

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

March 2004

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Jim Easton

How do you know that you know?

"You are lying to me, you SOB, and I'm going to find out where."

(That person) being cursed was a book. My professor in an Advanced Political Science class told the class about his roommate from his college days. Before reading a book, the roommate would hold it in front of himself and curse it, accusing the book of lying to him. He would then read the book, with an aggressive attitude, to find any mistakes made by the author.

The same professor also said that what you really learn in college is the ability to do critical reading. What is important is not what you know, but how do you know that you know?

"Not a plumber fired a salute or hung out a flag. Not a governor proclaimed a day of prayer." This is the lead sentence in H.L. Mencken's essay [A Neglected Anniversary](#), first published on December 28, 1917 in the *New York Evening Mail*. The journalist had noted that America had neglected to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the invention of the modern bathtub.

He proceeded to offer a history of the bathtub in the United States. President Millard Fillmore had installed the first one in the White House in 1851. This had been a brave act on Fillmore's part, since the health risks of using a bathtub had been the subject of great controversy within the medical establishment. Indeed, Mencken observed, "Boston early in 1845 made bathing unlawful except upon medical advice, but the ordinance was never enforced and in 1862 it was repealed."

In short, his history of the bathtub was an utter hoax set within the framework of historical fact. The anti-bathtub laws Mencken cited were, to use one of his favorite words, "buncombe." The hoax was a mixture of obvious fact and hard to refute fiction.

He quoted from *The Western Medical Repository* of April 23, 1843, and the *Christian Register* of July 17, 1857. No editor or scholar in the land could find these imaginary journals but they had plausible names.

His hoax was a joke gone bad. [A Neglected Anniversary](#) had been printed and reprinted hundreds of times in the intervening years. His history of the bathtub had been cited repeatedly by other writers and was starting to find its way into reference works. He later wrote two different columns confessing his lies but the public still believed the hoax. Yet, references to Fillmore's first bathtub can still be found. Check out the Internet Public Library's page on President Millard Fillmore. <http://www.ipl.org/div/potus/mfillmore.html>

How good of an education does one receive in medical school? Are the facts presented to you documented and verifiable? Medical textbooks of the 1930s talked about the improvements in public hygiene. The same textbooks talked about medical opinion 100 years earlier. A century ago people thought bathtubs were a health problem. The footnotes and citations to support that statement were layered so deep that no one knew that the ultimate source material was buncombe.

Do you know and can you tell others how you know?

We need speakers for the AIChE Upper Midwest Annual Symposium Wednesday, April 14th 2004 at The Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Please contact Nathan A. Busch (phone: 952-542-3858, email: busch034@umn.edu) to submit speaking interest (with topic, name of speaker, and speaker's credentials.)

MARCH MEETING

OLD DUTCH FOODS PLANT TOUR

Wednesday, March 10th, 2004

TOUR LOCATION:

Old Dutch Foods

2375 Terminal Rd.

Roseville, MN 55113

<http://www.olddutchfoods.com/>

Agenda: 5:30 – 7:00: Old Dutch tour
7:15 – 8:00: Social hour at TGI Friday's in Roseville

Imagine the opportunity to see how your common delicious snack foods you find in your local grocery store and vending machines are made. In March we bring you this fun opportunity of touring Old Dutch Foods plant in Roseville, MN.

Old Dutch Foods, Inc. manufactures Potato Chips, Kettle Cooked Potato Chips, Popcorn, Baked Cheez Curls, Tortilla Chips, and distributes other snack foods including: Dips, Salsas, Corn Chips, Pretzels, Nuts, Low/Reduced/No Fat Snacks, Bac'N'Puffs, Crunchy Curls, Caramel Corn, Meat Sticks and Puffcorn Curls. Its distribution area covers Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and parts of Illinois, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana. Old Dutch distributes its products via 200 company owned routes and several independent distributors.

The facility has two continuous potato chip cookers that can produce a combined total of 5,800 lbs/hr and one batch fryer potato chip cooker that can produce a total of 500 lbs/hr. The packaging area has two separate chip distribution lines, fourteen packaging lines and seven automatic case packers for packaging chips from the two continuous fryers and one distribution line with two packaging machines for packaging of kettle chips.

Directions to Old Dutch: To get to Old Dutch Foods, Inc. from the airport go West on 494 to 35W North. Take 35W North past downtown Minneapolis to Exit 22 "Industrial Blvd".

At the light at the bottom of the ramp make a Left (under the Hwy.) to "Walnut Street".

Make a Right and follow Walnut Street ½ mile to a 4-Way Stop on "Terminal Road".

Make another Right turn and you will see Old Dutch Foods Inc. on you Left about a block over on Terminal Road.



SOCIAL HOUR LOCATION:

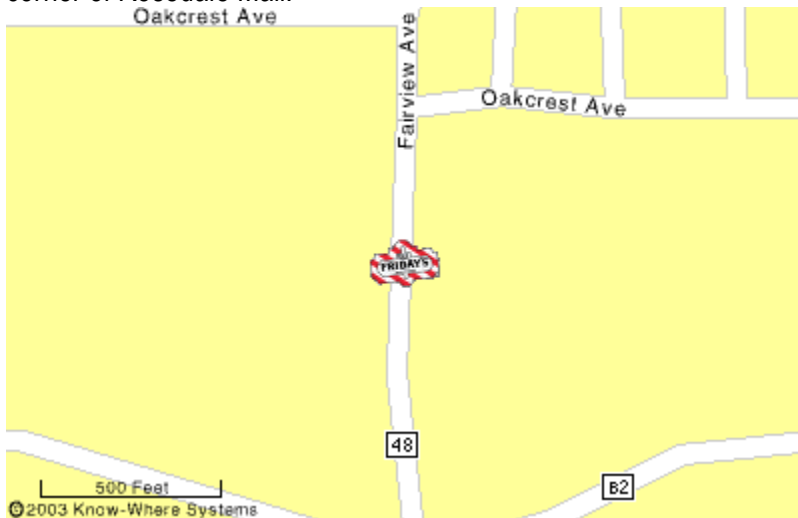
TGI Friday's

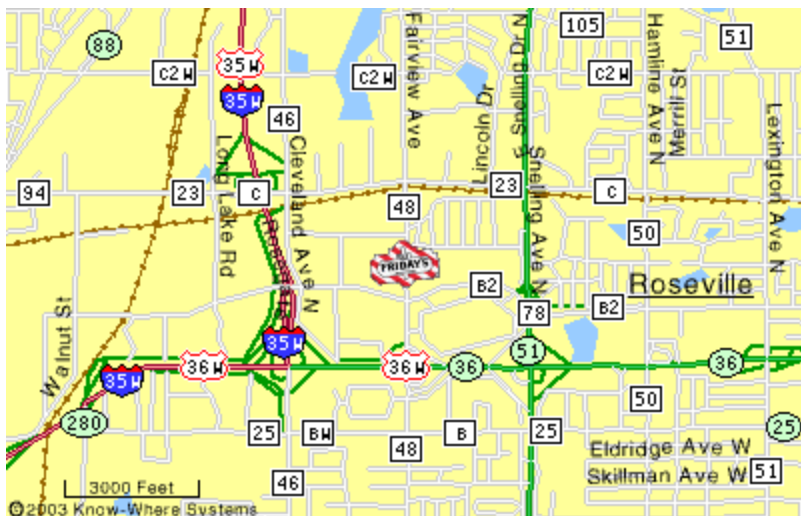
2480 Fairview

Roseville, MN 55113

Tel (651) 631-1101

Map to TGI Friday's: TGI Friday's in Roseville is on the right hand side of Fairview Ave and West County RD B2. It is kitty corner of Rosedale Mall.





Don't miss this exciting occasion to observe a snack-foods plant in operation. Find out how all your Old Dutch favorites are made! Deadline for signing up is **Monday, March 8th** with Ryan O'Connor: Ryan_Oconnor@cargilldow.com, ph: 952-742-0455. Don't forget to let Ryan know if you will attend the social hour.

AIChE Upper Midwest Annual Symposium

Final Announcement and Call for Speakers

Wednesday, April 14th 2004

Time : 9 AM – 4 PM

(lunch provided)

At the Thunderbird Hotel

2201 East 78 St

Bloomington, MN

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. David Glassner

For this year's AIChE symposium, the keynote talks and one break-out session will focus on biological-based sustainable manufacturing. Other topics will be considered for the other break-out session, including fuel-cell technology, optimization and simulation of processes, process design and engineering, intellectual property protection, etc. We are inviting other **potential speakers** (either yourself or someone you would like to nominate) in any of these areas, as well as "nontraditional" areas and other topics. ****We will also be offering AIChE PDH credits to any engineers who are interested in keeping up their professional development hours. Please ask at the registration table for your form.****

As in previous years, undergraduate students are encouraged to submit posters for the **student poster contest**. There are cash prizes for the top winners. This year, we would like to invite at least two students to be speakers during the morning sessions. We are also looking for **corporate sponsors** for this contest.

Please contact Nathan A. Busch (phone : 952-542-3858, email : busch034@umn.edu) to submit speaking interest (with topic, speaker, and speaker credentials.) Be prepared to submit an abstract. You can also contact him to sponsor this event, or to sponsor the student poster contest. **Deadline for speaker interest/nominations is March 09, 2004.**

LOCAL OFFICERS' CRITERIA

Chair

1. Grow the executive committee, and delegate necessary tasks.
2. Run monthly general meetings.
3. Write column for each month's newsletter.
4. Help with other committee members' activities.
5. Make suggestions for meeting ideas and help with contact names.
6. Plan executive committee meetings.
7. Stay in close contact with National. Forward any information that would be helpful to other committee members.

Vice Chair

1. Plan monthly meeting events.
2. Attend annual Officers Meeting held by National (other officers also invited to attend, required for Vice Chair).
3. Run monthly meetings if Chair is not in attendance.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Recording Secretary

1. Assist Vice Chair in planning monthly meeting. (Suggest ideas, get contact name, and assist in planning of meeting).
2. Record meeting minutes of all executive meetings and regular meetings when necessary (should work out a substitute to take minutes if unable to attend.)
3. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Membership Secretary

1. Maintain list of members' names and addresses.
2. Edit newsletter by collecting and writing articles for each edition of the newsletter.
3. Keep mailing list up to date.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Continuing Education and Awards Chair

1. **Ensure that members interested in getting continuing education credits are receiving these credits.**
2. **Be the contact person for local universities and issue scholarships to deserving students.**
3. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Publicity

1. Contact new graduates in section area and personally invite them to a meeting. (List of new graduates available from National).
2. Contact other local societies in an effort to do joint meetings, advertisement in their newsletter, etc.
3. Work on possible advertising for monthly newsletter.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Treasurer

1. Attend all general meetings to collect money, give out receipts, and pay the bill (should have a backup prepared for each meeting if unable to attend).
2. Prepare a budget for the year and regularly update the executive committee on expenses.
3. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Webmaster

1. Maintain and update section website.
2. Post all newsletters to website.
3. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Past Chair

1. Offer suggestions and advice on activities.
2. Continue to look for possible meeting ideas.
3. Try to recruit members for leadership positions.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Symposium Chair

1. List required symposium committee positions and what each person is responsible for doing.
2. Work with executive committee to find volunteers for symposium committee.
3. Prepare and organize symposium.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Volunteer or send your nominations by **March 31, 2004** to Thomas Kempf (thomas.kempf@genmills.com).

Chair	Jim Easton	Spraying Systems Co.	james.easton@spray.com	952-944-7202
Vice Chair	Ryan O'Connor, Ph.D.	Cargill Dow LLC	ryan_oconnor@cargilldow.com	952-742-0455
Symposium Chair	Nathan A. Busch	ICHG, LLC.	busch034@tc.umn.edu	952-542-3858
Recording Secretary	Brian E. Jensen		brianejensen@prodigy.net	952-926-2141
Membership Secretary	Nathan Johnson	Braun Intertec Corp.	doc_curtis@rocketmail.com	651-733-8799
Treasurer	Steven Zhang	3M	szhang2@mmm.com	651-737-6773
Past Chair	Thomas Kempf	General Mills Corporation	thomas.kempf@genmills.com	763-764-2873
Continuing Ed & Awards		Amit Shukla	Sebesta Blomberg & Associates	
ashukla@sebesta.com	651-634-0775			
Webmaster	Gordy Siers		gsiers@member.aiche.org	320-587-9542
3M Chair	Steven Zhang	3M	szhang2@mmm.com	651-737-6773
UofM Chapter Liaison		University of Minnesota		
General Mills Chair	Thomas Kempf	General Mills Corporation	thomas.kempf@genmills.com	763-764-2873
Seagate Chair	Murlidhar Bashyam	Seagate	Murlidhar.Bashyam@seagate.com	952-402-8108
Northern MN Chair	OPEN			
Your Company Chair	OPEN			

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:
<http://www.aichelocal.org/tc>

Place an ad here and get results! Reach over 600 chemical engineers!

Nathan Johnson, doc_curtis@rdc.com
651-736-1568



American Institute of Chemical Engineers

**Upper Midwest Section
c/o Nathan C. Johnson
8500 177th Lane
Forest Lake, MN 55025**