OD NEWSLETTER "IN THE BEGINNING"

With this issue of the *Journal,* the Executive Committee of the OD Division inaugurates a bi-monthly newsletter. The general purpose is to provide a regular channel of communication for people in the field enabling them to keep up with the information they need. More specifically, we want this newsletter to do the following things . . .
* note the launching of new OD efforts in various organizations . . .
* report on ASTD chapter activities - programs and other efforts - which are going on around the country relating to OD . . .
* comment on training opportunities at universities that are open to people who want to learn more about OD . . .
* list specific questions or needs for facts and techniques which OD practitioners have, in the hope that other readers may be able to supply just the quick, concrete answer that is needed . . .
* take note of current books, articles and other materials which OD people are finding particularly valuable . . .
* flag trends in the environment that have implications for OD goals and methods.

We can't make the OD Newsletter work without input from individual members and chapters. News of your activities or of any other events you think OD people should hear about and questions you'd like to raise for member comments should be directed to the editor: Peter Vaill, School of Government and Business Administration, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20006. The more and better the input, the more (and hopefully better) the output.

EDUCATION PROGRAM PROPOSALS SOUGHT

In December 1973, the ASTD Board of Directors, ASTD chapter presidents and all OD Division members were solicited for proposals from chapters on OD education programs such as "How to start an OD interest group" and other specialized topics that would interest chapter members.

Seed money, amounting up to $500 each for the best four proposals has been offered. The deadline for submitting proposals is Jan. 31, 1974. A chapter submitting a proposal must also include an outline of how the seed money would be spent if the proposal was selected.

OD BIBLIOGRAPHY BEING PREPARED

An updated bibliography of practical OD concepts and techniques is currently in the preparation stage. The publication is slated for distribution to all ASTD-OD Division members in late Spring, 1974. The text of the publication is being organized to act as a ready-made reference source of information on specific topics such as MBO, job enrichment or open systems approaches.

OD FORUMS ABUNDANT

Even if there is trouble agreeing on what exactly OD is, there seems to be an abundance of forums in which people are sharing their uncertainties with each other.

Along with ASTD and NTL conferences, the Academy of Management has gotten into OD programming at national and regional conferences. Craig Lundberg, 1973 ASTD OD Executive Committee member, is also serving as 1973 chairperson for the Academy's OD Division. Both the Eastern and Southeastern regions of the American Institute for Decision Sciences feature OD on upcoming programs.

What all this means for practitioners is new ideas, new research data and, hopefully, therefore, more leverage on the unsolved problems of introducing change. Of course, it also means the practitioner will continue to have the problems of distinguishing the "good stuff from the garbage," but maybe it's better to have the problem than to be living in a frozen world of dogma.

ASTD EFFORTS COMMENDED

Set aside some reading and reflection time in March for the second special issue of the *Journal* devoted exclusively to OD. Judging by the reception of the first issue in January 1973, these special issues are a highly popular policy of *Journal* editors. They're to be commended for the time they have put in to make these issues equally timeful and useful.

Another effort of the ASTD National organization is the outstanding lineup of OD people and topics that have been assembled for the 1974 ASTD National Conference, March 31 - April 4, in San Francisco.