

SEAC

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

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President's Message

Halfway through my term, I have not been anywhere near as provocative in this space as my predecessor, Pete Kissinger. As Past President, he continues in this vein, viz. his response in the past issue to Dick Durst's request(?) for "outrageous opinion" in which Pete finds that the "current belt tightening will lead to a positive change," if it funnels research money toward outstanding and established investigators/schools and leads to more recognition for quality teaching.

I applaud his always admirable frankness and **also** his self-abnegation as a supplier to the equipment needs of that funding money. Nevertheless, other views could be voiced as to whether either the long-range technological capabilities of the US and the world or the general state of education will advance through an attitude of acceptance, however realistic it may appear to be. After a decade under national leadership tending to be more mean than lean, I would question the "positive" conclusion without doubting that good track records and quality teaching deserve **rewards**.

Many areas of science have now generated Pimentel-style reports and laid out their contributions, needs, and priorities for the judgment of **the** powers that dictate funding directions, as well as for influencing future research initiatives. The activities of our members are clearly more closely attuned to "small" science than the "big" science of supercolliders, etc. and to be better sustained by a system that strengthens the **infrastructure** necessary to the continuation and enhancement of quality in research across **the** board. Not only current projects but also the training process that produces the new generations of researchers are threatened by these contractions in support.

Tough decisions remain about the distribution and limitations of the revenue stream. Granted the broad needs presented to government, down to the survival level of illiteracy, poverty, AIDS, and drugs, if we really feel that our scientific and technological impact for the collective future of society deserves support, we should not be complacent about making our proper case.

We can (and should) always strive to do more with less and to do better than work of "marginal importance," as Pete points out. At the same time we should not be satisfied with limiting attempts to make our special contribution to scientific progress and educational standards. There will be enough forces serving the paring down function, for both good and bad reasons, that we need to make our own best efforts toward growth.

Barry Miller

Editorial

After our last "humongous" 7-page issue, we now settle back to our summer-size edition. This is mostly a result of the electroanalytical natives being very quiet and not providing fodder for this issue. Once again, let me ask for any and all news: people, meetings, science, cartoons, diatribes, etc. This is your newsletter; something must be going on in your lives worth dropping me a note about. If not, as Bart Simpson would probably say, "Hey, Dude, get a life!"

Speaking of new things going on in our lives (notice the slick transition?), I have a personal announcement of my own. Effective September 1st, I have accepted a position as Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Science and Technology at Cornell University. My principal function, however, will be Director of the Cornell Analytical Chemistry Labs on the Geneva (NY) campus. This is part of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station which also includes several of the other departments in the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Of course, after spending most of my career at NBS (now NIST), it is in some ways very difficult to make this change; NIST is a first-class R&D institution in a beautiful setting, and I have made many friends here over the past 25+ years. On the other hand, Cornell University is no slouch when it comes to quality science and the Experiment Station has an outstanding reputation in its own right. So with some trepidation, I'm off to the lovely Finger Lakes with its natural beauty, unspoiled farms, and homey wineries. I look forward to new analytical challenges and to the steep learning curve I'll be on in food science.

To set the record straight, I take no responsibility for the "filler" supplied by Pete Kissinger in our last issue. I did not ask him "to contribute some outrageous opinion" (which he did) to stimulate letters to the editor (which it didn't do). I only asked for more contributions to the "Best of Interface" column which he has since convinced me is only of interest to old-timers such as myself. However, he is correct that I do solicit letters to the editor, and I certainly will not shy away from controversial subjects.

Speaking of controversial subjects (notice once again the slick transition), cold fusion has once again hit the headlines. This time, however, the items are getting uglier. Recent news reports on legal actions taken to force "voluntary retraction" of a paper critical of cold fusion, the resignation of the University of Utah president for fiscal shenanigans, and hints of possible experimental tampering have certainly not improved the image of science to the general public. Is this just another bit of evidence of what is happening to science? Where is the collaboration of days gone by? Has personal gain and the profit motive overtaken and surpassed cooperation and open science? Of course, I'm sure this has always been the case when the stakes were high enough. But it sure seems as though a lot more of this is happening nowadays. I'd love to have your opinions on this, but, from past experience, I know better. Maybe the problem is apathy.

Finally, hot off the presses, I have just received word from Barry Miller that Stan Bruckenstein has been selected as the 1991 Rølløy Award winner by the SEAC Awards Committee chaired by Fred Hawkrige. As usual, this committee has made another excellent selection. Janet Osteryoung will arrange the award symposium which will take place at the Pittsburgh Conference in Chicago next March. The program for this symposium and Stan's bio will appear in our next issue. Congratulations, Stan.

Dick Durst

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I would like to inform you of my imminent change of address. I would like all future issues of The SEAC Newsletter to be mailed to the new address shown below:

Del R. Lawson
Department of Chemistry
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Del R. Lawson

Electrochemical Society- SEAC Joint Symposium

The Electrochemical Society, Inc. and SEAC have now both officially agreed on co-sponsorship for SEAC of the Symposium on New Directions in Electroanalytical Chemistry for the Washington, D.C. meeting of the ECS, May 5-10, 1991.

Janet Osteryoung is the Symposium organizer.

The Call for Papers will be published in the July-November issues of the Journal of the Electrochemical Society. Abstract submission deadline is December 1, 1990.

This Symposium has been a regular effort of the Physical Electrochemistry Division of ECS and SEAC members have always been active in its organization and content.

SEAC participants who are not ECS members may attend at member rates, a savings of \$85.00.

SEAC Officers:

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Joseph T. Maloy, Secretary and
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Franklin A. Schultz, Treasurer
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Joseph Wang

Around the World

American idioms and nuances are not always fielded cleanly by foreigners. Evidence: a recent article in the Far Eastern Economic Review. Here's a collection of signs whose foreign creators meant one thing, but achieved something very different.

In a Paris hotel elevator:

**Please leave your values
at the front desk.**

In a Japanese hotel:

**You are invited
to take advantage
of the chambermaid.**

On the menu
of a Swiss restaurant:

**Our wines leave you
nothing
to hope for.**

Outside a Hong Kong dress shop:

Ladles have fits upstairs.

In a Zurich hotel:

**Because of the impropriety
of entertaining guests of the
opposite sex in the
bedroom, it is suggested
that the lobby be used for
this purpose.**

In a Czechoslovakian
tourist agency:

**Take one of our
horse-driven city tours.
We guarantee
no miscarriages.**

In a Copenhagen airline
ticket office:

**We take your bags and send
them in all directions.**

In a Norwegian cocktail bar:

**Ladles are requested not to
have children in the bar.**

In the office of a Roman doctor:

**Specialist in women and
other diseases.**

In a Bucharest hotel lobby:

**The lift is being fixed
for the next day.
During that time we regret
that you will be unbearable.**

New Members

Yan Wang
Ohio State University
2/19

Richard M. Crooks
University of New Mexico
2/21

Robert D. Shelton
University of Tennessee
3/5

Kevin Ashley
San Jose State University
3/8

Timothy G. Strein
Penn State University
3/12

Hao Zhang
Free University of Brussels,
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3/15

Mannino Javerio
University of Milan, Italy,
3/15

William F. Oakes
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3/31

Xihai Mu
Purdue University
4/3

David Wipf
University of Texas, Austin,
4/17

Michelle O'Connor
National Institute for Higher
Education, Dublin, Ireland,
4/17

Donal Leech
Dublin City University,
Dublin, Ireland, 5/08

Hweiyan Tsai
University of Pittsburgh
5/16

Chaim N. Yarnitzky
Technion, Haifa, Israel
5/31