innkeeper that she nor her daughter will sleep in a bed that looks like it hasn't been changed since the rape of the Sabines. Her ideas on the quality of the inn are accurate. Overnight another dissatisfied customer kills Furby and disposes of him in a cart full of dung, lacking a dumpster. Once they arrive in Rome, it is bustling with more excitement and corrupting influences than if the children had seen Mickey Mouse take his head off!

jumped the same day by a couple of robbers. While Sextus hopes the one-armed man is really the one from "The Fugitive", Marcus wisely saves himself while being sat on with the line "Nihil pecuniae habeo" or "I'm underage." **Book II-A: Home and Family:** We discover that Romans enjoy the company of small animals. While Cornelia and her mother are riding in sedan chairs through the streets of Rome, they witness the sacred sport of pork chasing. Her mother, ever the composed Roman woman, conceals her delight. Other men, such as Pseudolus, run butcher shops so they can trade insolent comments with

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KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

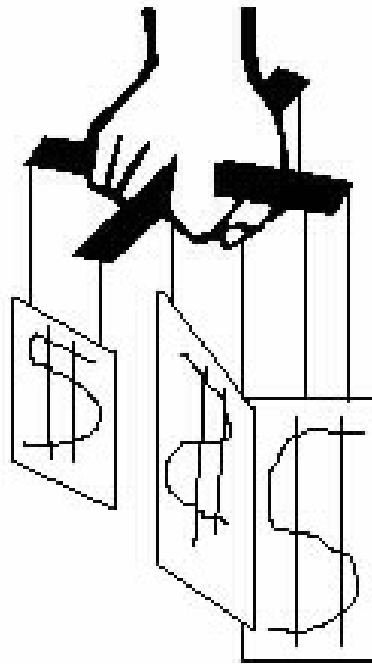
A famous Corleone once said, "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse." Well, the NSCL would like to do the same for you. Only there will not be a day that we ask something from you.

Every year NSCL offers three scholarships that are handed out during National Convention. If you are interested, all you have to do is one: take a few moments to request an application or general information and two: fill out the application. You could end up with some nifty stuff!

The first of the scholarships goes to a member who is entering his or her sophomore year in college and is majoring in Latin, Greek or Classical Studies. It is awarded based on monetary need and membership in SCL of the undergraduate.

The second is the \$300 Mark Schapler Memorial book award to the person

with the greatest financial need other than the recipient of the first scholarship. The third is the most sentimental. Thanks to the late Hal Rather, an active NSCL member and popular co-host of "That's Entertainment", a current member can receive a registration packet completely free of charge with the exception of transportation. Qualified persons must be dedicated to and active in SCL's role at Nationals, have attended at least one previous convention, be a primary or secondary member in good standing (secondary members must be full time students), and demonstrate financial need for the award to attend convention. This scholarship does not require the recipient to be a Classics major or held any national office.



These scholarships are under used. There is plenty of money is just waiting to be used. You would hurt its feelings if you don't make good use of it. You wouldn't want that to happen, now do you? Otherwise, we might just get a member of the "family" to convince you. After all, they are rich in history too...

To get an application or general information, contact:

Mrs. Susan Schearer
316 West Whitlock Ave.
Winchester, VA 22601.

The deadline to return an application is June 1st.

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fellow meat-eaters. We meet up again with poor Syrus (who was run off the road in book I-A) while he tries to purchase a fine ham. Pseudolus amuses himself by dangling a hare by its ears while he bargains with Syrus. It seems that the Disney references have slacked off somewhat (aside from the animals)but we find unit 39 leaves Sextus dreaming of Disneyland while his classmates give him the Vulcan death stare and Marcus shows his true Trekkie colors as Spock. My notes from this chapter have a quote from a student: "I have been sleeping...and cannot pay attention as such. Go away." Thus we can safely conclude that the Romans only dreamed of Disney.

Melissa "Vesta" Gutierrez was easily spotted during the Amherst convention wearing her garland of white flowers. She currently is wrapping up a year of forced exile at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA and may be reached via e-mail at highqueen@netscape.net. If you feel so inclined to see how the rest of the Ecce Romani books pan out or see the rest of the illustrations you can visit the Rants section of <http://listen.to/todcra>.



Florida

We just had one of our major events of the year- our SCL Certamen tournament. The overall winner was Leon High School of Tallahassee. Each member on the winning team of each of the three levels received a T-shirt. The SCLers had shirts similar to the JCLer except on the back, in big bold and black letters, "EVENT STAFF." For the first year, we also began a traveling trophy that turned out great. In only two years time, the tournament has become the biggest in Florida (next to state forum), and certainly the funnest to win. We also held an exhibition match: FSCL vs. teachers. It was one of the greatest matches I have EVER seen! Going into the final tossup, the SCLers were down 100-85. Guess what happened! Victory was never sweeter! We had State Forum April 9th, 10th, and 11th. We expected about 15 current SCLers to attend and continued to recruit new slashers. Like at nationals, our primary activity was That's Entertainment. Last year we took it over for the first time ever, and it was unbelievable. Florida's version of the national success had never before come near to the heights to which we brought it. Anyway, this year we looked forward to duplicating the success. We also helped out with the various Ludi.

Editor's Note: All text within this section is quoted directly from the source stated (with the exception of spellchecking). I apologize for any thing left out or misspelled. Thank you.

competitions, dances, and whatever sounded fun. If possible, though, I'd like to add more activities to our annual agenda.

-**Justin Ward, President**

Ohio

The Ohio Senior Classical League concluded another successful year in March with the end of the Ohio Junior Classical League Convention. Kudos go to Bryan Lakatos and Tom Cmar, along with all the hard working members of OSCL, for a wonderfully run Certamen on Saturday morning, and thanks to everyone for helping out all weekend. As always, Convention means saying goodbye to our members completing their first four years of membership, and this year we honored President Brian Compton, First Vice-President Bryan Lakatos, Editor Mark Holtman, and member-at-large Steve Barnes for their years of service and dedication to OSCL. Convention also means a new group of officers for next year, and OSCL couldn't have asked for better candidates. The new President is Rebecca Rabenstein of THE Ohio State University; First Vice-President is Chad D'Arcy, also of THE Ohio State University; Second Vice-President is Dave Lukens of Case Western; Treasurer is Vivian Liu, also of Case Western; Secretary is Rachel Liu, also of Case Western (and also of the Liu family); Parliamentarian is Heather Enlow, currently a

senior at Columbus School for Girls; the Co-Historians are Andrew Diroll from the University of Akron, and Amanda Moore, currently a senior at Columbus School for Girls; and Editor is Bryan Inderhees of Case Western. Finally, this year marked the end of term for State Chair and former Ohio and National SCL officer Kelli Glasser (formerly Kelli Brown). In her place, the sponsors of Ohio elected former NSCL Treasurer and President Melissa Burgess, who will serve as State Chair for a four-year term. Congratulations, and good luck to everyone. Now everyone is preparing for Nationals in August. Road trips will be made, fun will be had, and a new OSCL T-shirt will be sold at Bazaar this year. We'll see everyone in Florida!

- **Brian Compton, new OSCL "has-been."**

Colorado

Colorado SCLer Cassie Brownfield came down from mighty CU Boulder to help participate in a marathon reading of the Odyssey at David S. D'Evelyn HS in Golden, CO on 21 November 1998. "We did 18 of the 24 books," according to D'Evelyn JCL sponsor Pierre Habel, "which, all in all, isn't bad." The Colorado SCL is looking for more people! (No surprise.) Contact Dan Thiem at d_thiem@cc.colorado.edu for more information.

- **Melissa "Vesta" Gutierrez**

Georgia

Georgia, with new faces filling the leadership with new state co-chairs Liz "Boo" Bouis and Randy Fields, will continue the ritualistic tradition of state convention at the 4-H Rock Eagle campgrounds from April 24-26. With habitual attendance, GSCL plans to fill yet another cabin with stories of the past (remiscing on sightings of Fu), plans of the future (where we hope to spot Fu next), and the inevitable gossip (what Fu was or was not wearing). Little sleep, take-out food, and never-ever-have-I marathons will also make their way into the SCL nightlife. In the end, we'll have enough pictures to put on a web site, and also enough to compromise some political futures.

- **Marque Handler**

Indiana

Indiana SCLers did their regular duties as dutiful helpers at the two state Certamens. The first was January 23rd at Homestead High School and the second on February 20th at Carmel High School. Our state convention was held April 9th and 10th. There we did a little of everything: judging, registration, after-hour hall monitors, running Olympika events, helping with Certamen and being our sugar-induced selves. We also held our yearly business meeting in which we voted in our new officers.

- **Sara Radosevich**