

Partially Coherent News 1, 5 (3/1988)
Newsletter of the Puget Sound Section
of the Optical Society of America

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

This newsletter is being sent out on a general mailing list as part of the annual membership renewal/recruitment drive. The rest of the mailings for the year will be sent to members only.

Enclosed is the membership application for you to join/rejoin the Puget Sound Section of the Optical Society of America. It's well worth the dues. Note how subtly we charge nonmembers for the dinner part of our bi-monthly meetings (see the enclosed April 5, 1988 meeting announcement). It's our incentive to join PSOSA. If you mail in your membership application WITH your dinner reservation, plus a check (or two) to cover dues and the member's dinner fee, you become a member for a year and eligible for the member's dinner rate. The student member's rate is especially attractive. Besides, you then receive the rest of the year's newsletters.

A small point: It's OK to skip the dinner part of the meeting and show up for free at the business meeting and technical program, as long as you are a dues-paying member. The programs are great!

EDITOR'S COLUMN

This newsletter is bigger than usual, being filled out with the above polemic, a meeting announcement, a membership application, announcement of new officers, various official business matters and so on. The only space saving combines the humor column and the Outgoing President's message.

Ted Houk, Ed.

NEW OFFICERS LIST, effective April 5, 1988:

President:

R. Aaron Falk
Boeing Aerospace
P.O. Box 3999, MS 87-50
Seattle, WA 98124-2999
773-9949

President Elect:

Prof. Martin A. Afromowitz
Electrical Engineering FT-10
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
543-6244

Secretary-Treasurer:

C. David Capps
Boeing Aerospace
P.O. Box 3999, MS 87-50
Seattle, WA 98124-2999
773-9949

Student Representative:

Ralph Jorgenson
Box 361
Mercer Island, WA 98040
232-3038

Newsletter matters c/o the Secretary-Treasurer. The editor is Ted Houk, 773-9950, at the next desk.

The President's Whimsy

On a mission of intellectual cross fertilization, I visited our English Department in search of my colleague, Professor Hal Gleason. I approached a young sleepy eyed lad who looked as if he had spent the previous 48 hours with his mind in Poe.

"Excuse me", I smiled. "Can you tell me where the Professor Gleason's office is at?"

He looked at me, raised his right eyebrow and sneered. "This is the English Department sir. We do not end our sentences in prepositions."

I shriveled in embarrassment. "I'm sorry. Can you tell me where Professor Gleason's office is at perk?"

Professor Gleason and I spent the afternoon discussing the similarities in the conjugation of verbs and optical wavefronts. Do you think this would make a good topic for an upcoming PSOSA meeting?

Which brings me to the point of my column; it's my last as your PSOSA President. The first fiscal year of PSOSA was delightful. Starting from scratch, we now boast over one hundred members. The meetings have been fun, informative and useful. We have been very fortunate to have had superb rapport" and, thanks to R. Aaron Falk, delightful speakers.

Aaron, as some of you probably already know, made the front page of the *Seattle Times* three weeks ago. He was shopping in the Green Avenue Safeway when he noticed an elderly lady was following him up and down the rows. Their eyes uncomfortably met. She said something like "I'm sorry for staring, but you look just like my oldest son" who, it turned out, had been killed in a recent freak boating accident on Lake Union. Aaron muttered a sympathetic reply and continued his shopping. The lady continued to follow him. After a bit, she approached Aaron again. "I'm sorry for bothering you, but could you do me a small favor?" she said softly. "When we part, would you say 'Good-bye mother. I love you'?" Aaron smiled and responded affirmatively. A bit later, Aaron pulled into the check-out line. The lady was two carts in front of him. After her groceries had been bagged, she turned to Aaron and waved "Good-bye son". Aaron smiled back. "Good-bye mother. I love you". She left and, in due time, Aaron had his purchases checked. The bill came to about \$175 more than Aaron thought it should. When the checker was asked, he told Aaron that the additional charge was for his mother's purchases. Leaving his groceries behind, Aaron bolted out the door and into the parking lot. There, on the north end of the lot, the old lady was just finishing loading \$175 worth of groceries into her '87 Datsun. She saw Aaron running towards her and climbed into the front seat from the passenger's side.

Before she could crawl to the drivers seat, Aaron grabbed her foot and began pulling her leg, not unlike I'm pulling yours. This notwithstanding, Aaron will take the helm of the PSOSA in May.

Dr. Martin Afromowitz will be replacing Aaron as your President-Elect. I have no doubt that Professor Afromowitz will carry on the extraordinary tradition initiated by Aaron. Marty first became involved in optics in high school when he accidentally spilled a crucible of molten glass on his left arm thereby making a spectacle of himself.

David Capps is our new Secretary-Treasurer. You elected Dave despite his admitted criminal record. In the late '70's, Dave worked at the *Biotechnics* lab in Bellevue where he pioneered the use a hormone released by freshly slaughtered baby sea gulls to extend the life span of porpoises. In December of 1979, Dave drove a research lab vehicle across a motionless lion who had just escaped from the Woodland Park Zoo. He was immediately arrested for transporting an underage gull across a staid lion for immortal porpoises.

Thus ends my final column. I look forward to a continued association with you. Old PSOSA Presidents don't die, they just (choose your favorite optics pun):

- (a) loose their focus.
- (b) make spectacles of themselves.
- (c) fail to illuminate.
- (d) become enlightened.
- (e) fail to reflect.
- (f) fail to refract.
- (g) ugly away.



*There are two exceptions to this. If you corner me, I'll happily elaborate for a small fee. Both are very good stories.