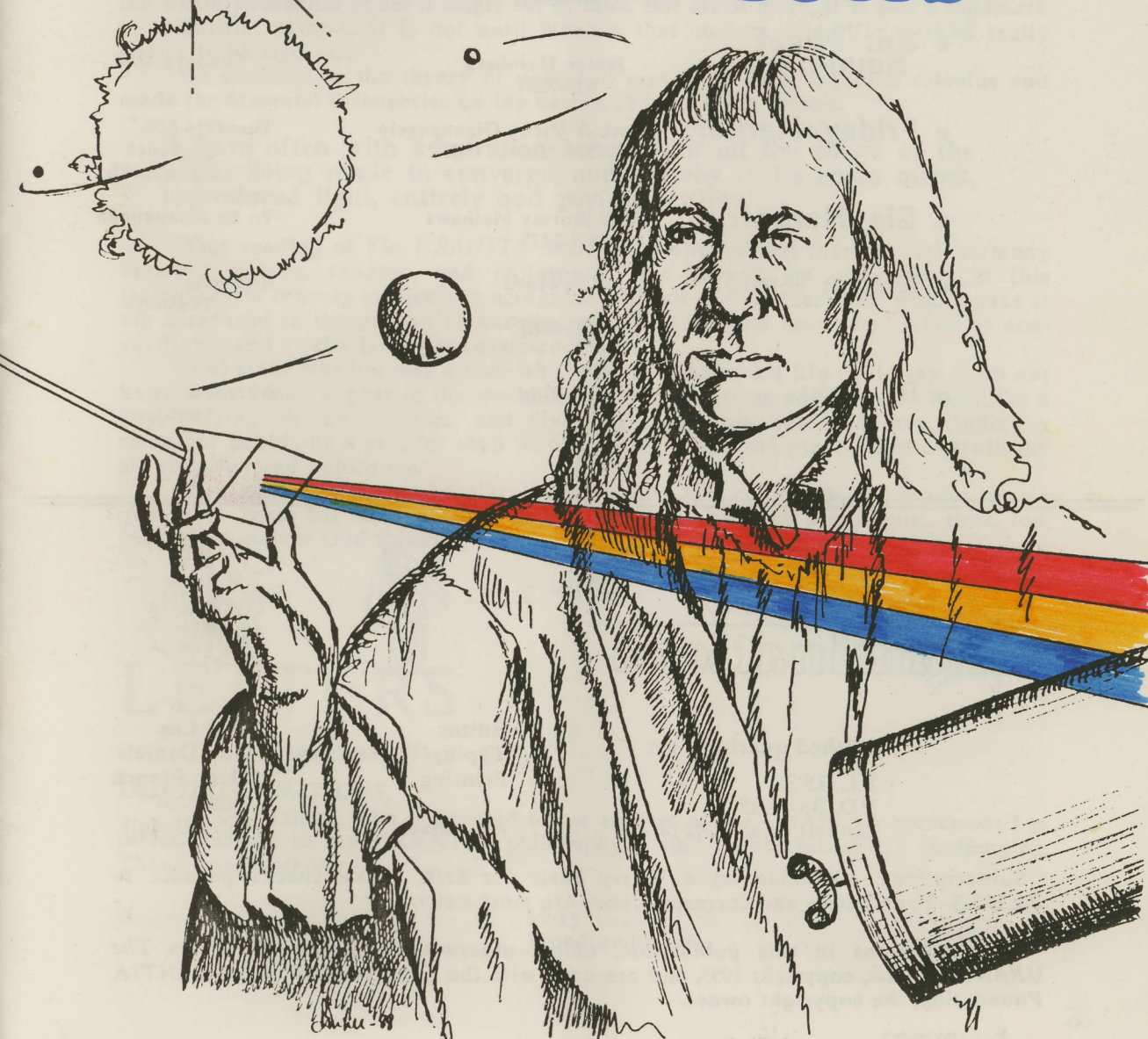


summer 1988

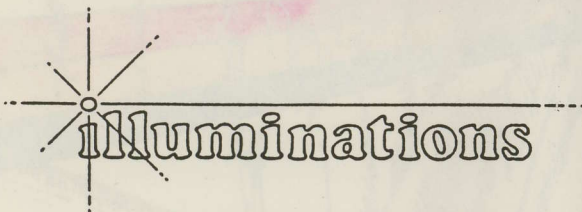
Publication of the Pilot Light URANTIA. Society of Seattle

illuminations



AREA STUDY GROUPS

- **Bothell:** Tony and Inez Finstad
10317 NE 190th ST.
Bothell, Wa.
485-8266 Thursdays 7:30
- **Everett:** Mark & Pat French
347-5817 Tuesdays 7:30
- **So. Puget Sound:** Janice Heinberg
824-7804 Sundays 7:00
- **Friday Harbor:** Frank & Vicky Giannangelo
378-4218 Tuesdays 6:00
(includes pot luck!)
- **Gig Harbor:** Jim & Stormy Mathews
851-2475 To Be Announced
- **Queen Anne:** Steve Crawford
285-4885 Alternate Tuesdays
- **Renton:** Steve Johnson
226-7403 Alternate Tuesdays



Published quarterly by:
P.L.U.S.S.
P.O. Box 1312
Bothell, Wa. 98041-1312

Editor
Typing/Typesetting
Printing
Addresses

Don Lee
Guy Daniels
Mark French
Don Lee
Sally Bedell

Subscriptions: Available on a yearly basis for \$5.00. Make checks payable to P.L.U.S.S. Your letters and correspondence are most welcome.

* All quotations in this publication, unless otherwise indicated, are from *The URANTIA Book*, copyright 1955, and are used with the permission of the URANTIA Foundation, the copyright owner.

Isaac Newton

Isaac Newton graces the covers for all *ILLUMINATIONS* issues this year. We find in him a noble representative of human scientific achievement, a symbol of one key component in the equation of science, religion and philosophy. We tend to think of him stereotypically as the one, whilst lazing under an apple tree one fine english summer day, who got bopped on the head with an apple and instantly uncovered the law of gravity. Actually, in his book *Principia* he layed down a virtual system of the universe incorporating gravity and the fundamental orbital curve of the ellipse. Jacob Bronowski said in *The Ascent of Man*, "As a system of the world, of course, it was sensational from the moment it was published. It is a marvelous description of the world subsumed under a single set of laws. But much more, it is also a landmark in scientific method... it is not until Newton that modern scientific method really begins to be rigorous."

In addition to the theory of universal gravity Newton invented calculus and made fundamental discoveries on the nature of light using prisms.

"I have often with admiration beheld that all the colors of the prism being made to converge, and thereby to be again mixed, reproduced light, entirely and perfectly white."

Our reading of *The URANTIA Book* has shown us that there is real harmony between science, religion, and philosophy. But haven't we often seen in this technological century a scientific arrogance and self-centeredness that would make it the spearhead in the pursuit of knowledge? Hasn't religion been condemned as non-verifiable and a relic from pre-renaissance days?

Yet Isaac Newton was a man who, near the end of his life could say: "I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem only to have been like a boy, playing on the seashore, and diverting, myself, in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

Newton was a man who, like Einstein after him could ask profoundly simple questions. What his work showed is that when the answers are simple... then, too, perhaps, you hear God thinking.



LETTERS

Dear *ILLUMINATIONS*,

A dear friend, who is devoted to the success of the URANTIA movement has introduced me to the URANTIA philosophy. I find it interesting and challenging. Thank you, Anthony.

Mary Turner
Woodinville, Wa.

...continued

Greetings from Vancouver,

The month of March was particularly interesting for the students of *The URANTIA Book* in the Vancouver/Victoria area. On March 3rd and 4th two members of the site selection committee, namely John Hales and Berkeley Elliott, for the URANTIA Brotherhood Triennial Conference, were in the Victoria/Vancouver area. On March 4th we were privileged to have them in the Vancouver area for a visit to the University of British Columbia. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to hearing from this committee because the Pacific Northwest is in the plans for the 1990 or 1993 brotherhood conference. The University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia are possible sites for this conference. This could mark the beginning of the first URANTIA Brotherhood conference outside of the United States.

Further to this story, we were delighted to find so many others also paying a friendly visit at this time. In all there were eleven visitors, ten from the U.S. and one from Victoria. In attendance were Berkeley Elliott, International Committee; John Hales, Secretary-General of URANTIA Brotherhood; John Lange, Charter Committee; Stephen Drier, Charter Committee; Thomas Allen, Domestic Extension Committee; Meredith and *Irene Sprunger, *Charter Committee. Also along for the trip and from Seattle were Inez Finstad, Mark French, Thomas Choquette, with Lenard Faller from Victoria. A get-together supper at a local cafe was planned for and took place shortly after this group looked over the meeting facilities at the University of British Columbia. Attending this supper were many of the long time URANTIA Book students from Vancouver and some recent newcomers to the group. Meredith Sprunger graciously gave thanks to our Father Christ Michael for the meal. The little precious time there was for fellowshiping with so many long time friends was greatly treasured by those in attendance. All the visiting guests were accommodated in suites at the Walter Gage Residence, University of British Columbia.

The next day on Saturday March 5th our friends left for Seattle where a charter ceremony took place to inaugurate the PILOT LIGHT URANTIA SOCIETY of SEATTLE. The master of ceremonies for the evening was the most efficacious Anthony Finstad, now the President of P.L.U.S.S. This was one of the great episodes of the Pacific Northwest and was well attended by invited and not so invited persons. By this I mean, if you can visualize about eighty persons gathered together in a large upper room on the quiet ocean's edge, in a semi-formal setting and late into the evening, as some were preparing to swear allegiance to our Heavenly Father to do his will in goodness through the mandates of a Society. Just before the formal presentations began there was a **LOUD**, window rattling, floor-shaking racket coming up from below this room. One wonders if it is an earthquake of the seraphic transport preparing to transport us to another planet! It was not long before we began to discover that this deafening noise would be with us to the end of the night. Little to anyone's prior knowledge did we know that we were to become sandwiched between the decadence of "muscle music" from below and the glories from on high above. However, this untimely scene was saved by the good-natured and humorous Hoite Caston (Trustee-URANTIA Foundation) who happened to be just about ready to deliver his speech, and as he so began, "*he picked up the beat.*" And once again as God so wills it, we found ourselves learning "those lessons of patience, altruism, tolerance, and forbearance which are so essential to the realization of brotherhood among men." (*pg.941)

God speed in all your undertakings, P.L.U.S.S, from such an inception into such an intriguing future on this planet URANTIA.

4
Nathen and Kasandra Jansen
Garibaldi Highlands, British Columbia

THE COUPLES ENHANCEMENT WEEKEND

"FLY ME TO THE MOON
AND LET ME PLAY AMONG THE STARS
LET ME SEE WHAT SPRING IS LIKE
ON JUPITER AND MARS
IN OTHER WORDS....
HOLD MY HAND

FILL MY HEART WITH SONG
AND LET ME SING FOR EVERMORE
YOU ARE ALL I LONG FOR
ALL I WORSHIP AND ADORE
IN OTHER WORDS
PLEASE BE TRUE
IN OTHER WORDS
I LOVE YOU..."

-Bart Howard

by Anthony Finstad

Very nice! A meaningful and fun three days that involved eight couples who gathered at Camp Gilead in Carnation, Wa. It's a peaceful conference site under the cedar trees and along the Snoqualmie river shoreline. We occupied a rustic nine bedroom lodge complete with a large meeting/lounging room and a well used (and much needed) wood burning stove.

The mini-conference theme was "Enhance, Enrich, Renew". It was a non-confronting format of quality sharing, information, and good humor. Perhaps we all experienced a greater awareness of that elusive balance required for effective partnerships. Workshops were led by Gwen Blackham, Jannie Choquette, and Inez Finstad, the three women who did such a super job in organizing this spiritually guided encounter. Presentations were also given by Janet Farrington and Tom Choquette.

Each couple had an opportunity to lead a group worship session with helpful and sincere expressions of what has been of lasting value within their relationship.

There was time for relaxation, play time (ping-pong, volleyball, basketball) and time for couples to be alone together (without children interruptions).

On Saturday evening we experienced a hay ride on a flat bed trailer with a couple mounds of wet straw that was pulled by a loud and stinky tractor. The big old wooden wagon pulled by a team of clydesdales was a difficult exercise in creative imagination. It was, however, a unique experience and a good laugh.

Other events included a group Guided Adjuster Meditation that was nicely orchestrated by Gwen. There was spontaneous singing in vivid harmony (kinda-sorta) to the sounds of a well worn cassette tape of Abbey Road. And, of course, what romantic northwest cozy encounter would be complete without the evening bon fire and marshmallow roasting.

...continued

There's more, but you've got the basic idea of the first annual PLUSS Couples Enhancement Weekend. With an overwhelming positive response and a desire to incorporate the children, there will undoubtedly be a family retreat on the events calendar before the year is over. Thanks again to all those who participated and helped create such a valuable service. It's certainly our Father's Will to build better relationships with the ones we love so dearly.

by Janet Farrington

by Keith Graham-Davis

The opportunity to fly away with my partner for a weekend of loving and learning was a wonderful experience. Not only did we learn about each other more intimately, we were able to share the joys and frustrations of partnership with other Urantia couples. We clarified our vision and renewed our dedication to each other as partners and as brothers and sisters committed to the Father's will. Keith reflected these feelings and thoughts in a love letter he wrote to me during a workshop, which I would like to share as a tribute to a beautiful weekend.

Another Planet
Another Age
1,000,000 years from now:

Janet and Keith have taken up their new assignments as members of a Planetary Prince's Corporeal Staff on one of the evolving worlds of time and space. After having volunteered for the job and having been accepted, they are transported to this young world to live among the dawn races of men, to minister to them and uplift them, to support them in their long evolutionary ascent to civilization.

They have new bodies - material bodies with dual circulating systems - that allow them to live for thousands, nay, hundreds of thousands of years as long as they eat of the fruit of the tree of life, that wonderful shrub of Eden which stores up cosmic energies in its fruits and sustains all who have the "breath of life" in their bodies.

They begin their new adventure by sitting down to review their personal histories and their past association together. They begin with their apparent chance meeting in Washington at a Urantia conference in August, 1986 and recount their subsequent earth lives together. They remember the following things/events among others:

- * How they came to love and desire one another;
- * How they decided to devote themselves to making a family and building a home together;
- * Their children and how they raised them to be courageous, loving ministers to humanity;
- * Their joint efforts to uplift the spiritual, political, and social consciousness of their fellow mortals on the planet of their nativity;
- * Their transition to the mansion worlds and morontia estate and their ages of study and service on the long path to Jerusem.

Imagine what they must have said to one another as they began their new assignment.

MALE AND FEMALE MADE HE THEM

No longer is it sufficient to say
"My life".
Forever afterward and henceforth will we gladly
think and say
"Our life and "our lives".
We are gifts to one another and when
through human frailty we forget,
We will forgive, for we know that nothing will ever sever
the bond
that holds our hearts and links our spirits.
Not another heart
For love never behaves unseemly
Nor has a sharpened edge which cuts;
Not death, which for all its grim exterior
Is only the kiss of sleep that precedes
the bright, eternal morning of our immortality.
Not the gods, for they have made us male
and female
And knowing our infirmities, have ordained
our need to hold ourselves
Inextricably linked
One to another
Forever.

Many thank-you's come to mind; to the Father who offers to us infinite love; to Keith for sharing his love with me; and to all who shared their time and energy to make the Couple's Enhancement Weekend a resounding success. And thanks especially to the organizers - Inez, Jannie, and Gwen.



THE CHARTER CEREMONY

MARCH 5, 1988

"WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO STUDY THE URANTIA BOOK, TO STRIVE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS TEACHINGS IN OUR HEARTS AND LIVES AND TO CARRY THESE TEACHINGS TO THOSE WITH WHOM WE COME INTO CONTACT. WE WILL COOPERATE AS WE ARE ABLE IN THE PROMOTION OF THE INTERESTS OF THE BROTHERHOOD AND IN THE DISSEMINATION OF THE TEACHINGS OF THE URANTIA BOOK. TO THESE ENDS WE DEDICATE OUR EFFORTS IN THE WORK OF THE URANTIA SOCIETY."

...continued

After more than a year of trial status and service, the Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle was officially chartered on March 5th. In his speech Lew Clark of Wenatchee compared our young society to a newly launched ship as it left port for thrilling voyages. Embark we did, thanks to a host of people who helped in the planning and participatory stages of our ceremony. Proper fanfare was supplied by the discotheque below us.

Wasn't it fun to see everyone all dressed up? We may not see such group formality for quite some time. Anthony Finstad, president of PLUSS, positively shone in the role of master of ceremonies, guiding the program through unexpected twists and turns.

The Ballard Elks Club provided a worthy salmon dinner - the end of which was enriched by the delightful piano stylings of Guy Daniels. Tom Allen from Oklahoma and the newlywed, newly returned from Hawaii Sally Kreisher sang songs accompanied by guitar. Queen Anne's own Steve Crawford demonstrated considerable theatrical abilities as he led the "not ready for Havona Time Players" (Pat French in spirit, Mark French, Patricia Martin, and Sally Kreisher) through a series of skits. Tom Choquette, an invaluable aid to PLUSS in its formative months, led us in an eloquent prayer.

Lew Clark of the Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington led the speakers and was followed by Anthony Finstad who read his own piece of poetic prose "Eternal Light". Representing the trustees of the URANTIA Foundation was Hoite Caston of Los Angeles. Hoite did a nice job of explaining the whys and wherefores of Foundation activities. He deserves special recognition for it was during his speech that the thunderous din from below began, never to abate. We were all aghast, and thinking "Will this continue!? Is the evening ruined?" Certainly we re-discovered what a little patience and tolerance can do. The Pilot Light illuminated our way as we plowed through all apparent obstacles.

And, of course, we had other fish to fry. Up until then we were no more a real URANTIA society than the Daughters of the American Revolution of any other group. But with the help of Charter Committee chair Steve Dreier of New Jersey, we got the job done. After a few short words of introduction Steve, via the Pledge of Dedication, initiated the 18 founder members. These are special people and deserve to be mentioned here:

Anthony Finstad
Roy Benjamin
Inez Finstad
Patricia Martin
Don Lee
Mark French

Tom Choquette
Jannie Choquette
Janet Farrington
Keith Graham-Davis
Richard Hudson
Ted Avasian

Mark Blackham
Gwen Blackham
Jim Cunningham
Steve Crawford
Guy Daniels
Sally Kreisher

Don Lee, acting for Roy Benjamin conducted a similar initiation for the 8 charter members. These are also special people and they are:

Mary Cunningham
Lilia Avaria
Patricia French
Lyman La Pas

Andrew Gee
Neil Riggs
Ed Hanson
Jim Brown

No charter ceremony would be complete without a personal touch and who better equipped to do just that than Gwendolyn Blackham. Gwen led us all in a remembrance - referring to the words of Jesus spoken at the last supper.

The balance of the evening was for meeting new and old friends and for sharing in the happiness that goes with the addition of a new society into the URANTIA Brotherhood.

PLUSS membership would like to thank those people present in any combination of body, mind, and spirit who offered words and thoughts of congratulations on behalf of other URANTIA societies and organizations. In addition, it was certainly enjoyable to acquaint ourselves with so many out of town guests. Thank you for your support and for sharing this special time with us.



**"NOW THAT THE DESTINIES OF HEAVEN AND EARTH HAVE BEEN FIXED;
TRENCH AND CANAL HAVE BEEN GIVEN THEIR PROPER COURSE; THE
BANKS OF THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED;
WHAT ELSE SHALL WE DO?
WHAT ELSE SHALL WE CREATE?
OH ANUNAKI, YOU GREAT GODS OF THE SKY, WHAT ELSE SHALL WE
DO?"**

-Assyrian account of the creation of Man, 800 B.C.

THE P.L.U.S.S. QUESTIONNAIRE

Here are the results of the questionnaire which was forwarded to all PLUSS members last spring. The response was very good and tolerance of the more inane questions was laudable. Hopefully this will serve as a barometer of what membership is thinking concerning actual and potential projects. For example: The couples enhancement weekend was very well received. In question number eight interest in fairs was substantial, but when cross-checked on question 17, fairs rated last in importance. Also the idea of society service to the community was generally popular. But reading through the individual responses to this question suggests potential controversy.

Enjoy drawing your own conclusions, and thanks for your responses which made this project a success.

1. The bookstore project has been in place for several months now. Do you support this form of outreach?

Yes: 20 No: 0

Do you approve of the manner in which it has been organized?

Yes: 19 No: 0

If not, how could it have been more effectively done?

- Send periodic reminders. **1**

...continued

2. At our society meeting April 10th a library outreach project will be proposed. Do you approve of such a project?

Yes: 19 No: 0 Maybe: 1

- Propose first, then decide. 1

Are you interested in participating in it?

Yes: 17 No: 2

Do you have any suggestions for its effective implementation?

- Use same format as bookstore placement (4).
- Keep to a simple structure (1).
- Use a computer list (1).
- Limit the time of the project (1).
- Seattle Public Library already has it (1).
- Have only 3-5 members involved (1).

3. Do you think Lt. Col. Oliver North is an American Hero?

Yes: 3 (1-unfortunately) No: 2 Other: 1

He represents the worst this country has to offer: 12

4. Recently, certain members of PLUSS organized the "Couples Enhancement Weekend". If you participated, how would you characterize that experience?

Resounding Success: 12

Pretty good: 1

Average: 0

Could have been better: 0

Dismal failure: 0

Other: 0

Would you be interested in a follow-up weekend at some future time?

Yes: 14 No: 0

How might this follow-up weekend improve upon and become an extension of the last one?

- More free time to reflect (2)
- Longer weekend (2)
- Include children (2)
- Have projected goals (2)
- Moonlight madness couple exchange (1)
- Let's do it every 6 months (1)
- Explanation of worship (1)
- More prayer and group worship (1)
- Have a *real* horse and wagon hayride (1)
- Have more substance to complement idealism (1)
- Have more couples workshops (1)

5. Would you be interested in a possible "family retreat" at which family relationships and spiritual growth would be explored?

Yes: 14 No: 1

Do you have any initial suggestions as to how such a retreat could be conducted?

- Include children and family in on planning (4)
- Have a parenting seminar with questions and answers....etc. (2)

- Include family prayer/worship (2)
- Put wife and children on a raft, go 500 miles downstream and wait (1)
- I want to help plan!!! (1)
- Use the same locale (1)
- Include father and children in planning (1)

6. Many of you are aware that several of our members are expecting children later this year, specifically in June, July, August, and September. Each due date is almost exactly four weeks apart. To what do you attribute this?

- Divine intervention (7)
- The couples concerned met with each other and drew straws (3)
- The couples concerned met with each other and drew partners (1)
- The work of the Devil (1)
- The tea served at the study groups (1)
- Keeping up with the Jones' (1)
- Drugs used in the early 70's (1)
- Lots of lovemaking last fall (1)
- "Hot" fall weather (1)
- New pregnancy virus with four week incubation period (1)
- Men are all animals (1)
- The growing of a new society (1)
- No birth control at the key moment! (1)
- The moon (1)
- The water (0)

7. Would you like to see PLUSS membership involved in more social activities and functions?

- Yes: 15 No: 2
 - So far, so good !

If so, what sort of activities? Here is a partial list, feel free to add to it.

- Hikes (12)
- Overnight camping trips (12)
- Canoe trips (10)
- Softball games (9)
- A softball team/league competition (9)
- Christmas caroling (9)
- Barbecues (9)
- Self-improvement workshops (1)
- Movies (1)
- Parties (1)

8. When discussing methods of outreach, the subject of fairs often comes up. Do you think PLUSS should be involved in a fair, trade show or similar event which promotes *The URANTIA Book*?

- Yes (14)
- Not sure (2)
 - We need to learn how to talk about the UB
- No (1)
 - We don't have enough eloquent speakers

If yes, what sort of events might be suitable?

- Book fairs (12)
- County fairs (10)
- Psychic fairs (10)
- Western Washington fair (9)
- County fairs, leading up to the Puyallup fair (2)
- Art shows (1)

...continued

- Any place we can (1)
- Any event where book sales are normal (1)
- Religious and/or philosophical meetings (selected individuals) (1)
- New age events (1)
- Religious fairs (1)
- Bumbershoot, Folklife festival (1)

9. As was noted at our charter ceremony, Washington is one of only three states that have more than one URANTIA society. How can we better interact with the Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington to promote our common goals?

- Regular meetings
 - Quarterly (3)
 - Bi-annually (1)
 - Annually (1)
- Officers keep in touch (3)
- Social activities (3)
- Work together at fairs and other projects (3)
- Include them (2)
- Not sure, but *yes* (1)
- Have retreats with them (1)
- Discuss goals (1)
- Visit Wenatchee (1)
- Support their activities (1)
- Get *NW Reflections* (1)
- Networking (1)

An October follow-up to last year's Seabeck Conference is being discussed. Are you interested in attending?

Yes: 15 No: 1 Maybe: 3

At last year's Seabeck Conference, a Regional Resource and Service Center was proposed. Such a center would service the entire northwest region and possibly sponsor a regional newsletter, and provide access to study aids, tapes, and other secondary works. In addition, a directory of talent and services would be available for special programs and conferences.

Do you support the concept?

Yes: 17

- Rotate responsibility

No: 1

- Is this redundant with what the societies do?
- Needs clarification

What can we do to bring this project to fruition?

- Work (5)
- Need leadership/committee (4)
- Put the facility in someone's basement (2)
- Use those people really interested (2)
- Create the talent list (2)
- Communication (1)
- Need to collect dues (1)
- Use a personal computer (1)
- Collect contributions of publications, tapes, secondary works (1)
- Use *ILLUMINATIONS* (1)

10. Do the Seattle Mariners have a chance of success in 1988?

- Define "success" (5)
- Not with the history of silly trades they've made. (5)
- Who are the Mariners? (5)
- Yes (3)

...continued

- Are you kidding? With George Argyros as the owner? (2)
- Maybe, but Mike Moore has got to show up this year. (2)
- Define "chance" (1)

11. *ILLUMINATIONS* is our quarterly publication, what can be done to improve it?

- So far so good (8)
- Shorter articles (3)
- More input/participation (3)
- Smaller type - less cost (2)
- Keep the editor (2)
- Articles other than rehashes of the UB (2)
- Scientific reports and the UB (1)
- More diverse articles (1)
- Photographs (1)
- Some stimulating controversy (1)
- Shared articles with other publications (1)

12. I've heard foreign readers comment on several occasions that American readers are largely uninformed about readers and activities outside of North America. To whatever extent this may be true, how can we facilitate communications with readers abroad so that the Fifth Epochal Revelation continues to be a planetary phenomenon and not strictly an American one?

- Via *ILLUMINATIONS* (6)
- Pen pals (5)
- Take trips - travel at group rates (3)
- We need to know what groups and who is where (1)
- Communication (1)
- Spiritualize ourselves and it will happen (1)
- Here Here! (1)
- Get midwayers to convey messages (1)
- Faith (1)
- Trade newsletters (1)
- Send them our constitution (1)
- Send our list of projects (1)
- Send our study group formats (1)
- Alert travelers (1)
- Go to international conferences (1)
- Remind ourselves (1)

13. How interested are you in who we elect as delegate and alternate to the upcoming Triennial Delegate Assembly?

- Extremely (10)
- Moderately (10)
- No (0)
- Undecided (0)

Are you concerned that we have representation on the Urantia Brotherhood General Council?

- Extremely (9)
- Moderately (6)
- No (3)
- Undecided (3)
- We need experience (1)
- We're still getting organized (1)

14. Beyond promotion of *The URANTIA Book*, should PLUS be involved in service to the community?

- Yes (14)
- No (5)

If no, explain.

- Its up to individuals to do it (3)
- Study groups should deal with it (2)
- PLUSS is political arm of the Brotherhood (1)
- Other groups should do it (1)
- We should stick to the purpose in our constitution (1)
- PLUSS can assist individual efforts (1)
- See Pg. 1091 P. 3 (1)
- See Pg. 1092 "Through..." (1)
- We should be concerned with spiritual matters only (1)

Should PLUSS ally itself with an existing service organization or social cause? If so, which one?

- Would the disciples have joined the Kiwanis or Lions? (6)
- Elderly visits (4)
- Big brothers & sisters (3)
- Food banks (3)
- The homeless (2)
- Alcoholics anonymous (2)
- Foster children (1)
- Single parents (1)
- Special olympics (1)
- Donations - like at Christmas (1)
- Hospital visits (1)
- Elderly housing (1)
- Abused children (1)
- Hospice (1)
- Let group wisdom operate (1)
- Be diversified (1)
- Let's not get too focused - variety (1)
- Do good "as we pass by" (1)
- Start one from scratch (1)
- Don't be too diffuse (1)

How else could PLUSS effectively serve in the community?

- Disseminate *The URANTIA Book* (3)
- Personal service (1)
- Teen group at Whirleyball (1)
- A house of worship (1)
- Youth summer program (1)
- Be careful - focus (1)
- See Pg. 1091 p. 8 (1)
- Serve our membership (1)

15. Think back to the night of our Charter Ceremony. Remember the awful noise that came from downstairs? What did it remind you of?

- Exactly what it was, cupcake; a befuddled mass of sexually desperate youngsters immersing themselves in a maze of alcohol and disco music. (7)
- Bill Cosby's "The Chicken Heart" (3)
- Its as if we heard the rumblings of the great ships engines as the newly launched URANTIA society headed out to sea. (3)
- It was a contrast to our spiritual serenity (1)
- A Pre-school headache (1)
- It symbolizes our future challenges (1)
- I'm still vibrating (1)
- All of the above (1)

16. Raising sufficient money will probably be a matter to be dealt with periodically. In addition to our recent membership pledge drive, how else can we financially support our activities?

- Dues (11)
- Dinners (3)
- Entertainment (3)
- Bake sale (2)
- Sell bookmarks/books (2)
- Group investment in socially responsible funds (2)
- Garage sales (2)
- Car wash (1)
- Work parties (1)
- Auctions (1)

17. Here is a list of the topics previously mentioned. Rate each in terms of the need, importance, and significance to PLUSS by putting one number next to it. (5 = very important, 4 = important, 3 = so-so, 2 = not very, 1 = forget it) *Totals are presented here in descending order of importance.*

- Bookstore project (86)
- *ILLUMINATIONS* (86)
- Library project (85)
- Collaborations with Evergreen Society (76)
- Urantia movement as a trans-national phenomenon (74)
- Fund raising (71)
- Community service (69)
- Triennial Delegate Assembly/General Council (69)
- Couples enhancement and follow-up family retreat (68)
- Society social functions (66)
- Regional resource center (66)
- Fairs (54)

18. Inevitably, I probably overlooked a topic of two, or perhaps you feel there are other area(s) which PLUSS could address. This is your space, have at it.

- Organize a regional conference in 1989 (3)
- Networking (2)
- Some of these questions were biased towards assumed answers (2)
- Establish outreach goals with each member. (2)
- New meeting place as society grows (2)
- Have society meeting with barbecue, more fellowship, more attendance (2)
- We need stronger ties with other societies and readers (1)
- Society is an extension of the Brotherhood, let's remember that (1)
- Should be one goal, spread teachings of *The URANTIA Book*, no sidetracks (1)
- Share skills and talents (bartering) (1)
- Once a month men's night/women's night (1)



"DID YOU KNOW THAT AT THIS VERY MOMENT YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY ETERNITY AND THAT YOU CAN USE THIS ETERNITY FOR ANY PURPOSE YOU WISH?"

"LOOK THERE, ETERNITY IS THERE!", HE SAID, POINTING TO THE HORIZON.

**-Don Juan
From *Journey to Ixtlan***

TIME TO PONDER

by Mark Blackham

Just think! In only six thousand five hundred and thirty eight years it will be an even one million years since this planet was proclaimed inhabited. Andon and Fonta were the first recognized humans. This momentous celebration takes place in the year 8526 A.D.

How far away is 6538 years? Can we conceive how human life will appear in the 86th century? To most of us the year 2000 A.D. looked far in the future and the year 3000 A.D. has only been speculated upon by the writers of science fiction. And, like these writers, some of us may see a future of tremendous advances while others see only desolation and destruction. It is true that none but God can know for certainty what the future holds. Nevertheless, for us there is a method of imagining the time span of 6500 years and, to some degree, to be able to visualize the life of the future. Let's look the other way, look back 6500 years. From this point in the past we can look forward to see the advances which have already come to pass. Fortunately for us we not only have the records of anthropology but also the invaluable knowledge of *The URANTIA Book*. If we would trace the fingerprints of man back 6500 years when would we arrive and what would we see? The year is 4550 B.C.

At this point in time mankind has occupied the planet for approximately 987,000 years. The pace of progress, for the most part, has been slow and tedious. Major developments of civilization, with the exception of divine intervention, have been few and far between. The times just before and after 4550 B.C. are, however, exciting times. The mighty Andites, born of the blend of Adamite and Nodite, have been pouring out of the middle east for the last 22,000 years. Moving from their Eurasian home they began to influence, by race and culture, most of the world populations of colored (Sangik) and aboriginal (Andonite) peoples. Unfortunately, their movements were slow and much of their contribution was lost over the long periods of migration. By 7000 B.C., however, the Andites had discovered two lethal weapons which would ensure their legacy, the horse and the bow and arrow. On the backs of these fleet animals and with weapons unmatched, they raced over the north end of the Caspian Sea and on into Europe. The Aryan invasion of Europe was swift and sure. The blue men (Cro-Magnon) of Europe and western Russia were quickly annihilated or absorbed by these intelligent and ruthless warriors. The northern Andites made their military headquarters in Denmark from which point they conquered Europe. After a bitter 500 year battle the last of the Cro-Magnon perished under the sword of Thor, the commander of the Armies of the North. This new union of Andite and Blue heralded the emergence of the northern white races about 7000 years ago.

More Andites, driven by floods from Mesopotamia, had entered Egypt. This was the start of a "brilliant epoch of culture" and the first of the stone pyramids was built. Civilization blossomed in China and this was the advent of metalworking and manufacture among these intelligent and more peaceful people.

So the stage of modern man is set and history begins. By 4500 B.C. the dispersion of the Andites is almost over. The new races of man, much as they are today, have begun the first true civilizations of their own making. This is where written history begins with the dynasties of China, the pharaohs of Egypt, the Sumerians of Mesopotamia. Looking forward from this point we see the rise and fall of countless empires and city-states. Some to last only 20 years while others 1000 years. How many empires will have come and gone 6500 years from today? How far will mankind progress?

... continued

In some ways it appears as though there is no progression at all while in other ways man seems very progressive. When we compare the progress of man over the past 980,000 years to that of the last 20,000 years, and especially the last 2,000 years, the advancement is truly remarkable. Imagine yourself to be an Andite warrior riding through the salubrious and lush green forests of Europe. Could you possibly conceive of the cities of today? Let alone the life styles, government, technology, and religion of those future inhabitants. What does the future hold for us? What kind of unimaginable cities will there be?

The URANTIA Book offers us not only many lessons from the past from which to shape our uncertain future but also offers many tidbits of revelation which could be used to construct a society of the future. As we emerge from the stage of Trivial Living to the Cosmic citizens we begin to see the Big Picture. A study of history and *The URANTIA Book* enables us to push our horizons of understanding beyond our wildest dreams. As Universe Citizens we are able to think of the future of our children's children's children and further. We realize that only those decisions which are for the good of all are good enough. As the more progressive individuals of the human race tune in with the Spirit of Truth and with the Spirit of the Father, decisions are made which enhance all of living for all of the people. *The URANTIA Book* offers us a unique view of the history of mankind, a history unaffected by our own written records. The overview supplied by this revelation puts human history into perspective, giving the quality of life a value and the purpose of life a new meaning. Exploration of the History of Urantia is a valuable lesson indeed.

What will have become of humans on their one millionth anniversary? Whatever the future holds for man on this planet we, as individual participants, have only a relatively short time to play an active part in that progression. After that we, along with Andon and Fonta, will have to wait and see.



TRÜMMELBACH FALLS

by Don Lee

The metaphor of water and spirit is certainly not a novel idea to the human mind. Countless people have seen in water and its interaction with the natural world a variety of spiritual meanings and connotations. Jesus himself used the analogy when speaking of the waters of the Living Spirit springing up to eternal life and also of the forthcoming spirit of truth so soon to be poured out upon this planet. Years ago this idea was brought to me most graphically by way of a slide-tape created by a friend of mine, Jamie Wakefield, through a series of images set to "water music". He showed the gradual progression of water from mountain top snow and ice as it melted and meekly began its journey to the sea. Quickening into rivulets and streams it cascaded with ever increasing power and glory through an infinity of paths to its eventual reunion with itself. The music of the quickening water sang a song of the eventual triumph of the spirit.

...continued 17

TIME TO PONDER

The Lauterbrunnen valley in central Switzerland is a stunning natural achievement. Surely it must be the archetype for all U-shaped glacial valleys. Set beneath the famed alpine summits of the Jungfrau and the Eiger, Lauterbrunnen boasts sheer vertical granite walls which suddenly yield to the pastoral valley floor. And herein lies a great secret to alpine charm: The warm interaction of man with the environment. Alaska, for example, is no less a spectacular natural wonderland, a host to unbelievable beauty. It, however, is so vast and so newly a part of our collective consciousness. As western man runs out of frontiers to dominate, he interacts feverishly with the beauty. Indeed, the Alaskan land is so great and extensive that it takes on a lonely quality.

The Alps, on the other hand, sport charming 1,000 year old towns, the varied stamps of many types of people amidst all the richness that a farming environment provides. On the Lauterbrunnen valley floor you can hear the haunting melodies of countless cowbells as an elderly woman bicycles home from town. Outdated toy-like tractors slowly work the land as the mountains vault overhead.

Certainly this natural beauty is augmented by man's graceful presence and from that union emerges a cozy, beckoning warmth.

Oh, to burrow deep within it as would a child snuggling and squirming to reach the bottom of the bed.

The Michelin Green Guide, which is always right, gives the valley three stars. A three star location is a must see; two are virtually as good, and there is interest aplenty in any place sporting one star. Most locales don't get any at all. Trummelbach Falls, we were told, also has three stars and as we traversed the valley floor we expected at any moment to see the grandest water fall of all time cascading thousands of feet down into the valley amidst a roar reminiscent of invading vandals and huns. Surely the glaciers of the Jungfrau would join to produce a waterfall equal to the majesty of the valley.

Nothing.

We parked, paid our 2 francs to the little man, and walked right up to the sheer vertical wall of the valley over which, if I were a waterfall, I would be plummeting.

Still nothing.

"Well, it is Friday. Maybe they turn off the waterfalls in Switzerland on Friday. Exactly what is going on here? Do we have to climb out of the valley and see this thing half way up the mighty Jungfrau?"

In Switzerland, never does one have to toil for long to see its magnificent sights. The Swiss have built a variety of rack-railways and cable cars to take tourists to places previously thought totally inaccessible. In this case, a strange combination of elevator and railway takes you 400 feet up inside the valley wall at a 45 degree angle to where the real action is.

For, you see, Trummelbach Falls is not all that far away. It is merely working in concealment, tucked neatly away from the valley.

What a spectacular series of swirled chambers has been created here inside the valley wall! Here at last, pouring right out at your feet is the great white cascade, now deafeningly loud. Follow a foot path, itself carved out of the rock, climb stairs through dank tunnels away from the tumult and, suddenly, the falls reappear in a completely different chamber. The swirled etchings in the rock indicate exactly how and where the falls coursed in years passed. Look up only and only a tiny crack of

... continued

light reminds you that the waterfall is slicing its way, most laser-like, into the heart of the stone.

This waterfall has created its own set of private rooms and when you go inside to visit there is no doubt as to what is going on. Its water versus rock and the excitement tops that of a decade full of wrestlemanias and superbowl. Water is winning this confrontation and its doing so with an odd mixture of raw power and graceful finesse. With the help of those pragmatic Swiss we can see the competition up close and personal.

When one compares the solid properties of rock and stone with the fluidity of water, there is simply no way that the liquid could ever erode the stone. But put time and gravity on the water's side and it will always triumph, no matter the odds. Man has seen this everywhere, be it in common peaceful river valleys eroded over the ages, or more spectacularly in raging rivers and falls. In each case the spiritual metaphor is similar. The spirit-water, allied with time and gravity, will always triumph whether it encounters a tragic and fearful planet or a vast unsettled universe.

Trummelbach Falls teaches this eternal lesson of water with great authority but the lessons it offers go even further. If you didn't know the falls were right there you'd have missed them. And being already amazed by the great glacial valley, you'd probably feel there was no need to look beyond. How many times have we met someone and quickly categorized them as being this or that sort of person? How easy it is to label seemingly unstimulating personalities as ordinary, possessing a lack of depth. Let's face it, sometimes its true. "Look again. You just might find, neatly hidden, the spectacular inner workings of the spirit." Its not unlike taking one of those bland little rocks, cleaving it in half, and seeing inside a spectacular array of crystals. Great is the joy of finding unexpected treasure.

Going back again to the valley, the falls quickly recede from eye and ear. But here at home, many thousands of miles away, I can hear the falls buried in stone. I can see with greater clarity that truth, beauty, and goodness may turn up in the oddest of places. And I thrill to the music of the Trummelbach water as it joins in the great, ever-growing chorus -- singing the song of the triumph of the Spirit.



ETERNAL LIGHT

by Anthony Finstad

Dedicated to all PLUSS members

Hello father, we worship your presence,
As we gather as one tonight.
In all that is true, beautiful and good,
Your love is the Pilot Light.

Throughout the steps that have been leading us
And the endless adventure yet to unfold
It is your glory that forever shines,
If any achievement is worthy to hold.

We join as a family in doing your will,
The rewards of fellowship, worship, and prayer.
With courage we seek, with wisdom we find,
And together.....we share.

To the creator of our Universe
Hello Michael.....our trusting friend
Prince of Peace in a life of love,
Wrapped in your comfort.....the greetings you send

The Spirit of Truth has spoken,
This is no chance encounter of time and space.
The unity of Spirit is a bond unbroken
A Divine Comfort.....is a loving embrace.

Tonight we celebrate a partnership,
A commitment of shared responsibility.
A satellite extension with common goals
With concern.....the need.....and the ability.

We are now the Brotherhood,
Our trial year is history.
The new kids of the neighborhood,
A budding branch upon the family tree.

May the roots grow deep and strong,
The winds shall blow from all direction.
May the branches extend across the World,
Blossoming with love.....our divine protection.

Seattle has received a beckon of truth,
May it serve to enlighten those who seek.
Let us recall the way of our Master,
The gift of listening before we speak.

We do not represent the 'chosen few',
Nor the descendants of superior stock.
We do not hold the sacred key,
To a magical door with a hidden lock.

We are brothers and sisters,
On a dark, isolated, material sphere.
United by faith and mutual respect,
Casting some light upon the shadows of fear.

We are truth seekers from distant days,
Crossing paths along our intrepid trail.
The pioneer journey shall continue to blaze,
The fruits of our labor.....shall always prevail.

There are so many ways in which to serve,
A society only increases the potential.
It's up to us to fill in the blanks,
Freedom of choice remains essential.

May we never give up on the struggle,
Teamwork is man and woman united.
Effort is required if balance is desired,
Sexism.....is a house divided.

We must strengthen our family in these times,
Rugged hills are sure to appear.
Misunderstanding is hard to avoid,
When loving works are viewed with fear.

This is a revelation for the world to embrace
Within every nation
Within every race
Over the great wall.....behind the iron curtain,
Below the neon cross.....one thing is for certain,
We are *all* the children of a loving God,
His beauty shines from every face.

With sincerity.....there is solidarity,
With Spiritual energy.....there is loving synergy.
Let us use the talents that we've got.
And the Good Lord knows.....We've got a lot
What an exciting time to be alive,
Planting the seeds for Big Number Five.

Yes.....We've opened the doors to failure,
Taking on risk is not the easy road
Organizations can be cluttered,
The process of growth can be a messy load.

Upon this double-default planet,
The wisdom of leadership does not exist.
Social change must infiltrate now,
The hundredth monkey shall not resist.

Mistakes will be made as we carry on,
The human factor can not be erased.
No judgements passed in being wrong,
Error appears when you know it's misplaced.

We have not created a resting zone,
To hibernate truth with self-bestowed glory.
The value contained has just begun,
A turn of the page in the evolving story.

There's a lot of work that needs to be done,
We're here to answer the call.
When it's the Brotherhood of Man.....
.....and the Fatherhood of God,
There is no job too small.

This is not the peak of an emotional high,
It's Divine enthusiasm.....evolving.
Living faith put into action,
Permanent progress and problem solving.

We have much to learn.....nothing to fear,
Within our spiritual creative imagination.
The doors are open and our friends are near,
Faith.....the real agondonters sensation.

May we seek to create truthful encounters,
Expose the beauty.....the goodness herein.
Chip away at the ignorance and prejudice,
Eternal light is living within.

A society is energized by outreach,
Balance is achieved through inreach.
Support of members.....care for our children,
The art of practicing what we all can preach.

To glorify the potential of family,
Expose the joys of spiritual wealth.
To reap the rewards of fellowship,
With humor.....laughter.....and mental health.

If action achieves strength,
Perhaps these early days will eventuate in charm.
With effort we grow.....with tact we know,
There's no need to sound the panic alarm.

Impatience is spiritual poison,
Adding confusion to the obstacle course.
Yet faith with no action.....is to walk away
From the Seraphic Hosts and their guiding force.

We've been exposed to so many wonders,
Spiritual authors have spoken.
We have answers to so many questions,
This incredible awareness has awoken.

Consumed in this vastness of knowledge,
We emerge.....and remain a tadpole.
Intellectual encounters may stimulate,
But it takes more than mind to evolve a soul.

Remember when truth became real?
This is the Fifth Epochal Revelation!
Words could not express the inner feel,
A powerful and permanent sensation.

The challenge before us is clearly seen,
Awareness equals duty and care.
Daily struggles are not wiped clean,
We must serve without ego,
We must tactfully share,
We must work together,
We can.....will.....and do make a difference,
The Brotherhood of Man shall become honest
and pure,

World Peace shall endure.

The Pilot Light has been lit
May it burn with enthusiasm
Glow with the balance of wisdom
Be it a torch of courageous adventure
The eternal flame of devotion.

With sincerity we serve,
With loyalty we unite,
With love we embrace,
In our Fathers Light.....as partners
in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.



NEWS

* At our last society meeting we elected our delegate and alternate for the upcoming Triennial Delegate Assembly in Chicago. Congratulations to Tom Choquette (Delegate) and Mark French (Alternate). Society president Anthony Finstad will accompany them in a non-official, learning, capacity. We're eager to hear what news they'll be bringing back.

* The Oregon URANTIA Book Family Reunion is planned for July 23rd, 24th, and 25th at Silver Falls St. Park near Salem, Oregon. For more information contact:

The Oregondonters Conference
P.O. Box 2046
Corvallis, Oregon 97339
Day (503)757-0027
Night (503)753-7837

...continued 21

* The Library committee has met and plans are underway for implementation of a library placement project.

* Remember the Dracula movies where the persistent evil vampire just couldn't be killed unless a stake was hammered through his heart while he slept by day? After much debate over a period of months which threatened to rend assunder the closely knit fabric that is PLUSS, the proposed three tiered voting system was voted down at the June 12 society meeting - we think never to rise again.....

* Inez Finstad will be a field representative as part of Urantia brotherhood's domestic extension field representative program.

* Don't forget the Jesus Birthday Celebration, being held this year on San Juan Island, August 20 and 21st. The ferries can be crowded with crazy californians, so its best to contact the Finstads at 485-8266 for shuttle transportation information.

* Hardy congratulations to Anthony Finstad who was elected to the General Council for a three year term at the recent triennial delegate assembly in Chicago!!!

* There will be another leadership seminar this fall at Seabeck on Hood Canal. Dates are September 30 through Oct 2.

* And... this is exciting - The Pilot Light URANTIA Society is planning a 1989 regional conference! Site selection is underway and committees are being organized. Tentative plans call for an August gathering next year. Stick with *ILLUMINATIONS* for continuing information.

* We'd like to welcome four new members to the Pilot Light:

- John Farrington (of Seattle)
- Susan Beddell (of Port Orchard)
- Marilyn Nelson (of Port Angeles)
- and...Joan Biek (of Seattle)

Transitions.....

* To be married - July 22nd 1988:
Janet Farrington and Keith Graham-Davis at Silver Falls St. Park, Oregon.

* Expecting: (Get this!!)

Sally and Chuck Kreisher	Late June*
Jannie and Tom Choquette	Late July
Pam Baldwin and Don Lee	Late August
Lilia Avaria and Roy Benjamin	October

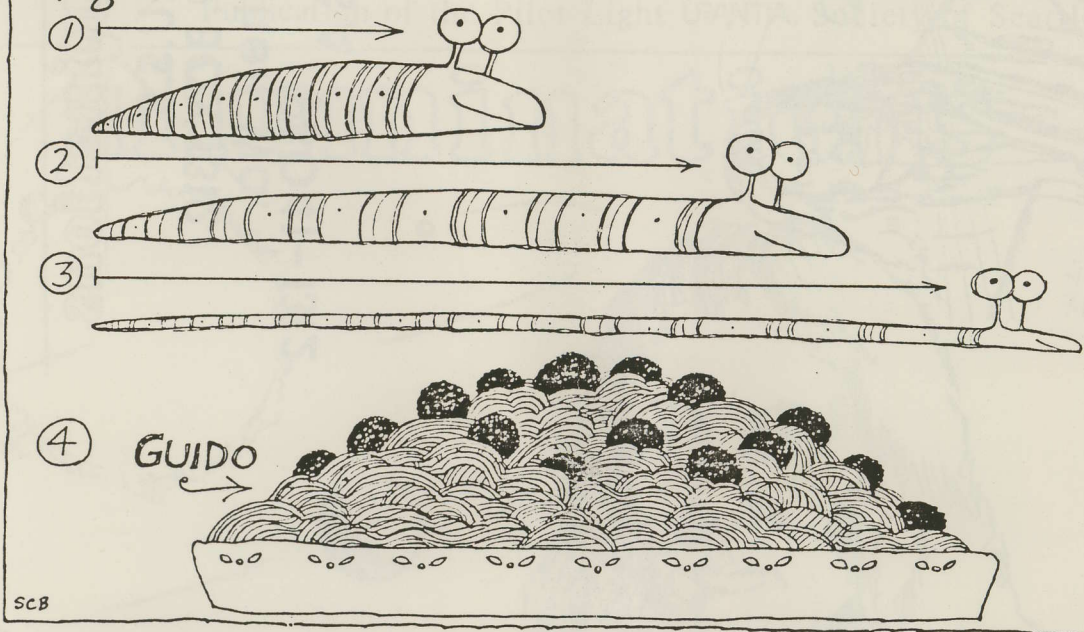
Suffice it to say that PLUSS will not have to look very far for future membership.

*Transition update: Congratulations to Sally and Chuck Kreisher on the birth of their daughter Dorian.

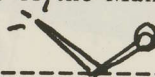


GUIDO - The Pasta-Eating Slug

disguises himself as a piece of vermicelli to prepare for a death-defying spaghetti raid!



SUBSCRIPTIONS - Wouldn't it be great if it didn't cost anything to produce *ILLUMINATIONS*? You bet it would. Alas, time is money and space isn't cheap either....to meet our needs we are charging \$5.00 for a yearly subscription of four issues. That comes to just over a penny a day!! When you consider that *ILLUMINATIONS* is rapidly emerging as one of URANTIA's premiere publications, you'll quickly realize that this is one of the best bargains this side of the Mansion Worlds.



YES, I'd love to subscribe. Send me *ILLUMINATIONS* right away. Enclosed is \$5.00.

My Name _____

My Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to P.L.U.S.S.

Send To:

ILLUMINATIONS
C/O P.L.U.S.S.
P.O. BOX 1312
Bothell, Wa., 98041-1312



illuminations

P.L.U.S.S.
P.O. BOX 1312
Bothell, Wa.
98041-1312
USA

