



AASP NEWSLETTER

D. J. NICHOLS, EDITOR

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NEW AASP OFFICERS ELECTED

THE AASP MEMBERSHIP HAS ELECTED A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE COMING YEAR. THE NEW DIRECTORS WILL TAKE OFFICE IN OCTOBER, 1979, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. A LATE-BREAKING ITEM, THE FIRST REPORT FROM THE BALLOT COMMITTEE INDICATES THAT THE NEW OFFICERS ARE:

- PRESIDENT JAMES E. CANRIGHT
- PRESIDENT-ELECT JOHN E. BENNETT
- SECRETARY-TREASURER JOHN A. CLENDENING
- MANAGING EDITOR VAUGHN M. BRYANT, JR.
- DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE JONATHAN BUJAK
- JACK D. BURGESS
- SARAH PIERCE DAMASSA
- CHARLES J. FELIX

THE RESULTS ARE SUBJECT TO FINAL VERIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF WHICH DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE WILL SERVE TWO YEAR TERMS. WE HELD THE PRESSES AS LONG AS WE COULD TO BRING YOU THESE RESULTS.

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AASP ANNUAL MEETING IN DALLAS

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS... YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE PROGRAM OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING, TO BE HELD FROM 29 OCTOBER TO 3 NOVEMBER 1979 AT DUNFEY'S INN, DALLAS, TEXAS. INFORMATION ON ACCOMMODATIONS AT DUNFEY'S IS INCLUDED WITH THE PROGRAM. THIS LAST MINUTE MAILING WAS SENT DIRECTLY BY THE LOCAL COMMITTEE.

A FULL PROGRAM OF INVITED AND CONTRIBUTED PAPERS IS BEING PLANNED. A WORKSHOP ON FLUORESCENCE MICROSCOPY, A SYMPOSIUM ON KEROGEN, AND AN OBSERVANCE OF THE USGS CENTENNIAL WILL HIGHLIGHT THE MEETING. A POST-MEETING FIELD TRIP WILL BE MADE TO DINOSAUR VALLEY STATE PARK, GLEN ROSE, TEXAS, TO VIEW THE FAMOUS TRACKS AND THE CRETACEOUS ROCKS.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO BE A PART OF AASP'S 12TH, BE SURE TO RETURN THE RESERVATION FORMS "ASAP." IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND CONVENIENTLY LOCATED HOUSING FOR THE MEETING EXCEPT AT DUNFEY'S INN.

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AASP NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC PALYNOLOGISTS, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JACK BURGESS

THE 15TH ANNUAL MEETING OF AASP, IN 1982, WILL BE HELD IN DUBLIN, IRELAND, UNDER JOINT AASP-CIMP SPONSORSHIP. THE INVITATION WAS TENDERED TO THE SOCIETY BY DR. BERNARD OWENS, SECRETARY OF CIMP, DURING HIS VISIT TO THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CARBONIFEROUS CONGRESS IN URBANA, ILLINOIS. YOU WILL RECALL FROM A PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ITEM, THERE WAS NO HOST CITY FOR 1982 AND BEYOND. YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION OF CIMP FOR 1982.

FOR REASONS OF CLIMATE, THIS MEETING WILL BE THE FIRST PART OF SEPTEMBER RATHER THAN LATE OCTOBER AS USUALLY SCHEDULED. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE FIRST JOINT MEETING WITH CIMP WAS HELD IN HALIFAX IN 1976 AND WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. I HAVE ASKED EVAN KIDOSN TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF AASP SPONSORING A PALYNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM AT THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL GSA MEETING IN 1982 FOR THOSE MEMBERS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR JOINT ANNUAL MEETING.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF THIS JOINT MEETING IS IN KEEPING WITH INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE MEMBERSHIP IN TAKING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND OVERCOMING OUR SUSPECTED INSULARITY. WE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION IN AGAIN MAKING THIS SECOND JOINT AASP-CIMP MEETING A MAJOR SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS.

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NEW AASP BYLAWS PASS

RESULTS OF THE VOTE BY THE MEMBERSHIP ON THE RECENTLY REVISED BYLAWS OF AASP ARE NOW IN, AND THE AYES HAVE IT. ONLY 84 BALLOTS WERE RETURNED, WHICH IS LESS THAN TWENTY PERCENT. THE RESULTS CONSTITUTE A MINOR LANDSLIDE, NONE-THELESS; 82 APPROVED AND 2 DISAPPROVED.

SOME CHANGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW BYLAWS. WE NOW HAVE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT CONSISTS OF EIGHT MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, THE MANAGING EDITOR, AND FOUR DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE. TWO DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE SERVE TWO YEAR TERMS AND TWO SERVE FOR ONE YEAR. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT WILL SUCCEED TO THE PRESIDENCY. COMMITTEES NOW OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED INCLUDE THE BALLOT, NOMINATING, AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEES. THE REVISIONS STRENGTHEN THE LEGAL FOOTINGS OF AASP INC. AS WE MOVE AHEAD INTO THE ORGANIZATION'S SECOND DECADE.

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MART PHILIP SCHEMEL

1925-1979

Dr. Mart P. Schemel, one of the founding members of AASP, died on May 5, 1979, in his 54th year. The scientific community has lost in him a dedicated palynologist and a good friend who was always willing to share his expertise and knowledge with those less experienced.

Mart received his B.A. degree at Coe College, Iowa, in 1946 under L. R. Wilson, his M.S. at Wisconsin in 1948 under M. L. Thompson, and was awarded a Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 1957, having studied under A. T. Cross. He worked for the Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, West Virginia and Oklahoma Geological Surveys, where he functioned as both a palynologist and coal petrologist. He was employed as a Paleozoic palynologist at Shell Oil Company's Research Laboratory in Houston from 1957 to 1966 where he studied the Springer Group of Oklahoma and was responsible for expanding and improving Shell's morphographic coding system for pollen and spores. His professional career also included affiliations with Sinclair Oil and Gas Company and Amoco Research Center in Tulsa, where a developing heart disability forced him into early retirement.

Mart had numerous professional society affiliations, among which were the Botanical Society, AAAS, GSA, SEPM, and AASP. His main hobby interests included photography, gardening, model railroading, carpentry, tropical fish, copper enameling and camping. His avid mind kept ahead of his failing body and in 1975 he developed a successful Boy Scout troop in which he served as both Scoutmaster and committee chairman. As his physical condition worsened, Mart affiliated closely with his church, and studied for Holy Orders, becoming a perpetual deacon of the Episcopal Church the year before his death.

The number of people whose lives have been touched by Mart during his long career both as a scientist and a minister are too numerous to mention. He was a thorough and meticulous worker, and he leaves a host of friends and colleagues with a rich legacy of good works.

On behalf of the AASP we wish to express our sincerest sympathy to Mart's loving and patient family--his wife, Donna, and his son, Eric.

RICHARD W. HEDLUND
ALFRED TRAVERSE

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IMPORTANT NOTICE
TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ONLY

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. If a red "X" is present on the mailing label of this newsletter, you have not paid your 1979 dues. If this is the case, please remit your dues to the Secretary-Treasurer immediately.

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PROFESSOR GUNNAR ERDTMAN
INTERNATIONAL MEDAL FOR PALYNOLOGY

Nominations are invited from palynological societies and institutions for the award of the Erdtman Medal for the years 1977 and 1979. The chief aim of the award is to accord recognition to outstanding contributions to palynology in its widest sense, embracing botanical, geological, medical, agricultural and other possible aspects. Each nomination should be accompanied by a brief biography of the person along with a note highlighting his or her main contribution and its significance. The nominations should be sent to: Secretary, Prof. G. Erdtman International Medal for Palynology Award Committee, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow-226001, India. Nominations must reach the Secretary by 31 October 1979.

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ACRITARCH SHORT COURSE

An exploration short course entitled "The Acritarchs" will be presented by Charles Downie, Professor of Geology, University of Sheffield. The course will be held at the Baton Rouge Hilton, 10-12 October 1979. Information is available from: George F. Hart, Department of Geology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

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POSITION WANTED

Abbas Kimyai Ph.D., stratigrapher/paleontologist, with 20 years' experience college teaching, research and consulting industries abroad, is seeking a position in industry or university. He is specialized in palynology, taught and did research in both palynology and invertebrate paleontology. For more information please contact: Abbas Kimyai, 1051 Lilac Ave., East Lansing, MI 48823 Phone: (517) 351-8875.

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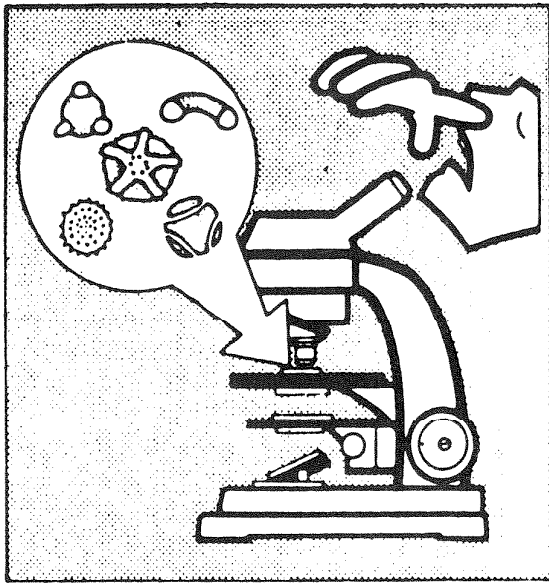
POSITION AVAILABLE

Sohio Petroleum Company is looking for a stratigraphic palynologist with five to ten years of broad industrial experience to work in San Francisco. Some knowledge of computer applications to palynology would be an advantage to the applicant. Anyone suitably qualified should send a curriculum vitae and names of referees to: Mr. H. Hautau, Sohio Petroleum Co., 100 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

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A current list of changes in the AASP Membership Directory will be published in the December issue of AASP Newsletter.

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Bill Silbert

NEW YORK TIMES FEATURES
ARTICLE ON PALYNOLOGY

AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "PALYNOLOGY Aids IN OIL SEARCH," BY ELIZABETH M. FOWLER, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON 11 JULY 1979. THE PIECE APPEARED IN MS. FOWLER'S COLUMN "CAREERS."

MANAGING EDITOR VAUGHN BRYANT IS MENTIONED OFTEN IN THE ARTICLE. WHEN ASKED, HE ADMITTED BEING ONE OF THOSE "RELIABLE SOURCES" THE MEDIA ARE ALWAYS QUOTING. AASP IS MENTIONED ALSO. IF YOU ARE AMONG THOSE WHO FEEL THAT PALYNOLOGY NEEDS MORE PUBLIC RECOGNITION, TAKE PRIDE, WE MADE THE TIMES!

THE ARTICLE DISCUSSES WHAT PALYNOLOGISTS DO, WITH EMPHASIS ON PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND ARCHEOLOGY, AND HOW PALYNOLOGISTS ARE TRAINED. VAUGHN REPORTS THAT HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES FROM INTERESTED STUDENTS, AND JACK BURGESS REPORTS THAT HE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM CAREER COUNSELORS WHO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT PALYNOLOGY AND HOW STUDENTS CAN PREPARE TO BECOME PALYNOLOGISTS. THESE FACTS INDICATE THAT INTEREST IN OUR PROFESSION EXISTS OUT THERE IN THE EVERYDAY WORLD, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, THAT INTEREST CAN BE GENERATED.

WHO KNOWS WHERE ALL THIS COULD LEAD? AASP'ERS APPEARING ON THE JOHNNY CARSON AND DONAHUE SHOWS! THEN, OUR OWN TV SERIES--"THE MACERATION GAME!" FINALLY, A BOX-OFFICE SMASH-- "SPORE WARS!" WHY, "DINOFLAGELLATE" COULD REPLACE "DINOSAUR" AS A HOUSEHOLD WORD.

ALL KIDDING ASIDE, OUR SOCIETY AND OUR PROFESSION ARE SURE TO BENEFIT FROM GOOD PRESS. COPIES OF THE N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

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DUES DUE

THE MEMBERSHIP IS REMINDED THAT 1980 DUES ARE PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 1980. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, DUES MAY NOW BE PAID UP TO 3 YEARS IN ADVANCE. DUES FOR 1980, 1981, AND 1982 MAY BE PAID NOW, IF YOU SO DESIRE, AT THE RATE OF \$15.00/YEAR FOR INDIVIDUALS. THE LAST YEAR FOR WHICH YOUR DUES HAVE BEEN PAID IS INDICATED ON YOUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LABEL. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AIR MAIL OPTION IS \$6.00 ADDITIONAL PER YEAR FOR EUROPE AND AFRICA AND \$8.00/YEAR FOR ASIA AND AUSTRALIA.

DUES SHOULD BE REMITTED TO: JOHN A. CLENDENING, AASP SECRETARY-TREASURER, AMOCO PRODUCTION CO., P.O. BOX 3092, HOUSTON, TX 77001.

ARTICLE ELEVEN OF THE AASP BYLAWS READS AS FOLLOWS:

11.01 (ANNUAL DUES) THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY DETERMINE FROM TIME TO TIME THE AMOUNT OF THE ANNUAL DUES PAYABLE IN UNITED STATES CURRENCY TO THE CORPORATION BY MEMBERS OF EACH CLASS.

11.02 (PAYMENT OF DUES) DUES SHALL BE PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY IN EACH FISCAL YEAR. DUES OF A NEW MEMBER SHALL BE PAYABLE UPON APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

11.03 (DEFAULT AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP) WHEN ANY MEMBER OF ANY CLASS SHALL BE IN ARREARS IN THE PAYMENT OF DUES AFTER JANUARY 1 OF THE CURRENT YEAR, THEIR MEMBERSHIP MAY THEREUPON BE TERMINATED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IF AFTER WRITTEN NOTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, THE ARREARAGES ARE NOT PAID WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF THE NOTIFICATION.

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AASP CONTINUES ICP SUPPORT

AT THEIR 1979 MID-YEAR MEETING THE AASP DIRECTORS VOTED APPROVAL OF CONTINUED AFFILIATION WITH AND SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PALYNOLOGY (ICP). FINANCIAL SUPPORT AMOUNTING TO \$449 WAS CONTRIBUTED FOR THE YEAR 1978. THIS REPRESENTS ONE DOLLAR FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF AASP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1978. AASP IS WELL REPRESENTED IN ICP. IN ADDITION TO COUNCIL MEMBER COLIN MCGREGOR, THREE OTHER AASP MEMBERS SERVE AS OFFICERS OF ICP: ALFRED TRAVERSE, PRESIDENT, GEOFF NORRIS, SECRETARY-TREASURER, AND JIM CANRIGHT, EDITOR.

ICP IS SPONSORING THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL PALYNOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (IPC), TO BE HELD IN CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND, 29 JUNE TO 6 JULY 1980. ABOUT 600 PALYNOLOGISTS HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO ATTEND THE 5TH IPC, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT THE LARGEST SUCH MEETING EVER. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM: MRS. G. E. DREWRY, DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, SEDGWICK MUSEUM, DOWNING STREET, CAMBRIDGE CB2 3EQ, ENGLAND.

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AASP FOUNDATION STATUS REPORT

BY NORMAN J. NORTON, ROBERT T. CLARKE, AND
RICHARD W. HEDLUND, AASP FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

ON MARCH 26, 1979, ALL FORMS, DOCUMENTS, AND INFORMATION CONCERNING FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE AASP FOUNDATION DURING ITS ADVANCE RULING PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 19, 1976, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1978, WERE SUBMITTED TO IRS FOR INSPECTION AND DECISION AS TO WHETHER THE FOUNDATION WILL BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC OR A PRIVATE FOUNDATION. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET HAD A REPLY FROM IRS (A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION INDICATED THAT FINAL DETERMINATION WILL PROBABLY TAKE ABOUT SIX MONTHS BECAUSE IRS IS BEHIND IN PROCESSING REQUESTS), ALL INDICATIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR PUBLIC FOUNDATION STATUS, AND THAT IS THE ONE WE WANT! WE HOPE TO HAVE A DECISION BY THE OCTOBER MEETING IN DALLAS.

ONE OF THE KEY ITEMS FOR ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC FOUNDATION IS BROAD-BASED PUBLIC SUPPORT. IN OTHER WORDS, A "SUGAR DADDY" IS NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE A MAJORITY CONTRIBUTION TO A FOUNDATION IF IT IS TO RETAIN ITS PUBLIC FOUNDATION STATUS. THE SUPPORT WE HAD DURING 1977-1978 FROM TWENTY FIVE PERSONS WHO CONTRIBUTED \$100 OR MORE, AND FROM FOUR PEOPLE WHO GAVE LESSER AMOUNTS, IS THE TYPE OF SUPPORT WE NEEDED. WE ARE CERTAINLY INDEBTED TO THESE PEOPLE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN ATTAINING (WE HOPE) THE INITIAL FAVORABLE STATUS FOR THE AASP FOUNDATION.

ALL THINGS CHANGE WITH TIME, AND THE AIMS, OBJECTIVES, SOURCES OR REVENUE, AND PRINCIPAL EXPENDITURES OF FOUNDATIONS ARE NO EXCEPTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT ORGANIZATIONS WITH PUBLIC FOUNDATION STATUS ARE PERIODICALLY REVIEWED TO ASSURE IRS THAT CONTRIBUTIONS ARE STILL COMING IN ON A CONTINUING BASIS AND THAT PUBLIC FOUNDATION TESTS CAN STILL BE MET. THEREFORE, THE AASP FOUNDATION WILL CONTINUE TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FROM PUBLIC SOURCES... PRINCIPALLY YOU--ALL OUT THERE IN AASP LAND! EACH OF YOU HAS PROBABLY RECEIVED A BROCHURE CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION'S 1979-80 FUND RAISING PROGRAM, SO NO NEED TO TAKE UP ANYMORE ROOM IN THE NEWSLETTER.

WE HAVE HEARD WHAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE DONE FOR THE FOUNDATION; NOW IT IS TIME TO HEAR WHAT THE FOUNDATION IS DOING FOR YOU, THE "INTERESTED GENERAL PUBLIC."

(1) WE CAN SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL ON CONTRIBUTION 5B--THE MESOZOIC VOLUME. THIS IS THE LONG-AWAITED COMPANION TO CONTRIBUTION 5A. COMPLETED MANUSCRIPTS WERE RECEIVED FROM WAYNE BRIDEAUX IN EARLY AUGUST. IT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO FOUR PRINTERS FOR COST ESTIMATES, AND BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, IT WILL BE AT A PRINTER, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER.

(2) A 70+ PAGE ARTICLE ON DINOFLAGELLATE PROVINCIALISM WILL MOST LIKELY BE ISSUED AS CONTRIBUTION 7 WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

(3) THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DISCUSSIONS ON REPRINTING A MUCH-REQUESTED, BUT OUT-OF-PRINT PUBLICATION OF THE BEDFORD INSTITUTE--LENTIN & WILLIAMS, 1976. A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED ON THIS SUBJECT.

(4) A LARGE 300 PAGE MANUSCRIPT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AS A POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION NUMBER. CURRENTLY IT IS BEING REVIEWED AND WE ARE IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGES OF DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM AT PRESENT.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF IRONS IN THE FIRE. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PUBLISH QUALITY WORK IN THE FIELD OF PALYNOLOGY, AND TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE AS INEXPENSIVELY AS PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION COSTS WILL PERMIT. AS CURRENTLY PLANNED, ALL OF THE ABOVE ITEMS, IF APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION, WILL BE PRINTED WITH AASP FOUNDATION FUNDS. AT PRESENT THE FOUNDATION HAS ABOUT \$600 IN CASH AND A REASONABLY GOOD INVENTORY OF AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS. THAT MAY SEEM LIKE A SIZABLE CUSHION, BUT PRINTING COSTS ARE SIZABLE TOO, AND WE ARE JUST STARTING OUR HEAVY CASH OUTLAYS FOR PUBLICATIONS. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS AND SALES OF PUBLICATIONS DONATED TO THE FOUNDATION BY AASP INC. HAVE GIVEN US A SOLID FINANCIAL BASE WITH WHICH TO BEGIN OUR NEXT STEP: PUBLISHING PALYNOLOGICAL WORKS AND MAKING THEM AVAILABLE AT NOMINAL COST, SO THAT THE INFORMATION REACHES A WIDE AUDIENCE INTERESTED IN THE SCIENCE OF PALYNOLOGY.

IF YOU HAVE A LENGTHY ARTICLE THAT IS TOO LONG FOR OUR JOURNAL, PALYNOLOGY, CONSIDER SUBMITTING IT TO THE FOUNDATION FOR CONSIDERATION AS A NUMBER IN THE CONTRIBUTIONS SERIES!

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AASP OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARD

ANY CURRENT STUDENT, OR ANYONE WHO HAS RECEIVED HIS OR HER DEGREE WITHIN THE SAME CALENDAR YEAR AS THE PRESENTATION, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARD. THE AWARD CONSISTS OF A FRAMED SCROLL AND TWO YEARS FREE MEMBERSHIP IN AASP. PAPERS COAUTHORED BY NON-STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE IF THEY ARE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING BY THE STUDENT. A PANEL OF FOUR JUDGES WILL SELECT THE RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD. FORMS THAT WILL BE USED BY THE JUDGES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR THE MEETING. THE FORMS ITEMIZE ASPECTS OF THE PRESENTATION TO BE SCORED,

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GLEN ROSE, TEXAS, 3 NOVEMBER 1979

PROTECTION OF PALEONTOLOGICAL
RESOURCES TO BECOME ISSUE

NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION IS PENDING AND CHANGES IN LAWS ARE BEING PROPOSED THAT MAY AFFECT PALYNOLOGISTS. THE NEW REGULATIONS CONCERN "PROTECTION OF PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES" BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM). THERE IS ALSO A MOVEMENT TO REVISE THE EXISTING ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906, WHICH PROTECTS VERTEBRATE FOSSILS AND OTHER FOSSILS FOUND IN ARCHEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS. THE REVISIONS WOULD SEPARATE PALEONTOLOGICAL SPECIMENS FROM ANTIQUITIES. THERE SEEM TO BE SOME HIDDEN IMPLICATIONS IN ALL THIS THAT MAY CALL FOR AASP TO STATE THE VIEWPOINT OF PALYNOLOGISTS.

THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PS) HAS TAKEN A STAND, AS HAVE THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY AND THE PALEOBOTANICAL SECTION OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA. PS HAS ISSUED A POSITION PAPER. IN THE 14 POINT STATEMENT PS LISTS PALEOBOTANICAL AND "MICROFLORAL" FOSSILS AMONG THOSE NOT REQUIRING PROTECTION. ALTHOUGH PS SUPPORTS THE VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGISTS WHO WANT FEDERAL PROTECTION OF THEIR SITES, THE POSITION PAPER IMPLIES THAT PERSONAL EMPIRE-BUILDING MAY BE BEHIND THE LEGISLATION. THE AASP NEWSLETTER HAS LEARNED THAT UNDER ONE PROPOSAL, BLM PALEONTOLOGISTS WOULD BECOME CURATORS OF "PROTECTED" MATERIALS. THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO THOSE WHO DID NOT KNOW THERE WERE ANY BLM PALEONTOLOGISTS. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE NEW HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE CREATED BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN HAVING FOSSILS PUT UNDER ITS CONTROL. SUCH CONTROL WOULD MEAN THAT NO COLLECTING COULD BE DONE ON FEDERAL LANDS WITHOUT PERMIT.

THE PS POSITION PAPER CALLS FOR A DISTINCTION TO BE MADE AMONG CULTURAL MATERIALS, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING HUMAN FOSSIL REMAINS, NON-HUMAN VERTEBRATE FOSSILS, AND OTHER FOSSIL MATERIALS. PS PLANS TO ADDRESS ANY LEGISLATION ON THE SUBJECT OF PROTECTION OF PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES. MEMBERS OF THE PS COMMITTEE ON COLLECTIONS AND COLLECTING MET WITH BLM REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH, 1978, AND AGAIN IN TORONTO IN OCTOBER, WHERE BLM PRESENTED ITS PLAN. UNDER THE BLM PROPOSAL, VERTEBRATE FOSSILS WOULD BE PROTECTED BY A PERMIT PROCEDURE, MICROFOSSILS WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM CONTROL, AND INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS AND FOSSIL PLANTS WOULD BE HANDLED ON A SITE-SPECIFIC BASIS.

PERTINENT POINTS FROM THE PS POSITION PAPER ARE QUOTED BELOW. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PS EDITOR ALAN COOGAN, KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, OR FROM AASP MEMBER DAVID DILCHER, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PS COMMITTEE ON COLLECTIONS AND COLLECTING.

POINT 3. CONFUSION BETWEEN PALEONTOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL MATERIALS AND PROTECTION EXTENDED BY LAW OR REGULATION SHOULD BE CLARIFIED, PREFERABLY TO EXCLUDE FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION FOSSIL MATERIALS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO A CULTURAL SITE, UNLESS OTHERWISE DESERVING PROTECTION.

POINT 5. FEW, IF ANY, INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS, PALEOBOTANICAL, MICROFAUNAL OR MICROFLORAL FOSSILS DESERVE PROTECTION FROM UNRESTRICTED PROFESSIONAL OR NON-COMMERCIAL AMATEUR COLLECTION.

POINT 6. INCIDENTAL COLLECTION OF PROTECTED FOSSILS IN HAND SPECIMEN SIZE SAMPLES IS PRESUMED NOT TO BE A VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OR REGULATION WHERE MADE BY A NON-COMMERCIAL PROFESSIONAL EARTH SCIENTIST OR STUDENT IN A CLASS OR PROGRAM, UNLESS SUCH COLLECTION IS SHOWN TO BE AN INTENTIONAL, WILFUL AND/OR RECKLESS VIOLATION OF A DESIGNATED SITE.

POINT 7. AN APPROPRIATE MECHANISM SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE PROTECTION OF LOCALITIES CONTAINING RARE, UNUSUAL AND SIGNIFICANT INVERTEBRATE, MICROFOSSILS, OR PLANT FOSSILS OR THEIR IMPRESSIONS.

POINT 9. ALL COMMERCIAL (FOR SALE OR RESALE) COLLECTING ON FEDERAL LANDS SHOULD BE BY PERMIT ONLY.

POINT 12. CLOSE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND BUILDING OF PALEONTOLOGICAL EMPIRES. THE SOCIETY DOES NOT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REQUIRE THE FINAL DEPOSITORY OF PALEONTOLOGICAL MATERIALS BE IN THE STATE OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF, NOR DOES THE SOCIETY SUPPORT THE CONCEPT THAT REPLICAS OF SUCH COLLECTIONS BE PROVIDED TO SUCH REPOSITORIES.

POINT 13. ANY PROPOSED LAW OR REGULATION RESTRICTING FOSSIL COLLECTION MUST RECOGNIZE THE FOSSILIFEROUS NATURE OF ROCKS AND THE NEED FOR LAW AND REGULATION ONLY FOR UNUSUAL, RARE, SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF FOSSILS.

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AASP EMBLEM IMPROVED

THE EMBLEM OF AASP, WHICH IS EMBLAZONED ON THE COVER OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND ELSEWHERE, HAS BEEN RE-DRAFTED TO REMOVE MINOR FLAWS PRESENT IN THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THE DESIGN. LINES ARE SMOOTHER, CLEANER, AND HEAVIER, AND THE SYMMETRY HAS BEEN PERFECTED. THE DESIGN ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED. THE "NEW, IMPROVED" LOGO WILL SERVE BETTER AS THE SOCIETY'S SYMBOL. YOU CAN STILL OBTAIN STICKERS WITH THE ORIGINAL VERSION REPRODUCED IN BOLD COLORS BY SENDING \$1.00 FOR TWO TO JOHN CLENDENING. GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST--THEY ARE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS NOW!

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CORRECTION

AASP WORKGROUP ON FOSSIL FUNGAL PALYNOFORMS

TWO MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY MEETING IN MAY WERE INCORRECTLY STATED TO BE MICHAEL HOST AND KAREN HUMMEL (AASP NEWSLETTER, JUNE 1979, P. 3). THEY WERE: GEORGE HOST AND KARIN HUMMEL. MY APOLOGIES FOR THESE INCONSISTENCIES.

BILL ELSIK

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COMMENTS INVITED ON THE
"NEW" AASP NEWSLETTER

AS ANNOUNCED IN THE LAST ISSUE, YOUR NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW EDITOR. AS ONE PROVISION OF THE REVISED AASP BYLAWS, A PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. AT THIS POINT THE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF THE MANAGING EDITOR, VAUGHN BRYANT, THE JOURNAL EDITOR, RAY CHRISTOPHER, AND THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, DOUG NICHOLS.

ONCE AGAIN THE NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW "FACE," A NEW FORMAT. THE PURPOSE OF THE FORMAT CHANGE IS TO COMBINE ADVANTAGES OF PRINTING WITH REDUCTION (SAVING ROOM AND POSTAGE COSTS) WITH LEDGIBILITY. THE GOAL IS TO MAKE THE NEWSLETTER EVEN MORE USEFUL AND INTERESTING THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST, AND TO MAKE IT ENTERTAINING.

THE NEWSLETTER IS AASP'S PRINCIPAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. IT IS THE WAY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LOCAL COMMITTEES FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS. BUT IT IS ALSO THE WAY FOR EACH MEMBER OF AASP TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS IN THE ORGANIZATION. AS AN INDIVIDUAL, YOU ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT NEWS OF YOUR OWN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, OTHER ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO SHARE WITH OTHER AASP'ERS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, PERSONAL ADS, AND COMMENTS ON ANY ASPECT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S AFFAIRS IN THE FORM OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

IN FUTURE ISSUES WE (THAT'S THE "EDITORIAL WE") INTEND TO PUBLISH, IN ADDITION TO REPORTS OF AASP BUSINESS, ITEMS RELEVANT TO PALYNOLOGISTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, NEWS OF ONGOING RESEARCH, REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS, AND AN OCCASIONAL BIT OF PALYNOLEIVITY. YOU CAN MAKE THE MOST USE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER, AND CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SUCCESS, BY WRITING TO THE EDITOR WITH YOUR COMMENTS, IDEAS, AND ITEMS TO BE PUBLISHED.

DEADLINES FOR MATERIAL REMAIN THE SAME AS BEFORE: FOR DECEMBER ISSUE--NOVEMBER 15TH; FOR MARCH ISSUE--FEBRUARY 15TH; FOR JUNE ISSUE--MAY 15TH; FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE--AUGUST 15TH. ALL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENCE IS TO BE SENT TO: D. J. NICHOLS, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MAIL STOP 919, BOX 25046, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, CO 80225.

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