

AASP NEWSLETTER
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Please type or clearly print all information. The AASP Directory file is limited to 5 lines @ 29 characters.

Date: _____

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Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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Nature of work (graduate student, exploration stratigrapher, etc.):

Send to: Dr. Kenneth M. Piel
Union Oil Co., Research Center
P. O. Box 76
Brea, CA 92621

Please send \$15.00 (IIS)
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Union Oil Co., Research Center
P. O. Box 76
Brea, CA 92621



R. L. RAVN, EDITOR
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NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As Messrs. Mondale, Hart and Jackson are reminding us on the news every day, election time approacheth. AASP's version of the democratic process for this year is presently underway, and following is the list of candidates for the AASP Board of Directors for 1984-85:

- President-Elect: Don G. Benson (Amoco Production Company, New Orleans)
Raymond A. Christopher (Arco Oil and Gas Company, Dallas)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Kenneth M. Piel (Union Oil Company, Brea)
unopposed
- Managing Editor: Douglas J. Nichols (U.S. Geological Survey, Denver)
unopposed
- Directors-at-Large (2 to be elected):
Sharma Gaponoff (Chevron Oil-field Research Company, La Habra)
Judith Lentin (L.I.B. Consultants Ltd., Calgary)
Frederick J. Rich (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City)
Reed Wicander (Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant)

Article 7.03 of the AASP Bylaws states that: "Additional nominations may be made by any member in good standing by submitting a petition, signed by at least nine (9) other members in good standing, to the Secretary-Treasurer by June 15," for inclusion on the ballot to be submitted to the membership.

AASP Newsletter is published quarterly by American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NOMINEES

President-Elect

Don G. Benson is presently supervisor of the palynology/nannofossil group in Amoco's New Orleans office. He joined AASP in 1974, and has served as organizer and general chairman for the 1981 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, and as a judge for the Best Student Paper Award at the 1977 Annual Meeting in Tulsa. He has been a Century Club member from 1981 to present, and a reviewer for Palynology from 1977 to present. His primary research interest lies with dinocyst morphology and biostratigraphy.

Raymond A. Christopher holds a position presently with Arco Oil and Gas Company in Dallas, following a number of years with the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston. He joined AASP in 1968, and was involved in the 1968 Annual Meeting as co-leader of the field trip and as projectionist. He has held several offices with AASP, including the Editorship of Palynology from 1978-80, Director-at-Large, 1980-82, Public Relations Committee member from 1980-82 and chairman from 1980-81, and Ballot Committee chairman, 1982-83. He was keynote speaker at the 1980 Annual Meeting in Keystone, and has published numerous papers concentrating on Cretaceous and Lower Tertiary pollen stratigraphy and statistical evaluation of palynological data.

Secretary-Treasurer

Kenneth M. Piel is employed at the Union Oil Company Research Center in Brea, California. He was a founding member of AASP in 1967, and has served in several offices, including as President from 1975-76, Councilor, 1976-77, and as Secretary-Treasurer, 1982 to present. He has also been a member of the Nominating Committee in 1980 and the general chairman for the 1973 Annual Meeting. He is unopposed for election.

Managing Editor

Douglas J. Nichols presently holds a position with the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. He joined AASP in 1968 and has served as President-Elect, 1981-82 and President, 1982-83. He was Newsletter Editor, 1979-81, and has been Journal Editor since 1981. He was also a member of the Nominating Committee in 1977 and 1980, and served on the Annual Meeting Committee in 1980. His research interests include Cretaceous-Tertiary palynostratigraphy. He is unopposed for election.

Director-at-Large

Sharma Gaponoff is employed at the Chevron Research Center in La Habra, California. She joined AASP in 1979 and has served on the Ballot Committee in 1982 and as a judge for the L. R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award at the 1983 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

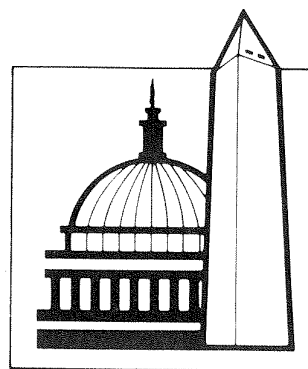
Judith Lentin is presently with L.I.B. Consultants, Ltd., in Calgary. She has been a member of AASP since 1972, and has been a technical reviewer for Palynology and for AASP Foundations special publications for several years. She also served on the planning committee for the 1974 Annual Meeting in Calgary. She is presently Program Chairman for the VI-IPC to be held in Calgary later this year. Her research specialty is in dinoflagellate morphology and stratigraphy, and she is co-author of AASP Contribution No. 7 on late Cretaceous dinocyst provincialism.

Frederick J. Rich is Assistant Professor of Geology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. He has been an AAPG Distinguished Lecturer in 1982-83 and was Science Editor for the AAPG short-course on "Coal-Bearing Sequences." His research interests center around coal petrography and palynology and modern depositional analogs, and he has a lengthy list of publications on those topics.

Reed Wicander is Associate Professor of Geology at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. He has served AASP as judge for the L. R. Wilson Best Student Paper Award in 1980 and 1983, and as a member of the Publicity Committee, 1981-82. He joined AASP in 1978 and is presently a reviewer for Palynology. He is also on the editorial board for Micropalaeontology, and has been active in various offices of his local chapter of Sigma Xi. His research specialty is in Paleozoic acritarchs, and he is the author of AASP Contribution No. 10 and co-author of Contribution No. 8.

CANADIAN THESIS AWARD

The Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists' award for best Ph. D. thesis of 1983 was given to Robert A. Fensome of the University of Saskatchewan for his thesis titled Miospores from the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary beds, Aklavik Range, Northwest Territories, Canada. This research was supervised by Prof. William A. S. Sarjeant, and is to be published in a series of papers, two of which already are in press. Dr. Sarjeant notes that this is the first palynology thesis to win the award, and that it constitutes recognition of the importance of our discipline in the petroleum industry. Dr. Fensome presently is at the University of Toronto as Postdoctoral Research Assistant to Prof. Geoffrey Norris. Our congratulations on this prestigious award. Perhaps AASP might consider a similar approach toward the rewarding of academic excellence.



1984 ANNUAL MEETING REMINDERS

Titles for papers and poster sessions for the 1984 Annual Meeting are due May 15. Abstracts for which advance titles have been submitted will be accepted until July 15; abstracts without advance titles are due no later than June 15. Titles and abstracts should be submitted to the Program Chair, Lucy E. Edwards, U.S. Geological Survey, 970 National Center, Reston, VA 22092. Additional abstract forms may be obtained from Robert Ravn, Newsletter Editor.

Poster sessions for the 1984 meeting are strongly encouraged. We have a large room available on October 18 for exhibitors, computer demonstrations, and poster displays. Coffee breaks will be held in the room to encourage participation and exposure.

As noted in the January Newsletter, Lucy Edwards has volunteered to coordinate student housing arrangements. Students needing aid with arrangements are urged to contact her. They may stay free-of-charge at her house, or if they prefer to stay at the hotel, she will help coordinate roommates to reduce cost.

Preregistration forms for the meeting and field trip, and registration forms for housing at the hotel, will be sent out in the July Newsletter.

Lucy E. Edwards

DEATH OF DR. E. S. BARGHOORN

Renowned Paleobotanist Professor Elso S. Barghoorn of Harvard University died January 27, 1984 at his home in Carlisle, Massachusetts, at the age of 68. He had been a professor of biology and geology since 1947. Because of the remarkable breadth and the large volume of his published research, his work is familiar to a broad spectrum of natural scientists, including botanists, palynologists, paleontologists and geologists. He was particularly prominent for his work on Precambrian microorganisms, which has had a profound impact on our understanding of the origin of life on earth. A more detailed memorial to Dr. Barghoorn will appear in the next Newsletter.

MEETING SURVEY

At the 1983 Midyear Board of Directors Meeting of AASP, I was asked to conduct an informal survey of the membership concerning potential future locations for annual meetings. The response by the membership was very good. Almost 200 people sent responses, some of which arrived from locations as far away as Australia. Of those received, however, some could not be used for the data base since they failed to follow instructions and list preferences using the number system requested. A total of 138 survey forms were selected for the data base, with the following information derived:

1. Prefer meeting in large cities:
Mean = 2.92. Most responses seemed to indicate a lack of preference for this type of meeting site. The most common response was 1.
2. Prefer meeting on college campuses:
Mean = 3.76. Most seemed to favor this idea. the most common response was 5.
3. Prefer campus housing:
Mean = 3.45. The majority favored this type of housing which is consistent with their desire to meet on college campuses.
4. Prefer hotel accommodations:
Mean = 2.83. The average was slightly above the middle (2.5) but there was a strong preference for this type of housing. Mode was 1.
5. Prefer motel complexes:
Mean = 3.40. The most frequent answer was 5. The majority tended to favor this type of location, second only to college campuses.
6. Shopping centers:
Mean = 1.62. This was not important to the majority of people who responded. Mode was 1.
7. Fine restaurants:
Mean = 2.92. This aspect seemed to be more important than the shopping centers, but most did not seem too concerned with this aspect. Mode was 3.
8. Museums:
Mean = 3.56. Most felt that the presence of museums or other items of cultural importance was important whenever possible. Mode was 5.
9. Nightclubs: Mean = 1.60. This, like shopping centers, did not seem to be very important to most people who responded. Mode was 1.
10. Spouses:
Mean = 2.13. Most felt that things for spouses to do during the meetings were not important criteria for meeting selection sites. Mode was 5.
11. Total cost:
Mean = 3.12. Total cost of the meetings was of real concern for many of the people who responded to the survey. The mode was 5.

In summary, it seems that most of those who responded were very concerned about the overall price and were willing to hold meetings on college campuses

or in motel complexes where the price might be cheaper. Also, many seemed to favor meetings in smaller towns in hopes that this also would help to hold down the overall cost of the meetings. In general, the membership was very concerned about the rise in costs of our meeting locations and were willing to consider alternate locations in an effort to reduce costs. However, many did comment that they were also concerned about having adequate and inexpensive transportation to and from the meeting locations.

Report compiled and analyzed by Vaughn M. Bryant and Richard G. Holloway.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Third International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology will be held at the University of Sussex on July 4-10, 1985. As in the previous two congresses at Colorado (1973) and Vancouver (1980), the aim is to encourage the integration of the work of biologists in adjacent and overlapping fields in the general area of systematic and evolutionary biology. 12 half-day symposia will be devoted to selected broad interdisciplinary themes, with invited speakers. These topics will include: Biogeographic Evolution of the Malay Archipelago; Evolution of angiosperms, with emphasis on the fossil evidence and the plant/animal interactions involved; Evolution of pollination systems; Co-evolution and systematics; Biochemical evolution in plants. Intending participants may also suggest and arrange other symposia of special interest to particular groupings of biologists. Other sessions will provide opportunities for the presentation of papers concerned with particular topics or groups of organisms. A number of poster sessions will be held as well.

Accommodation and meals will be available on the campus of the University of Sussex. Additional hotels are available in nearby Brighton, an attractive and historic resort town on the south coast. Further information will be mailed to those wishing to be placed on the mailing list. Requests for information and suggestions for symposium topics should be sent to Prof. B. Cox, c/o ICSEB Conference Services, 130 Queen's Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3WE, England.

The Third Congreso Latinoamericano de Paleontología is scheduled for October, 1984, in Morelos, Mexico. The meeting is to include a symposium on Late Triassic floras convened by Dr. R. Weber; anyone interested in contributing to that symposium should write Dr. Weber directly at the Instituto de Geología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Circuito Exterior, Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán, 04510 México. Requests for other information should be made to the meeting secretary, B. E. Buitron, at the same address.

VI IPC REMINDER

The 6th International Palynological Congress (IPC) will be held in Calgary, August 26-September 1, 1984. Upwards of 500 palynologists from around the world are expected to attend. 390 papers are scheduled for presentation on every topic of palynology from how dinosaurs insured the preservation of pollen to the palynostratigraphy of China. There are also a good number of papers on various topics related to reconstruction of past environments, computer applications and archeology. A large number of posters will be displayed throughout the conference. All of the meeting rooms are together and the sessions are synchronized so that moving from room to room to hear special papers can be done with ease.

Five field trips will be run before or after the meeting. Registration forms and more information can be obtained from the Third Circular, obtainable from Lois Kokoski, Conference Office, Education Tower, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4.

Judi Lentini

LATE P. S. ON 1984 AASP ANNUAL MEETING

Lucy Edwards and Norm Frederiksen would like all potential but hesitant attendees of this year's meeting to know that, if you wish to give a paper but need a formal letter of invitation to impress your friendly local dean or department chair, please write either of them; they will be happy to write a nice glowing one.

AASP STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

AASP Student Scholarship Awards of \$250 for the 1983-1984 academic year have been awarded to Ulrike Coleman, Trinity College, Dublin, and to Wilson A. Taylor, Ohio State University.

Ulrike Coleman's award is for support of her doctoral dissertation on the miospore succession across the Devonian-Mississippian boundary of Indiana and Kentucky and its correlation to the Lower Carboniferous of Western Europe. She is studying spores, acritarchs and tasmanites from within the Bedford Shale and New Albany Shale to the top of the deltaic deposits of the Borden Formation. Miss Coleman completed her Master's Degree at the University of Bonn.

Wilson Taylor's award is for support of his Master's thesis on the ultrastructure of sphenopsid spores. He will utilize TEM, SEM, and light microscopy to more fully understand the spore wall structure and ontogeny of the Sphenophyllales. His material will be from well-preserved calcium carbonate petrifications. Mr. Taylor received his undergraduate geology degree (*magna cum laude*) from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

This is the second year these scholarships have been offered, and eleven students entered this year's competition. There were many proposals submitted which were worthy of support, and the Awards Committee extends their best wishes to all entrants for the successful completion of their studies. Reports of these various studies are certain to enrich the technical sessions of future AASP meetings.

This competition will be held again next year, and application forms can be obtained from the October 1982 issue of AASP Newsletter. They also can be obtained from Raymond A. Christopher, ARCO Oil & Gas Co., P. O. Box 2819, Dallas, Texas 75221. Deadline for receipt of application for the 1984-1985 academic year is February 1, 1985.

Harry A. Leffingwell

SOURCE-ROCK SPECIALIST/PALYNOLOGIST WANTED

The Denver Research Center of Marathon Oil Company, Littleton, Colorado, has an opening for a source-rock specialist/palynologist. Experience in the characterization of kerogen type and maturity, plus a background in palynology, organic geochemistry and/or sedimentology are required. The position is in the 28-member Geological Research Department. The successful candidate will develop independent, basic research programs in his or her specialty, participate in integrated studies with other scientists, and interact with Marathon explorationists. Applicants with a Ph. D. degree plus some industry or research experience are preferred. We offer an exceptional benefits package including complete relocation reimbursement program. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Send resume to:

Dr. Richard J. Ebens, Manager, Geological Research Department, Marathon Oil Company, P. O. Box 269, Littleton, CO 80160.

TERTIARY PALYNOLOGIST WANTED

BP Research Centre, Sunbury-on-Thames, England, has an opening for a Tertiary palynological specialist. Prime responsibilities will be to provide detailed age-dating and correlation of geological samples from exploration wells and field surveys primarily in the Far East, and to maintain specialist knowledge at the forefront of the science and undertake applied research in palynology.

The work will be carried out in operational areas as well as at the BP Research Centre. Applicants must have a good honours degree in Geology, post-graduate experience and a minimum of three years' industrial experience in Palynology. An attractive salary package is offered together with a non-contributory pension scheme. Excellent benefits include assistance with relocation, where appropriate.

Please write with full details of qualifications and experience, quoting reference No. SR 2615 to:

Anne Hendry, BP Research Centre, Chertsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 7LN, England

SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY

The Founding Meeting of the Society for Organic Petrology was held in Houston on March 10, 1984. The following officers were elected:

John A. Clendening, Amoco Production Company, President.
William Spackman, Pennsylvania State University, President-elect.
John Castano, Shell Development Company, Vice-President.
Ann Brooke Reaugh, GeoChem Laboratories, Secretary-Treasurer.
Margaret E. Hildick, Gulf Oil Company, Editor.
John D. Shane, Exxon Company, U.S.A., Councilor.
Joseph T. Senftle, Union Oil Company, Councilor.

Persons interested in the activities of the Society for Organic Petrology should write John Clendening.

SALE OF REPRINT COLLECTION

An extremely complete dinoflagellate reprint collection, including many bound volumes, will be available soon. Anyone wishing additional information or wishing to make an offer is asked to contact:

Jean Pierre Verdier, Exxon Company, U.S.A., P.O. Box 120, Denver, CO 80201; Phone (303) 789-7560.

CRETACEOUS OF INDIA

The Indian Association of Palynostratigraphers has released a volume entitled Cretaceous of India, edited by H. K. Maheshwari. The volume contains papers presented at a recent symposium on a variety of topics under the broad categories of Palaeoecology, Palaeogeography and Time Boundaries. The price is \$60 (U.S.). To order, write:

Dr. H. P. Gupta, Business Manager, IAP, c/o Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, 53 University Road, Lucknow 226 007, India.

THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING

"Rayn was one of the most decent and intellectually honest persons I have ever met."

Teichert, C. (1976) From Karpinsky to Schindewolf -- Memories of some great paleontologists. *Jour. Paleontology*, v. 50, p. 8.

ISOLATION?

The following is an excerpt from a letter to the editor of the Canadian Association of Palynologists Newsletter, Winter 1983:

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading the summer 1983 edition of the CAP newsletter and particularly our president's contribution. I agree with Geoff Norris that palynologists are becoming increasingly isolated and fragmented, especially in a country the size of Canada. Is the solution another umbrella society along the lines of the Canadian Geoscience Council or even the GAC Paleontology Division? I doubt it. Perhaps a better solution would be special economy air fares for all palynologists attending meetings outside their particular spheres of interest. Such a meeting would be the next North American Paleontological Convention or, even further afield, an annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Attendance would be simplified if a palynology society such as AASP could occasionally combine its annual meeting with AAPG. At least we could then hear it from the other side, even if we chose to switch off our hearing aids.

Graham L. Williams

(I'm shocked. I don't believe many non-Canadian palynologists were aware that our Canadian colleagues had become so isolated and fragmented. Just last fall I saw several of them at the San Francisco meeting, always in the company of a number of people, and none appeared to be appreciably fragmented, at least not before I went to bed. Perhaps one of our Canadian members could clarify this alarming development for the next AASP Newsletter; Ed.)

YELLOW RAIN

Palynology is often considered by those outside the profession to be an esoteric, ivory-tower pursuit, in part because the very name "palynology" is so unfamiliar to the layman (see Judi Lentin's letter elsewhere in this issue). Well, it isn't, as the following item demonstrates:

The Washington Post has reported that Harvard biochemist Matthew Meselson and Yale zoologist and honeybee specialist Thomas D. Seeley believe they have the answer to the origin of "Yellow rain" in Southeast Asia. The so-called "Yellow rain" has allegedly caused hundreds and perhaps thousands of deaths and severe injuries to rural Hmong tribesmen in Laos and Cambodia, and the U.S. State Department has blamed it on Soviet chemical warfare. Meselson and Seeley experienced the phenomenon firsthand in Thailand, and they found the yellow residue to be loaded with pollen. They believe it results from defecation flights by massive swarms of bees, which disseminate fungal toxins dangerous to humans. The State Department disagrees. Now, if only they can come up with an answer to the origin of yellow snow. (Ed.)

NEW JOURNAL

The Center for Environmental Studies at Arizona State University has announced foundation of a new publication titled Science Software Quarterly. The journal is to be a 60-70 page publication devoted to the application of computer software to the natural sciences. Its intent is to include articles on virtually any aspect of applied computer software technology, reviews of pertinent commercial products, listings of learning/training resources, and classified advertisements for sale or exchange of used equipment. The editors presently are looking for reviewers of software and documentation, contributors of articles and ideas, and software designed for use in any natural science field.

Institutional or organizational subscription will cost \$98 per year, and individual subscriptions will be \$45 annually. Subscriptions from outside the U.S. need to add \$12 per year, and checks should be made payable to Science Software Quarterly. For subscriptions or further information, contact:

Dr. Diana J. Gabaldon, Center for Environmental Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287; Phone (602) 965-3051.

Editor's note: As was noted in the preceding issue of the Newsletter, Kathleen Heide is organizing a symposium for the 1984 Annual AASP Meeting on the general topic of online computer demonstration of applied work with palynological data. Perhaps this journal might serve as a potential outlet for papers derived from this symposium?

RUSSIAN/ENGLISH DICTIONARY

The American Geological Institute is making available a new facsimile edition of an important Russian/English Geological Dictionary, which has been virtually impossible to find in the U.S. for 20 years. The 560-page volume was compiled by T. A. Sofiano, edited by A. P. Lebedev and V. E. Khain, and published originally in Moscow in 1960. The new AGI edition is a hardbound, page-for-page facsimile of the original. It contains approximately 85,000 terms relating to all aspects of geology. Also included are English equivalents of Russian letters used in the transliteration of proper geographical names, plus a list of foreign geologists who, in the Soviet view, were prominent in the late 1950's.

The price is \$18.95. Interested parties should write:

American Geological Institute, Customer Service Department, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302.

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER

Sarawak Shell Berhad, AOA/15, Lutong, Sarawak, Malaysia.

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Carlos A. Baled, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado Campus, Box 450, Boulder, CO 80309.

Klara Belkin, 3411 Wayne Avenue, Apartment 8L, Bronx, NY 10467.

Neil D. Burgess, 94 Mangrove Road, Hertford, Herts., SG13 8AN, England.

Alan K. Chamberlain, Placid Oil Co., 2300 Univ. Club Bldg., Salt Lake City, UT 84118.

Omar A. Colmenares, Geological Sciences Dept., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Yvonne M. Crosbie, New Zealand Geological Survey, P. O. Box 30368, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

Thomas D. Demchuk, 11504 67th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5B 1L7.

Emanuel Demetrescu, Cal. Calarasilor Nr. 319, Et. 2 Ap. 18, Sect. 3, 74331 Bucuresti, Romania.

Froydis Eide, Saga Petroleum A. S. Maries Vei 20, 1322 Hovik, Norway.

David F. Ewen, Robertson Research Int., Tyn-y-Coed, Llanrhos, Llandudno, LL30 1SA, N. Wales.

Jancis H. Ford-Dolby, Nova Husky Research Corp., 1411 25th Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7L6.

Kari Johnsen, Boks 118, 3291 Stavem, Norway.

Steve C. Johnson, Biostratigraphics, 9474 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 906, San Diego, CA 92123.

Robert E. Loeb, 3888 Seton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10466.

Anthony Loy, Geology Department, Sheffield University, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, England.

Kamel Makooi, P. O. Box 1964, Geological Survey of Iran, Tehran, Iran.

George H. McCourt, 203 Theodore Place NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2K 5L7.

Urve Miller, Quaternary Research Department, Stockholm University, Odengatan 63, S-11322 Stockholm, Sweden.

Jean-Marc Moron, SNEA(P) Centre Micoulau, Av. du President Angot, 64018 PAU Cedex, France.

William J. Paley, 10 Allathan Park, Pitmedden near Udry, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

John M. Quincey, Geology Department, Sheffield University, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, England.

Kristin Rangnes, Institute of Geology, Postbox 1047, Blindern, Oslo 3, Norway.

Barbara E. Rich, Robertson Research Int., Tyn-y-Coed, Llanrhos, Llandudno, LL30 1SA, N. Wales.

David Shaw, Gearhart Geo-Consultants, Ltd, Howe Moss Drive, Kirkhill Industrial Estate, Dyce, Aberdeen AB2 0GL, Scotland.

Scott W. Starratt, Palaeontology Dept., Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Ingar Throndsen, Box 118, 3191 Stavem, Norway.

M. F. Valle-Hernandez, Dept. Paleontologia, Fac. Ciencias, Universidad Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain.

Robert S. Van Pelt, 67 Locust Street, Floral Park, NY 11001.

John S. Warren, 81 Green Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Paul D. B. Williams, Geology Department, Sheffield University, Mappin Street, Sheffield S1 3JD, England.

Geoffrey R. Wood, Queensland Geological Survey, G.P.O. Box 194, Brisbane 4, Queensland, Australia.

A MEETING OF MINDS

I was waiting for a bus at the corner of NOWHERE and ANYWHERE on the outskirts of a town called MISSEDOPPORTUNITY. In a lone society boredom arrives earlier than buses. However, I was delighted to see a nonperson approaching me, who looked like a sasquatch or a yeti - not that I have seen either but have formed their images from news reports.

His civility in introducing himself gratified me. His long and firm handshake made me feel pillow basalt-like callouses on his palms. Immediately he started to dart on various scientific aspects of life harping on not only all botanical fields but all their ramifications, too. As a palynologist with a peripheral interest in taxonomy, I was especially pleased when we drifted onto botanical nomenclature.

He believed firmly that a species should be based on a population of specimens which should serve in a group as the type. Irrespective of their size, whole plants should be preserved for future reference. He was proud of the *Sequoia sempervirens* assemblage in his herbarium. I interrupted his monolog: "Professor, one needs to check only one grain to see if the rice is cooked." In return, he scoffed and asked me: "But then you only assume at the next grain is cooked. Assumption is not science as far as I am concerned. In science you need precision, my dear sir, precision." I queried further: "Where would you find so much space to preserve complete specimens of all plants?" He answered briefly: "Out of space, gentleman, out of space."

Not giving up easily, I proposed that the photographs of complete specimens may serve the same purpose, as well as save space. This brought wrinkles on his forehead indicating the inferiority of the suggestion. He was concerned that such a system has too many avenues for errors to creep in. He would prefer 1:1 size pictures only in compelling circumstances. He believed in neither photomicrography nor microphotography. I interjected again: "How would you carry your photograph on the passport during your foreign travels?" To him the whole concept was futile, as a living specimen is worth a thousand pictures.

He did not like to quote authorities to support statements and considered "as far as I am concerned" the most practical and useful phrase. Its increasing popularity in North America pleased him immensely. He said: "Authorities are quoted by idiots signifying nothing." On my reminding him that Shakespeare wrote a somewhat similar line, he smiled under his beard and muttered: "Oh, Bill! He took so many sentences out of our idle conversations."

Meanwhile, a bus from SOMEWHERE arrived for ANYWHERE, so I hurried to say goodbye to my unnecessary friend and guide, and boarded the bus for La Habra. However, I did get his address, in case anyone wishes to contact him: Professor Emeritus Contempus Confucius Botanicus, Department of Unnecessary Sciences, Outspaced University, 40W 30N Atlantic Ocean Ridgeway, Atlantic Ocean, AO 834 237.

Satish K. Srivastava

OPEN LETTER TO DEWEY McLEAN

Dear Dewey,

It is not often that we think of the science of Palynology as being glamorous. It is a rather interesting concept, however. Imagine what it would be like to have someone instantly recognize your job outline when you say "I'm a palynologist" and not hear "a what?". I fear, however, some of your suggestions are not well suited to most of us working in the field.

As a teacher you hold a special position in our community of science. The more eclectic your interests, the better you are at your job. We need people like you who paint colorful theoretical pictures with a broad brush - with often startling results. But you, my friend, also need the likes of "the boring" us to paint with a very fine brush and fill in the details which make a whole picture.

Each time an individual palynologist leaves his microscope to sit on a government committee to talk about astrophysics or cosmochemistry he leaves a little of the past behind. The science requires work at the microscope which is not glamorous, but it can be intellectually stimulating and downright fun. To some of us it is more stimulating and fun than sitting on a committee or having political clout.

Greater visibility may bring many benefits, some of them rather nebulous, but taking a palynologist away from the microscope where he can read the secrets of the earth will leave a hollow shell of ideas without proof.

As you bound forward with your work with NASA and other stellar groups, don't forget who is doing the work to give your theories substance. The palynologist behind the microscope is the one who will prove or disprove many of the current theories about the evolution of the earth. That can not be done on the Johnny Carson Show.

Judi Lentini



IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD L. PIERCE
1926 - 1983

Dr. Richard (Rick) LeRoy Pierce died December 23 following an almost fifteen day effort to survive internal injuries sustained when he was the victim of an armed robbery in Dallas. Rick is survived by his mother, Alice Pierce of Mundelein, brother Robert H. Pierce of Chicago, and sisters Frances Porras of Northbrook, Patricia Robertson of Libertyville, Audrey Sesko of Wildwood and Marian Johnson of Barrington, Illinois.

Born on November 28, 1926 in Chicago, Rick spent his boyhood in and around northeastern Illinois. After completing high school, he served in the U.S.A. A.F. during 1944 and 1945 and remained in the Air Force Active Reserve until 1967, when he retired with the rank of Major. He received his B.S. in Forestry (1949) from the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, and his M.S. (1954) and Ph.D. (1957) in Botany from the University of Minnesota. Rick joined Mobil Oil in July, 1957, as a palynologist and was assigned to the Field Research Laboratory in Dallas. He remained in research from 1957 to 1972, with a brief (1967-1969) assignment in Los Angeles. As a senior research geologist, Rick transferred to the Exploration Services Center, Mobil Exploration and Producing, in Dallas, during 1972, where he headed the palynological studies effort. From 1972 he

steadily advanced to Senior Paleontological Advisor, the position he held at the time of his death.

Rick was a member of numerous professional and scientific organizations. Among them were the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Dallas Geological Society, Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, Botanical Society of America, Ecological Society of America, Arctic Institute of North America, and Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His interest and involvement, however, were greatest in the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists. Rick joined the Association at its inception in 1967, and later held the positions of Editor (1973-1976), President (1976-1977) and Councilor (1977-1978).

Rick was always friendly, open and sincere -- a person who readily shared his knowledge and experience with others. His interests were varied and he was a true scholar with an incisive, inquisitive and thorough mind. An innovative worker in both palynology and organic geochemistry, his counsel and guidance will be sorely missed by his circle of professional associates and friends.

-- Lee B. Gibson and Robert T. Clarke, Mobil Research and Development Corporation, Dallas, Texas