



CRIMEScene

****Newsletter of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists****

SPRING 2003

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...and MORE!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

T O M B A R N E S

Greetings, The joint meeting in Reno with the CAC was a great success. I want to thank everyone who contributed to this meeting - Suzanne Harmon and the Washoe County Laboratory Staff, the California Association of Criminalists, all of the vendors, speakers and workshop instructors. All of your hard work sure paid off. I want to thank the casinos for not taking all of my money and I know there are several NWAFS dancers who would like to thank the bands for the great music not to mention their dance partners for not stepping on their toes. The banquet entertainment was some of the best we've had. I know it's hard to beat the wind-up sperm races and the classic mystery dinners but the Beatles review had just about everyone dancing in the aisles.

Our next meeting is in Portland this fall (October 13-17, 2003). Rhonda and her staff are busy working out the details for this meeting. We are hoping to repeat the success of the Portland spring meeting of 1998. The meeting will be held downtown at the Embassy Suites Hotel. We even have better room rates for this meeting than we did in 1998. As for entertainment how about "Forensic Idols" or "Forensic Fear Factor". More details to follow in the newsletter or on our website. Speaking of the website, check it out, www.nwafs.org.

I have included several proposed changes to the by-laws and constitution in this newsletter. We are asking for help from the membership to fine-tune these policies. We will discuss these changes and could potentially vote on them at the business meeting in Portland. The first proposed changes relate to the by-law regarding the ethics committee. Our current ethics procedure is lacking. The proposed ethics changes have been in the works for several years and are finally ready to be considered by the membership. Thanks to Robert Thompson, Don Wyckoff, Lisa Caughlin, Terry McAdam and Jay Henry for development and review of these procedural changes. The second proposed by-law changes relate to life membership. We currently have two types of life members,

active and inactive. With many of our members retiring from government service and hanging out their own shingle the line between active and inactive sometimes blurs. We also need to address the benefits to our current active life members - there are none. Roger Ely has put together some of the ideas that were discussed at the Reno business meeting. These changes eliminate the ambiguities of our current by-laws. Another possible change (constitutional) is to the quorum requirement. Attendance at our business meetings has been getting rather light lately. We have struggled to meet the quorum requirements (currently at 7% or approximately 15 members). At a spring meeting this is usually not a problem but it would be a real problem if it occurred at the fall meeting when we elect officers. We have not had a quorum twice in the last five years and have just made it at several others. Therefore, we have proposed changes to the quorum requirement for the business meeting. If you have other ideas on any of these proposed changes please send

them to me at tom.barnes@state.or.us prior to our October meeting.

We have included a questionnaire in the newsletter that will be used to help evaluate future meetings. This questionnaire will also be posted on our website where it can be emailed directly to Vice President Bill Marshall at wmarsha@wsp.wa.gov.

Before closing, I wanted to let everyone know that the Oregon State Police - Forensic Division did experience layoffs in February. However, we were able to recall all of our scientists and examiners after about 5 weeks. Unfortunately we did lose some our support staff. I know many other states are experiencing budget shortfalls too, but hopefully we are near the bottom and will start to get back to better times. Hang in there and I'll see you at the Portland Meeting.

-Tom Barnes

Attendance at our business meetings has been getting rather light lately. We have struggled to meet the quorum requirements . . .

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SPRING 2003



On The Cover...

Old laboratory equipment and reagents are arranged in a photogenically pleasing manner, are then photographed, and then some time later are slightly altered using image editing software. Fun for all!



CRIMSCENE is the official publication of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists. It is published four times a year in the months of February, May, August, and November. The Newsletter welcomes submissions from its membership, such as: technical tips, case studies, literature compilations, workshop or training notifications, reference citations, commentary, historical accounts, and other topics of interest to the membership. While not currently required, please submit material for publication in Microsoft Word for Windows format as an e-mail attachment or on a 3.5" floppy disk. For more information regarding the Newsletter or to make a submission please contact editorial secretary, Joshua S. Spatola at the California Department of Justice, Central Valley Crime Laboratory, 1306 Hughes Lane, Ripon, CA, 95366 (phone: 209.599.1418 / fax: 209.599.1240 / email: josh.spatola@doj.ca.gov).

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EDITOR'S SECTION

JOSH SPATOLA

Generally, I'd Like to Specialize. . .

"A specialist knows more and more about less and less until they know absolutely everything about absolutely nothing." - **Unknown**

The generalist is dying and I'm not sure how I feel about it because I used to dream of being one. As a student, I thought I could easily do it all: respond to crime scenes, collect appropriate evidence, analyze and interpret all evidence involved with that crime scene, and report the results in an easy to read – yet technically accurate – report. In my own deluded mind I was a one-man mobile laboratory with a working knowledge of the handy tricks, as well as the scientifically valid techniques, of the trade. I was the embodiment of objective justice through the medium of science. I must have been insane. Actually, it was just a lack of real-world experience, teamed with naïveté and excited enthusiasm. Those "Intro to Forensic Science" books can really do that to you when you're an impressionable college student.

Now that I have been working for a few years I'm beginning to gain perspective, which is what happens when excited enthusiasm dissolves into cynical realism and finally reaches equilibrium with excited realism. While I'm still in the early stages of my career, I have learned a great deal and have yet to learn a great deal more. One thing that I'm positive of is the nearly infinite amount of information required to adequately learn each discipline of forensic science. The area of Trace Evidence alone requires a great deal of background information into various materials. Numerous items can be considered trace evidence and that

forces an individual to become an expert in various manufacturing aspects, material sciences, and proper comparison techniques of a great many things, such as: textiles (general), fibers (natural, synthetic), glass, paint, hair, ignitable liquids, etc. My head aches just thinking about it - and this is for one discipline.

Sometimes the amount of information that must be learned seems overwhelming and insurmountable. I do not want to be an analyst that only has enough working knowledge to be dangerous. It seems that dedication to one or two specific area(s) is the only cure for this.



"A specialist knows more and more about less and less until they know absolutely everything about absolutely nothing."
- **Unknown**

Is it possible to have enough knowledge in many areas of the crime lab without missing some vital piece that could result in a regrettable error? I have no idea. But looking at the vast wealth of information available, I know it would be a difficult task to take on.

Does that mean we are upon the death of the generalist? Not just yet. I see them around me every day and they amaze me with their tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience. If I were able to expunge even half of the worthless informa-

tion contained within my head (bad song lyrics, advertising jingles, character names from 80's sitcoms, etc.) perhaps I too can achieve that generalist ability. But until then I can only watch and learn and dream. Oh, well.

Have a nice summer.

josh spatola
josh.spatola@doj.ca.gov

UPCOMING MEETING

NWAFS Fall 2003
October 13-17, 2003 * Portland, Oregon

Our committee has been hard at work arranging workshops, vendors, and an all around good time for our members. Please join us and make this meeting a success. Registration packets will be available July 1st: mailed to NWAFS members, available online at <http://www.nwafs.org/>, or mailed to non-members by request.

Dates: October 13-17, 2003

Location: Embassy Suites Downtown
 Portland, Oregon
 Reservations: 503-279-9000

The Embassy Suites is a beautifully refurbished historic hotel in the heart of downtown Portland. It's almost too classy for us. For a preview, visit the website at <http://embassysuites.citysearch.com/>

A limited number of small suites each night are available at the government per diem rate of \$91/night double occupancy. The remaining larger suites are available at the special conference rate of \$109/night double occupancy. Each room has a small kitchen and dining area. The room rate includes a full made to order breakfast and a manager's reception with free appetizers and drinks from 5-7p.m. nightly (A warm-up for the hospitality suite?) The larger suites are ideal for those who wish to share rooms.

Scheduled Workshops:

Bloodspatter Analysis (3-days)	*	Glock Armorers School (1-day)
Occult Crime Scenes (1-day)	*	Mass Spectral Interpretation (1-day)
Microspectrophotometry (1/2-day)	*	Bruise Photography (1/2-day)
CadZone Software (1/2-day)	*	Fingerprinting of Skin (1/2-day)
Identification science (2-days)	*	Chemstation Macro Programming (1/2-day)
Evening Seminar for Forensic Science Students (2-hours)		
Topics in the Exam. of Footwear Impressions (1-day Including Nike Factory Tour)		
Clan Lab Yield Estimates - A Review of the P2P Manufacturing Process (1/2-day)		

Anticipated Workshops:

Wound Identification	*	Digital Imaging
DNA Auditing Course	*	Training for Sexual Assault Nurses

Technical Session Kenote Address:

Perspectives on the World Trade Center Crime Scene After September 11, 2001
 DET. SGT. Joe Blozis, New York City Police Department, Crime Scene Unit

Contact Info:

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 Oregon State Police
 Forensic Laboratory
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HOME BREW TASTE TEST

*at the Northwest Association
 fall meeting in Portland*

to participate, bring your best
 brew to the Hospitality Suite
 on Tuesday the 14th.
 bring enough for all
 (or at least a 12-pack)



EXPERIMENT RESULTS

A TUCSON, ARIZONA FLARE EXPERIMENT

Jeff Corey, Frank Powell, Tom Quesnel, Lisa Windsor and Victor Yanez

Tucson Police Department
270 S. Stone Avenue Tucson, AZ 85701
and

Tucson Fire Department
265 S. Church Tucson, AZ 85701

INTRODUCTION

Recently, the Tucson Police Department in Arizona experienced two separate squad car trunk fires, each occurring about 15 days apart. Both of the fires occurred in the evening hours: one at 11:30 p.m. and the other one at 2:30 a.m. The first squad car fire originated on the right side of the trunk, where a box of flares was stored. The second squad car fire was discovered after the Officer saw and smelled smoke. When the Officer opened his trunk, he discovered a box of flares on fire located on the left rear side of the trunk. Fire Investigators are attempting to determine the only two possible fire causes: sudden flare box ignition or electrical sources.

This puzzling scenario led to a joint effort between the Tucson Fire Department Fire Investigators, Tucson Police Department Crime Lab Criminalists and the Tucson Police Department Arson Detectives Unit to conduct a series of experiments in order to determine whether the box of flares were involved in the cause of both fires.

Highway flares (fusees) use a friction ignition system (1). The fusee uses a two-part igniter; when the two surfaces are rubbed together, a flame is produced and the main composition is ignited (1). For the purpose of this paper the words igniter tip and igniter button will be used interchangeably. The parts of a National Flare Company 15 min. Red Fusee are labeled in Figure 1.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Thelco Precision Model 16 Oven (temperature range to 200°C), placed under a Safety Hood
2. VWR Traceable Digital Thermometer, placed into the Oven to monitor the precise temperature inside the Oven
3. Several 15 min. Red Fusees from National Flare Company, One Fusee was notated as Listed 912 AU 3472 44AM, M1-2000-0518, Made in China.
See Figure 2.
4. MSDS for the Fusee were obtained from the National Flare Company website at <http://www.nationalflare.com/>
5. MSDS for potassium perchlorate, strontium nitrate, and sulfur were obtained from J.T. Baker and Fisher Scientific websites at <http://www.jtbaker.com/> and <http://www.fishersci.com/> respectively.
6. Products sheet and Product Use Instructions were obtained from the National Flare Company website.

EXPERIMENTAL

Experiment 1:

The igniter tip of the Fusee was cut off and placed into a porcelain crucible. The crucible was placed under the Hood and lit with a match. This experiment showed how the igniter tip works for the Fusee. A bright white flame is emitted, eventually turning into a red flame.

Experiment 2:

The igniter tip of the Fusee was cut off and placed into a porcelain crucible. The crucible was placed into the Oven with an initial temperature of 125°F. The temperature was slowly increased to 240°F. According to the MSDS, the Fusee can become unstable at temperatures greater than 167°F. However, no ignition occurred. At this point, along with the fact that both fires started during the evening hours, the group determined that temperature, which includes heat transfer from the exhaust system, was not a relevant factor in causing ignition of the flare box.

Experiment 3:

The Fusee body was cut with a scalpel and a 1 cm portion of the Fusee body was obtained. The powder from the Fusee body was placed into a porcelain crucible. The crucible was placed under the Hood and lit with a match. The powder did not burn when it came in contact with the match flame. The conclusion drawn from this experiment is that the match flame does not burn long enough and/or reach the temperature required to ignite the powder. There were thoughts about the charcoal and the sawdust igniting spontaneously (2), but they were quickly dispelled when it was discovered through textbooks that the Fusee contained minimum amounts of both ingredients (1,3).

Experiments 4 – 7 were conducted outside in the parking lot between the Tucson Police Department and the Tucson Fire Department. The temperature outside was approximately 100°F.

Experiment 4:

The igniter cap was removed from the Fusee, exposing the igniter tip (See Figure 3). The Fusee was dropped onto a concrete surface, on its igniter tip, repeatedly. To the amazement of the group, nothing happened. No smoke, no crackle, no pop.

Experiment 5:

The igniter cap was removed from the Fusee, exposing the igniter tip. The Fusee, with its igniter tip contacting a concrete surface, was repeatedly scraped against this surface. The igniter tip cracked and popped; but no smoke appeared. Eventually, the igniter tip rubbed off and disintegrated. No ignition occurred.

Experiment 6:

In this experiment, two Fusees were used. The igniter caps were removed from each Fusee, exposing the igniter tips. This time, the two Fusee igniter tips were repeatedly struck together and also repeatedly rubbed together. No ignition occurred.

Experiment 7:

Again, two Fusees were used in this experiment. The protective cap that covers the scratch surface was removed from one Fusee (See Figure 4); and the igniter cap was removed from the second Fusee, exposing the igniter tip. The exposed igniter tip was softly scraped against the scratch surface (See Figure 5). It was observed that a very soft scrape against the scratch surface was sufficient to ignite a Fusee. Ignition occurred in approximately 25% of the attempts. Our observations indicated that the Fusee could ignite with relative ease. In fact, it was astonishing to see how easily the Fusee could ignite when the right circumstances were presented.

It was also observed that the scratch surface sometimes peeled off and transferred onto the igniter tip. Under these conditions, when the Fusee was dropped on its igniter tip onto a concrete surface, ignition sometimes occurred.

DISCUSSION

The group quickly realized that this could be a possible scenario of why the Fusee ignited in the vehicle trunk and caused a fire. According to some in our group, it is a common practice for Officers at scenes requiring flares to prepare them in advance by removing the protective caps from both the igniter tip and from the scratch surface. In essence, exposing the igniter tip and the scratch surface in the anticipation for the need of additional flares. Frequently, if these flares are not used, they are returned to the trunk of the squad car with the caps removed, thus creating a possible scenario like Experiment 7.

To validate our suspicions, a random inspection was conducted on the trunks of several squad cars. It was found that some Fusees were uncapped, thus exposing the igniter tips and some of the protective covers from the scratch surfaces had also been removed. In addition, loose flares were observed in the trunk. Furthermore, it was also noted that the box containing the Fusees was stored improperly amongst equipment and supplies. It was duly noted that human error is the biggest danger.

During the search of the trunks, a second type of flare was found similar to that shown in Figure 6. The plastic lid was removed from one flare to expose the scratch surface, and the cap was removed from the second flare to expose the flare igniter button. Once again, when the scratch surface lightly struck the igniter button at certain angles, the flare ignited.

It was concluded that, because of the ease of ignition between the scratch surface and the igniter tip, improperly stored Fusees could pose a safety hazard to Officers, Firemen, and City Personnel.

CONCLUSION

While the fire cause investigation is continuing, the results of Experiment 7 prompted the Tucson Police Department to examine its own human actions and its safety precautions and issue a safety warning regarding flares.

A citywide memo was issued to all employees warning of a possible Experiment 7 scenario. The memo stated: "To minimize the risk of inadvertent flare ignition, which could result in a trunk fire, flares should never be readied or prepared in advance, anticipating need. Igniter and striker caps must remain intact, on the flare, until the flare is needed. Flares should be kept in their original box or placed in a container, preventing migration and minimizing movement." The memo also reinforced the MSDS safety precautions regarding how to store the flares properly.

Research discovered several similar police vehicle trunk fires where flare ignition was determined to be the cause. The following police departments reported similar police vehicle fires: 3 in Burbank, 1 in Alhambra, 3 in Oakland, 2 in Sacramento, and 1 with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office. Captain Bob Reinhart, who is a fire investigator with the Burbank Fire Department, investigated several fires in which flares were found to be defective. Due to his investigation, Captain Reinhart, produced an informational video that showed the defective flares and the hazards associated with them.

Other Fire Investigators assisting with the investigation/identification of similar flare problems were Valida Holmes and Mike Dolan of the Oakland Fire Department. We would be interested to know if any other departments have experienced similar squad car trunk fires.

References

1. Conkling, John A., Chapter 6: Heat and Delay Compositions, *Chemistry of Pyrotechnics*, pp. 125-128, New York, New York, Marcel Dekker, Inc., 1985.
2. Table 3.3.5 Some Materials Subject to Spontaneous Ignition, NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, pp. 921-17, 2001 edition.
3. Davis, Tenney L., Railway Fusees (Truck Signal Lights), *The Chemistry of Powder and Explosives*, pp. 65-68, San Pedro, California, GSG & Associates Publishers, 1943.

Figure 1. (Drawing Courtesy of William Condron)

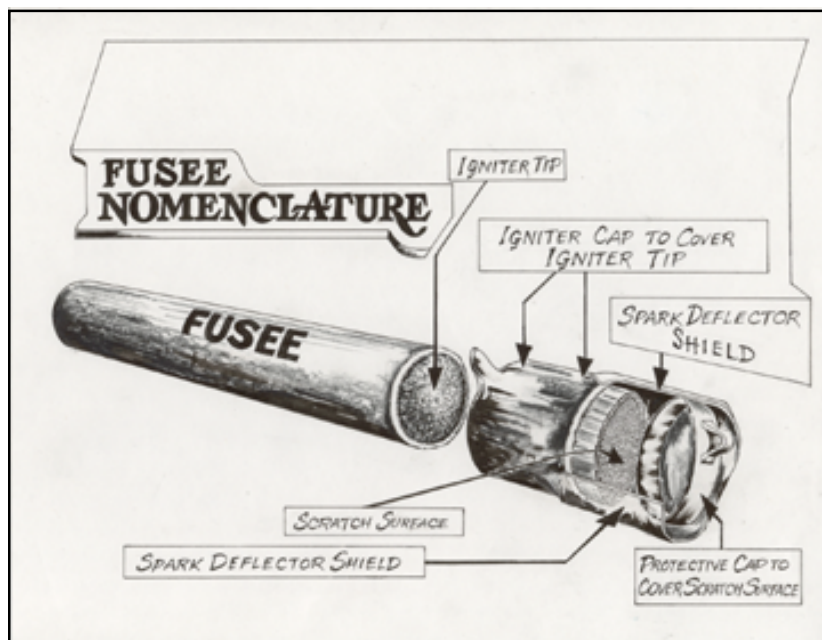


Figure 2.

National Flare Company
15 min. Red Fusee



How to use this Fusee, per National Flare Company instructions:

1. Remove protective cap to expose scratch surface.
2. Pull off igniter cap to expose ignition tip fusee.
3. Hold at center of fusee tube, away from tip.
4. To ignite, scrape fusee against scratch surface while using spark deflector to shield face/body from sparks.

Figure 3.



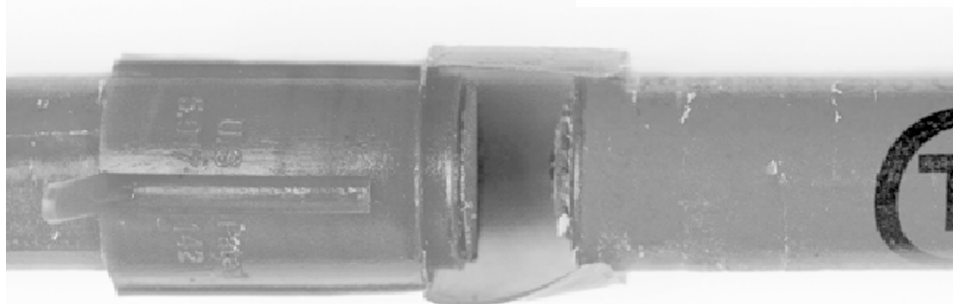
Fusee with
igniter tip
exposed

Figure 4.



Figure 5.

Fusee with scratch surface exposed



Scratch surface and
igniter tip ready to
strike each other

**Photos Courtesy
of Tony Windsor**

Spring 2003 Conference

ABSTRACTS

April 7-11 * Reno, Nevada

The Bizarre and Puzzling Death of Sgt. "C"*Lucien C. Haag, Criminalist / Firearms Examiner
Forensic Science Services*

The solution to this baffling case involves the use of trace evidence, gunshot residue, exterior and terminal ballistics, elemental analysis and acoustics.

The tragic affair arose for the firearm fatality of a SWAT team sergeant during a standoff situation in a major southwestern city. The victim sustained a perforating gunshot wound of the head while positioned with fellow SWAT team officers near a window of the suspect's house. The fatal shot also perforated the back of the sergeant's Kevlar helmet. The fatal bullet was never found but two small copper jacket fragments were recovered from the victim's brain and the large defect in the helmet. The incident was captured on videotape by a TV news organization. Potential sources of this fatal shot consisted of the suspect in the residence or one of several SWAT team officers who fired their guns at the time the sergeant sustained his wound. Initial evaluation of the wound, the damage to the Kevlar helmet and the positions of the potential shooters excluded all of these men as sources of the fatal wound unless one is prepared to set aside the laws of physics in this city. No mystery shooter on some grassy knoll was ever developed during the subsequent investigation.

A methodical use of the Scientific Method coupled with certain aspects of exterior ballistics, terminal ballistics, class characteristics, trace evidence, gunshot residue analysis and acoustics provided the singular solution to this puzzling and tragic fatality.

A Case of Homicidal Poisoning by Disulfoton, an Organophosphate Pesticide*William H. Anderson, Ph.D.
Washoe County Sheriff's Office,
Division of Forensic Science*

The paper describes the events surrounding the death of a seven-year old child and the near death of a four-year old child by poisoning with disulfoton, an organophosphate pesticide. Multiple aspects of the case will be discussed, including the clinical investigation by medical personnel, the investigation by separate law enforcement agencies, pathological and toxicological investigation of the death by the medical examiner, the trial, and the subsequent "battle of the experts" in the appeal hearing. The toxicological results will be presented along with a comprehensive review of the literature concerning deaths due to disulfoton. A review of the mechanism of poisoning by organophosphates will also be presented. There were several unusual aspects to this case, not the least of which was that the perpetrator of the crime was the father of the decedent.

All In The Family*Renee Romero, Supervising Criminalist and
Karyl Brown, Senior Criminalist
Washoe County Sheriff's Office,
Division of Forensic Science*

On Sunday, March 19 a worried mother reported her daughter, Krystal Steadman, missing.

Krystal had been playing at an apartment complex in South Lake Tahoe where her mother was visiting a friend. Krystal was checking with her mother every hour. She did not check in at 2:00 p.m. A friend told Mrs. Steadman that TJ (Thomas Soria Jr.) a worker at a division of the Boys and Girls Club located at the same apartment was playing with the girls. He had given them rides on the running boards of his 1987 red and tan blazer, and shared his McDonald's french fries with the girls. Mrs. Steadman went to the apartment of TJ and asked for her daughter. He told her she was not there. Mrs. Steadman came into the apartment and looked around for her daughter. She was not allowed in the back bedroom as TJ said his uncle was sleeping in there.

Mrs. Steadman called the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The presentation will take the audience from the investigation through the opening arguments of the trial where the case took an interesting turn.

On Sunday, January 28, 2001, Douglas County Jail personnel found Thomas Soria Sr. non-responsive in his jail cell. Initial autopsy findings indicated death was due to a probable heart condition. Subsequent toxicological examinations indicated an overdose of amitriptyline. It appears that the decedent was not taking his daily medication, but was hoarding it for a suicide attempt.

A Diminutive But Determined Discussion on the Difficulties of Deciphering Disputed Documents in the Depopulated Desert*Floyd Whiting, Forensic Document Examiner
Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Division of Forensic
Science*

Beyond the big city borders of Reno or Las Vegas, Nevada is an unusual state with a "wild west" mentality. It was the first state to legalize casino-style gambling and is still the only state to permit legal brothels. Even the justice system may be a bit different from that of other states, as I was soon to discover when I first moved to the state to work as a forensic document examiner. My first court appearance was scheduled to be in the tiny town of Ely (which was NOT named for Roger Ely) nestled in the sagebrush-covered hills on the eastern border of the state. Other states dispatch their criminalists by automobile or commercial airliner (ex-

cept Oregon which dispatches its criminalists by failed tax initiatives). My trip to Ely was on a two-seater Cessna of dubious dependability directed by a bearded bush pilot. (A tow seater in a Cessna is more comfortable than the other type of "two seater" often seen in rural parts of Nevada that lack indoor plumbing). The trip across the state and the confrontation with the justice of the peace in a rural community was an eye opening exposure to a frontier experience.

"Firearms Identification 101" and the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)

*Robert M. Thompson, Firearms and Toolmark Examiner
ATF Forensic Science Laboratory – San Francisco*

This presentation will be a basic review of the fundamentals of firearms evidence examinations and identifications. The individuality of barrels, breech faces and other firearms parts are fundamental to the classification and identification of fired bullets and cartridge casings. In addition, the firearm mechanism may leave identifiable toolmarks on fired and unfired ammunition, in the absence of a suspect firearm to compare. Ammunition manufacturing processes can also produce comparable marks that may have forensic utility. With the fundamentals of firearms evidence introduced, there will be more complete understanding of the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS), and the utility of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

Vanishing With A Trace: Reconstructing The Events Of A Crime Using Trace Evidence

Dean M. Gialamas

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

In the summer of 1997, the body of a young female was found along a hillside ravine several days after she had been reported missing. The victim's body, which was contained inside a computer box, the suspect's residence and the suspect's vehicle were examined for evidence of a crime. Though a diary was found in the suspect's residence that detailed the events of the crime he perpetrated in his apartment, a warrantless search proved this key item of evidence useless in court. It was now up to criminalistics and forensic science to put the pieces of this puzzle together to prove the crime.

This presentation will discuss the crime scene searches, the evidence recovered, and its significance in establishing the connection between the suspect, the victim, the murder scene, and the scene where the body was recovered. Trace evidence proved to be the key factor in the crime scene reconstruction for this case. The suspect, a California Highway Patrol dispatcher, was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for the murder of his ex-girlfriend.

A Challenging Court Case and Nevada's DUI Drug Law

Bruce Nelson

Clark County District Attorney's Office

This talk will cover Forensic Aspects of State v. Williams, the notorious Las Vegas case where Jessica Williams was convicted after her vehicle left the roadway and killed six teenagers performing community service on the side of the highway. Tips for testifying in court will be discussed as well as recent cases in Forensic Science.

The Dropped Card: The Consequences of Not Playing With The Full Deck

Peter D. Barnett, D-ABC

Forensic Science Associates

When the police received a call from a woman who reported that her husband had been shot in the apartment in which they live. They responded to the scene to find the husband dead in the hallway. After some conversation between the Spanish-speaking woman and the non-Spanish speaking officer, she stated alternatively that her husband had come into the bedroom after having been shot or that he approached her with a handgun and in a struggle over the gun he was shot. She said she had put the gun away in a locked gun case. A search of the crime scene revealed three firearms: a .45 auto caliber pistol, a .357 magnum caliber revolver, and a shotgun. A few bloodstains are noted in the apartment, there is no evidence of bullet strikes, and no signs of a forced entry. The scene is photographed.

The wife is arrested for the murder. Samples are taken from her hands and face for gun shot residue analysis.

Very quickly, the case begins to unravel a bit when the post-mortem examination of the victim reveals a bullet entry in the upper right chest of the 5'10" victim with the path of the bullet being downward and from right to left. The bullet is recovered from the tissue of the back. The recovered bullet turns out to be .22 caliber with 16 lands and grooves with a right hand twist. The firearms examiner who examines the bullet concludes that it was probably fired from a rifle. Stereo microscopic examination of the clothing fails to detect any muzzle residue.

Attempts to put the broken pieces of this puzzle together reveal that critical evidence was not collected, laboratory examinations that should have been conducted were not conducted, and conclusions reached by some of the forensic scientists involved are suspect. The ultimate inability to reconstruct this incident is a consequence of uncollected evidence and hasty conclusions based on faulty presumptions. This case illustrates how the failure in the initial scene investigation compromises the rest of the investigation.

Cases Involving The Gaming Control Board

Dave Andrews

Gaming Control Board

Reno, NV

Law enforcement issues with the Nevada Gaming Control Board will be presented.

Preserving DNA from Biological Samples

Theresa F. Spear*,

Neda Khoshkebari, and Jenna Farsetta

CA Department of Justice

California Criminalistics Institute

This presentation will outline factors that impact how much DNA is obtained from biological samples and make recommendations for preserving extracted DNA. In addition, we will present the results of studies that we performed to evaluate what happens to extracted DNA stored frozen over time.

The Other Biological Evidence

Theresa F. Spear* and Neda Khoshkebari

CA Department of Justice

California Criminalistics Institute

Crime laboratories are routinely being asked to type biological samples other than blood, semen and saliva. This study looked at how sweat and urine samples responded to several, different body fluid identification tests and whether or not it was possible to obtain an STR profile from these samples. In general, the color tests used to detect urea and creatinine in body fluid samples gave positive test results with most of the urine samples and some of the sweat samples. The cloth substrates (from the sweat and urine samples) were extracted for DNA using an organic procedure. Fifty percent (50%) of the samples examined in this study produced either a partial or full STR profile using the Profiler Plus™ reagent kit.

Fibers of Questionable Origin, a Case Study

Pennie I. Laferty, Forensic Science Services

Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department

An abundance of yellow-green fibers was observed on tape lifts from a nude victim at a body dump. The yellow-green fibers were of two types: acrylic and modacrylic. The tape roll that was used during the collection was examined and six yellow-green fibers were observed on one side of the roll, adhering to the sticky edge. These fibers were also of two types: acrylic and modacrylic. There were no significant differences between the fibers on the tape lifts from the body and the fibers from the tape roll. Because a source could not be identified, it is not known if the fibers were present on the tape roll prior to the tape lifting, or if they were transferred to the roll at the crime scene.

A new protocol has been implemented to assure that all tape rolls used to collect trace evidence are clean prior to use. The rolls are visually inspected and then heat-sealed in KAPAK bags. Further, the tape rolls are designated as single use only, i.e., they can only be used at one crime

scene. After use, the tape rolls are brought back to the laboratory and used as evidence packaging tape.

When Your Back's Against the Wall Bring Out the Luminol

Jeffrey Riolo, Criminalist

Suzanne Harmon, Criminalist

Washoe County Sheriff's Office

A brutal homicide occurred in a small rural town in Nevada one day after the suspect was released from prison. Examination of the suspect's vehicle including the seat covers, his shoes and clothing, the machete used to kill the victim, and miscellaneous tools, did not provide any useful information.

The investigators pleaded with the laboratory to give the suspect's boots and clothing one more try and so they were re-examined utilizing luminol. Extra effort from the primary examiner and from the DNA analyst proved to be worth all the work in this case.

CAC Historical Slide Show

Previously presented at the 50th CAC Anniversary

Seminar by Tiffany Kuwahara

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Crime Laboratory

Relax, sit back and enjoy this 15-minute stroll down memory lane featuring various pictures past and present of the CAC members and numerous workshops and seminars set to a lively musical accompaniment.

Solving Crimes Using Animal Genetics

Holly Ernest* and Beth Wictum

Veterinary Genetics Laboratory

University of California, Davis

DNA identification of individual animals can be applied to animal evidence associated with a crime or civil complaint. Veterinary Genetics Laboratory Forensics Unit faculty and staff respond to requests by law enforcement and the public by providing forensic genetics testing. Applications for using animal DNA analysis to solve crimes will be illustrated by reviewing histories of forensic cases presented to our laboratory. Animal genetic analysis may assist in cases for which animals may be a **witness**, **victim**, or **suspect** for a crime.

- **The animal may be a witness to a crime.** Animal evidence can link a human suspect to a crime scene. In some cases of murder or assault, an animal may belong to the suspect or the victim. For example, a suspect was linked to a murder when animal blood found at the crime scene was found to match the DNA of the suspect's dog.
- **The animal (or animal owner) is the victim.** Examples include animal abuse and animal theft, including cattle rustling.
- **The animal may be the suspect.** Dogs may attack humans or other animals. Owners of such animals may be found guilty of harboring a vicious animal, now a

felony offense.

- Collisions of animals with automobiles or other vehicles may involve liability issues resulting from injury or vehicle damage. People may seek compensation for damage caused by animals to their personal property.

The basic techniques of DNA extraction and analysis are very similar to those used in human forensic genetics. However, animal forensic work requires expertise in the genetics of a number of domestic and wildlife species and the application of population-specific genetic databases. Animal genetics should be considered a component of every criminalist's forensic toolbox.

The Fallon Connection

*Kevin Lattyak, Criminalist, Firearms Examiner
Washoe County Sheriff's Office*

Sometime in March 1997 a shooting occurred along a rural stretch of road in Nevada. Dogged persistence by local law enforcement combined with common sense legwork by lab staff solved this crime. To the surprise of investigators investigating this seeming less insignificant crime also solved another more serious and high profile case.

The different tire styles, unique ammunition headstamps and fingerprints were clues that helped investigators in Fallon develop a suspect that had shot up the vehicle traveling along the lonely stretch of Nevada highway late at night.

When a search of the suspect's residence was conducted investigators were astonished at what they found. Clipped newspaper articles of that shooting and a murder in Reno were discovered. Quick thinking investigators made the connection between the two crimes and an immediate inquiry showed that it was in fact, the same suspect and his friends who had shot up the vehicle also killed the cab driver in Reno.

The lessons learned in these investigations showed the importance of taking the extra step, even when a lower priority crime is investigated.

The Lisa Bonham Story

*Dave Jenkins, Homicide Detective
Reno Police Department*

A law enforcement officer's perspective on a 1977 case involving the abduction and subsequent sexual assault and murder of a six year old girl.

Persistent efforts by the investigators, parole and probation officers, and DNA analysts resulted in solving this case 23 years after it occurred.

The Monistat Case: Impact on the Analysis of Biological Evidence

*Elizabeth Selya, Criminalist
California Department of Justice
Santa Rosa Regional Criminalistics Laboratory*

A victim applied Monistat cream after being sexually assaulted. How would the cream affect screening tests confirmation tests and DNA results? A known semen sample was mixed with Monistat cream and analyzed using standard laboratory procedures. Monistat cream does not appear to interfere with the identification of spermatozoa/seminal fluid, DNA extraction, amplification or typing of semen stains.

Galaxy Airlines Flight 203

*Vernon McCarty
Washoe County Coroner*

Galaxy Airlines Flight 203 crashed in Reno, Nevada in January 1985. Subsequent accident scene management and investigation produced multiple "first time accomplishments".

This lecture will present an historical perspective of disaster scene management and an update of current issues that are faced by agencies responsible for recovery following a mass fatality event.

Reed McLaughlin and a 1950 Murder in Los Angeles"

*Jon Babicka
Los Angeles Police Department,
Scientific Investigation Division*

In 1950, an elderly woman was shot to death in her Los Angeles home by a prowler. Crime scene investigators recovered a partial palm print on a piece of broken glass from the kitchen floor. The intruder broke the kitchen door window in order to enter the residence.

LAPD Sergeant Alfred R. 'Reed' McLaughlin was a Latent Print Specialist in 1950. He examined the partial palm print recovered at the crime scene and determined that it matched the suspect's palm print. The evidence was instrumental in leading to the conviction of the defendant. This same Reed McLaughlin, and his wife, Virginia, left an endowment to the CAC. This endowment currently funds CAC-sponsored research and training. The endowment also funds the Edward F. Rhodes Award.

The crime scene investigation will be discussed and the official LAPD crime scene photos will be shown. A biography of Reed McLaughlin will be presented with mention of the endowment that Reed and Virginia McLaughlin left to the CAC.

A Case of the Missing Bullet

Susan A. Brockbank

*Los Angeles Police Department,
Scientific Investigation Division*

An odd occurrence involving a pillow used as an improvised silencer will be presented. The crime was a triple homicide that occurred in 1996. Each victim was shot one time in the head. Victim (A) was located lying on a bed in a bedroom with a pillow nearby. The pillow had one entry hole and one exit hole. The victim also had one entry and one exit hole in his head. The bullet was retrieved from inside the mattress underneath him. Victims (B) and (C) were located on the floor in a second bedroom. Both had an entry hole and **no** exit hole. Upon autopsy a bullet was retrieved from inside the skull of victim (B), but there was no bullet found inside victim (C). A pillow was found in the dining room at the crime scene. The pillow had two entry holes and two exit holes. At this presentation you will discover where the missing bullet was found!

A Case Study: The Recent Seizure of a P-2-P/ Methamphetamine Laboratory with an Interest- ing Route to P-2-P

*Keith T. Chan, Forensic Chemist, and Roger A. Ely,
Senior Forensic Chemist*

DEA Western Laboratory

On March 14, 2002, an operational phenyl-2-propanone (P-2-P)/methamphetamine clandestine laboratory was seized. The defendant had receipts dating back nearly four years indicating that he was converting benzyl chloride to benzyl cyanide, the to phenyl acetic acid and then to P-2-P. Finally, the receipts also indicated that he was converting the P-2-P to d,l-methamphetamine using methyl formamide via the Leuckart reaction. However, the amount of benzyl chloride that the defendant purchased, did not justify the amounts of the other precursors and chemicals. At the seizure of the laboratory, the evidence and an interview with the defendant confirmed our suspicions regarding the synthesis routes and the production of benzyl chloride using toluene and chlorine gas.

Forensic Pathology Interfacing With The Crime Lab: A Few Interesting Cases

Ellen G. I. Clark, M.D.

Sierra Pathology Associates, Inc.

Forensic Pathology Services Division

The forensic pathologist is trained to apply the art and science of medicine to issues of social concern. As a unique aspect of this venture, the pathologist often relies on the criminalist for assistance in evaluating medical findings ranging from toolmarkings on a corpse – to DNA phenotyping. This talk examines a few case examples wherein the crime lab contribution was invaluable in characterizing physical findings on crime victims...and of course...in solving the case.

Introduction to the National Judicial College

Judge William F. Dressel, President

National Judicial College

Reno, NV

“Since 1963, The National Judicial College has provided educational and professional development opportunities to over 58,000 judges worldwide. From limited jurisdiction judges to U.S. Supreme Court justices, attendees from all areas of the judicial system have benefited from the very best judicial education offered at The College. Because of its national focus, the NJC presents an opportunity for judges from all states and jurisdictions to air viewpoints in a forum that fosters the free flow of ideas. A judge’s personal knowledge of the caliber of judges in other jurisdictions creates respect for and trust in judicial decision-making overall. The NJC environment promotes collegial dialogue and encourages this intellectually stimulating interchange among participants.”

SWGDRUG Posts New Drafts of Proposed Recommen- dations

Gary Chasteen, Los Angeles Sheriff’s Dept. and

Jerry Massetti, CA Criminalistics Institute

Three new drafts of proposed recommendations appear on the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG) website, www.swgdrug.org. These are: 1. *Recommended Minimum Standards for Validation of Analytical Methods for Seized Drugs*, 2. *Recommended Minimum Standards for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative Analysis*, and 3. *A Code of Professional Practice for Drug Analysts*.

SWGDRUG seeks public review of and comment on these documents. Written responses are particularly solicited. These response should include suggestions for revised text, that corrects a perceived problem or otherwise addresses an issue of importance to drug analysis practitioners.

The SWGDRUG Core Committee will evaluate comments received during the public comment period. Subsequent to evaluation of written comments and suggested text, revised proposal drafts will be posted for additional public input. Eventually if two-thirds of the SWGDRUG Core Committee vote to accept the revised proposals, they will become published SWGDRUG recommendations.

Excerpts from the new proposal drafts will be presented.



Spring 2003 Conference

MEETING MINUTES

NWAFS Board of Directors Meeting * April 8, 2003 * Reno, Nevada

Present:

Tom Barnes (President), Bill Marshall (Vice-President), Stuart Jacobson, (Member-at-Large), Rhonda Banks (Secretary/Treasurer), Dan Alessio (Membership Secretary)

PRESIDENT REPORT, Tom Barnes

Minutes from Coeur d'Alene meeting presented. There was no separate BOD meeting. Minutes as printed will be amended to reflect that it was a business meeting.

Possible constitutional/bylaws changes to ethics committee policy and quorum rule presented. Will be published in next newsletter for membership comment.

Proposed seating a committee to develop a NWAFS code of ethics. Will discuss at the business meeting

At Coeur d'Alene, there was again a discussion on the frequency of future meetings. Suggestion was that we stimulate a discussion on the issue using a survey. Tom presented a potential survey. It was agreed that an update to the meeting organization guidelines would help the success of future meetings. Discussion on the fact that we have not continued the practice of a seminar committee to assist meeting chairpersons.

Ann Bradley will not be in Reno to accept her life member award.

Discussion on life member benefits. Inactive and active members are different categories per constitution but are ill defined. Will discuss at business meeting.

Discussion on the NWAFS policy to reimburse the President for costs if not supported by his/her employer. Tom will be requesting reimbursement for registration cost. This expenditure was unanimously approved.

Discussion regarding the award of a free meeting registration for contribution to the newsletter. It was decided that the procedure for distributing this award will be for the editorial secretary to nominate, followed by BOD approval prior to notification of the recipient. Chesterine Cwiklik was unanimously approved to receive this award for her outstanding contributions to the NWAFS newsletter.

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT, Bill Marshall

A potential survey to gather data on meeting information was presented. Bill will look at this survey and the one

Tom developed and design one adequate survey.

Discussed whether to post the survey on the website in interactive format or to deliver to member's email.

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT, Rhonda Banks

Current financial report was submitted to BOD for review.

List of duties of the Secretary/Treasurer submitted for review.

Suggestion to add to the meeting organization notebook a list of duties for the person handling the finances and a standard list of categories for income expenses.

Review of losses at the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene meetings.

Update on tax issues and finding an external auditor.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT, Dan Alessio

Discussion on how to deal with members who are delinquent in dues and would like to be reinstated as members. Review of constitution and bylaws on this issue.

Will work on drafting a list of duties for the office of membership secretary.

The membership committee has been inactive, but will be reinstated to review current applications.

Dues billing has taken place. Delinquency notices will be sent for non-payment this year.

Will work on a new membership roster for the Fall meeting.

EDITORIAL SECRETARY REPORT, Josh Spatola

(presented by Tom Barnes)

All is going well and Josh is starting to see an increase in submissions to the newsletter.

NOTHING TO REPORT

Stuart Jacobson, Member-at-large

Brad Putnam, Technical Resources Secretary

Spring 2003 Conference

MEETING MINUTES

NWAFS Business Meeting * April 9, 2003 * Reno, Nevada

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Barnes at approximately 3:30p.m.

A quorum of the membership was established. A list of members in attendance was kept by membership sec.

The minutes from the Coeur d'Alene Fall meeting were presented as posted in the newsletter. Will be amended to reflect that it was a Business meeting and not a Board meeting. Voted on and approved with the stated amendment. (D. Wyckoff/W. Marshall)

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

(Rhonda Banks)

--List of duties of the Secretary/Treasurer submitted and available for review.

- Spokane Spring 2002 meeting loss: \$4319.76
- Coeur d'Alene Fall 2002 meeting loss: \$8527
- Update on taxes.
- Current financial report presented as follows:

NWAFS Net Worth Report

(for the period of 10/8/02 through 4/07/03)

<u>Account balances</u>	<u>10/8/2002</u>	<u>4/07/03</u>
Cash and Bank Accounts:		
Checking	5,443.96	2,739.65
Savings	6,035.58	2,546.64
Investment accounts:		
Dreyfus Liquid Assets*	21,907.21	22,047.30
Total Assets	33,386.75	27,333.59
Change in net worth 10/8/02 through 4/07/03:		
		-6,053.16

(*Reflects account balance from most recent statement period ending 12/31/02.)

NWAFS Income & Expense Report

(for the period of 10/8/02 through 4/07/03)

EXPENSES:

Newsletter expenses	(1,930.36)
Coeur d'Alene meeting	(7,031.54)
Office Supplies	(92.41)
Total Expenses	(9,054.31)

INCOME:

Dividend income (Dreyfus Liquid Assets)	140.09
Interest income (savings)	11.06
Membership dues	2,850.00
Total income	3,001.15

Total income & expenses 10/8/02 through 4/07/03:
(6,053.16)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

(Dan Alessio)

-- Membership is currently as follows:

- o 204 regular members
- o 42 provisional members
- o 29 associate members
- o 2 provisional associate members
- o 9 life members

-- The following applications for membership have been received:

REGULAR MEMBER APPLICANTS:

Samantha Evans, Criminalist, CA DOJ, Santa Rosa, CA
 Matthew Gamette, Forensic Scientist, WSP, Spokane, WA
 Rebecca Gaxiola, Criminalist, CA DOJ, Redding, CA
 Lori Hutchinson, Forensic Scientist, MFSD,
 Missoula, MT
 Shannon Larson, Forensic Scientist, Idaho State Police,
 Pocatello, ID
 Dr. John Lundy, OSP-Medical Examiner Division,
 Portland, OR
 Rocklan McDowell Forensic Scientist, Idaho State
 Police, Pocatello, ID
 Barry Miller, Criminalist, CA DOJ, Redding, CA
 Dr Eric Person, Ph.D. Forensic Scientist, WSP,
 Marysville, WA

ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICANTS:

Sam Blittman, Forensic Chemist, Arson Laboratory
 Consultants
 Robinette Struckel Autopsy Technician, King County
 ME, Seattle, WA

-- The membership committee has been inactive, but will be reinstated to review current applications.

EDITORIAL SECRETARY REPORT

(Barnes reporting for Spatola)

Josh is on his own for the newsletter now. Matt is no longer associated. Thanks to Matt for his hard work during his long term.

All is going well and Josh is starting to see an increase in submissions to the newsletter and the costs are reasonable.

PRESIDENT REPORT*(Tom Barnes)*

- Possible constitutional/bylaws changes to the ethics committee policy and quorum rule presented. Will be published in next newsletter for membership comment with a vote of the membership intended at the Fall meeting in Portland.
- Proposed seating a committee to develop a NWAFS code of ethics. Robert Thompson and Venora King volunteer to participate along with Tom. They will review code of ethics from other organizations and make a recommendation for NWAFS.
- Discussion on meeting attendance issues and upcoming survey of members.
- Discussion on need for business plan and seating a committee to evaluate example plans. Don Wyckoff, Karen Lawless, Bill Marshall, and Tom Barnes volunteer to participate.
- Ann Bradley will not be in Reno to accept her life member award.
- Discussion on life member benefits. Roger Ely will draft a new policy for membership review.

NOTHING TO REPORT

Bill Marshall, Vice President's Report
 Brad Putnam, Technical Secretary's Report
 Stuart Jacobson, Member-at-Large

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Fall 2003 in Portland, OR
 October 13-17, 2003 at the beautiful Embassy Suites Downtown Hotel. Lots of great workshops planned. Oktoberfest theme with costumes encouraged. Check the website @ www.nwafs.org for updates.

Spring 2004 in Missoula, MT
 Annalivia Bishop is chairing this meeting. Planning is going well. Will have more updates as meeting dates draw closer.

Fall 2004
 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Laboratory in Ashland, OR is willing to host this meeting.
 Voted on and approved. (Marshall/Alessio)

Spring 2005
 Annalivia Bishop will make contact to see if the regional IAI branch would be interested in a joint meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSIONS

Would appreciate update of website with abstracts from meetings (R. Thompson)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45p.m.
 (D. Wyckoff/R. Thompson)

ANNOUNCEMENTS**MAFS MEETING**

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists is to be held October 19-24, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency, Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, OH.

Program Chair: G. Michele Yezzo
 For more information visit their webpage at:
<http://www.mafs.net/index.html>

NEAFS MEETING

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists is to be held November 5-8, 2003 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pittsfield, MA.

For more information contact:

Jennifer F. Limoges
 NEAFS President-Elect
 New York State Police
 Forensic Investigation Center
 1220 Washington Ave., Bldg. 30
 Albany, NY 12226
 Tel: 518.457.0054
 Fax: 518.485.8502
 Email: jlimoges@troopers.state.ny.us



Proposed Changes

CONSTITUTION

The NWAFS Board of Directors present proposed constitutional/bylaws changes regarding the quorum rule, ethics committee policy, and life member policy. They are published in this newsletter for membership comment with a vote of the membership intended at the Fall meeting in Portland. Strikethru text is that which will be deleted while bolded text is that which is new.

NWAFS Constitution Article IV -- MEETINGS

- Section 1: The Association shall meet twice a year, with meetings in the Spring and Fall. The location of the meetings shall be selected by the Regular members. The exact date of the semi-annual meeting shall be selected by the Meeting Chairperson.
- Section 2: ~~7% of the Regular members shall constitute a quorum for conducting Association business.~~ **A quorum at any regular meeting of the membership shall be equal to the number of members present.**
- Section 3: All actions by the Association shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided in this Constitution or in the Bylaws.
- Section 4: Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the parliamentary procedure for all meetings of this Association.

NWAFS Constitution, Bylaw, Chapter 1, Section 2, Part (D) -- Life Member

(D) LIFE MEMBER

- (1) Life membership may be bestowed upon a Regular member in good standing upon nomination by three (3) Regular members in writing to the Membership Secretary, the recommendation of the Membership committee, and a simple majority vote of the Regular and ~~Active~~ Life members present at the Fall Business meeting. The criteria for evaluating the candidate's qualifications to be bestowed Life membership may include, but are not limited to:
- Charter membership; or
 - service as a past officer of the Association; or
 - on-going, active participation on the working committees of the Association; and
 - continued service to the Association.
- (2) ~~An Active Life member shall remain a voting member and may hold any office in the Association until such time as the Life member leaves the profession.~~ **A Life Member shall maintain the privileges of a Regular Member, including:**
- voting rights on issues placed before the Membership for action;**
 - the right to hold an elected office in the Association; and**
 - shall receive the Association's newsletter at no cost.**
- (3) ~~Upon leaving the profession, the Active Life member shall become an Inactive Life member and shall:~~
- ~~lose the right to vote on Association business.~~
 - ~~lose the right to hold an elected office in the Association.~~
 - ~~receive the Association's newsletter at no cost.~~
 - ~~be exempt from paying yearly membership dues.~~
 - ~~be exempt from paying semi-annual meeting registration fees. This exemption shall only apply to actual meeting registration fees. The Inactive Life member shall still be responsible for fees related to workshops and other fee-based activities associated with the meeting when the cost of those workshops and activities is in addition to the meeting registration fee.~~ **A Life Member shall be exempt from paying annual Association dues.**

NWAFS Constitution, Bylaw, Chapter 3, Section 3, Part (E) -- Ethics Committee

- (E) ~~The Ethics Committee shall be an *ad hoc* committee of the Association and shall be called to serve by the President and/or the Board of Directors. It shall be the Committee's responsibility to:~~
- ~~prepare and revise, as needed, a Code of Ethics for the Membership. The Code of Ethics and any changes to the Code of Ethics shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Regular members at any business meeting.~~
 - ~~prepare and maintain written guidelines for the investigation and resolution of matters regarding ethical conduct, and make those guidelines available to the Membership~~
 - ~~investigate all such claims of unprofessional conduct as enumerated.~~

(E) ETHICS COMMITTEE**RESPONSIBILITIES**

The ethics committee will be convened on an *ad hoc* basis and shall be responsible for the following:

- (1) Review and recommend changes to the NWAFS bylaws and Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics and any changes to the Code of Ethics shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Regular members at any business meeting.
- (2) Review all complaints received, which specify a violation of the NWAFS Code of Ethics.
- (3) Upon review of such complaints, recommend a course of action to the Board of Directors. The final decision on all committee recommendations rest with the Board of Directors.

MEMBERS

Members of the committee shall be comprised of the President, as Chair, the two immediate past presidents, and two members not serving on the Board of Directors. All committee members shall be in good standing and be willing to serve. Should any member become a subject of review, or is employed by the same employer as the respondent, that person shall withdraw from any deliberation concerning the matter, and a temporary committee member shall be named by the Board.

PROCEDURE

- (1) A written complaint alleging violation(s) of the Code of Ethics must be submitted to the Chair.
- (2) The Chair shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint by certified mail, within ten (10) business days, to the individual submitting the complaint (complainant).
- (3) The Chair shall evaluate the complaint to determine whether additional information or clarification is needed to ascertain the nature and circumstances of the alleged violation. The Chair may request the complainant to provide additional or clarifying information. The Chair shall determine whether the Ethics Committee has jurisdiction and whether the complaint alleges a violation of the NWAFS Code of Ethics. If the Chair finds that the Ethics Committee does not have jurisdiction or that the complaint does not allege a violation of the Code of Ethics, the complaint shall be dismissed. In the event of dismissal, the complainant shall be notified of the dismissal in writing and the respondent shall be notified that a complaint was made, the nature of the complaint and that the complaint was dismissed. The respondent shall not be advised of the identity of the complainant.
- (4) If the Chair finds that the Ethics Committee has jurisdiction and that the complaint alleges a violation of the Code of Ethics, the respondent shall be notified of the filing of the complaint and provided with a copy of the complaint and all materials submitted with the complaint. The respondent shall be advised the he/she must submit, within thirty (30) days of the mailing notice, a written reply and any documents the respondent desires to have considered by the Ethics Committee. This response will be considered in making a preliminary determination of whether probable cause exists to proceed with a hearing on the matters raised in the complaint. Failure to respond will be taken as an acknowledgment of the fact as stated in the complaint. After the expiration of the reply period, the Ethics Committee shall consider the complaint, any reply and all materials submitted by the complainant or the respondent, and determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the allegations of the complaint are true. If probable cause is not found, the complaint shall be dismissed and the complainant and respondent notified of the dismissal. If probable cause is found to exist, the Ethics Committee shall schedule a hearing.
- (5) If probable cause is found to exist and a hearing is, or is to be, scheduled, the Ethics Committee may appoint a member of NWAFS to conduct an investigation of the matters raised in the complaint and secure written statements and documents for consideration by the Ethics Committee. The investigation is to be one of fact-finding, not advocacy. During the investigation, the Ethics Committee may examine any potential ethical violations, which come to its attention. Copies of any material submitted to the Ethics Committee by any person so appointed should be made available for inspection by the complainant and respondent.
- (6) Should the respondent cease to be a member for any reason after an investigation is opened and prior to it being closed, the President will immediately order the member excluded from membership unless that membership is reinstated by 75% vote of the Board. All proceedings and any investigation of the respondent shall be suspended. Should the exclusion be rescinded, the action regarding the respondent will resume.
- (7) This process may be suspended at any time at the discretion of the Ethics Committee if it becomes known that any court or other competent body, pending its resolution is dealing with the circumstances surrounding the

complaint. The complainant, the respondent, and the Board of Directors shall be notified of this action.

HEARING OF THE COMPLAINT

- (1) The complainant and respondent shall be notified by certified mail with respect to the nature and particulars of the complaint, the date, time, and location of the Ethics Committee hearing, the rights of the parties to submit written statements for consideration at this hearing, and the right of the parties to confront one another. This notification is to be at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing. All written submissions from the complainant and the respondent (or their representatives) must be received at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting.
- (2) The hearing panel shall be comprised of at least three (3) Ethics Committee members. The complainant and the respondent may be present at the hearing and address the Ethics Committee prior to their decision. The complainant and respondent shall be responsible for any expenses incurred by them to attend the hearing. Additional witnesses may be heard; legal representatives for all parties involved may be present. The hearing is not open to other NWAFS members not involved in the action, or the public.
- (3) Decisions of the Ethics Committee shall be based on the preponderance of evidence.
- (4) The Chair shall provide a written report of the outcome of the hearing to the Board of Directors within sixty (60) days from the date of the Ethics Committee hearing. The report is to present a concise summary of the fact for both parties, with regard to the credibility of the evidence, and conclude with the recommendations for action by the Board of Directors.
- (5) The report and its contents shall be treated as confidential and not publicized.
- (6) The complainant and respondent shall be notified in writing of the recommendations being made by the Ethics Committee to the Board of Directors, but shall not be provided with a copy of the report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION

- (1) The Board of Directors shall consider the Ethics Committee report at the next meeting of the Board (spring or fall meeting). The respondent and complainant shall be notified by certified mail as to the date, time, and location of the Board meeting.
- (2) If the respondent wishes to attend this meeting, the President shall be notified at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. The respondent will be responsible for any expenses incurred to attend the meeting.
- (3) The Board will decide by simple majority what action should be taken with the complaint. The action of the Board can be one of the following:
 - a) Dismiss the complaint with no further action.
 - b) Uphold the complaint and issue a letter of reprimand, with or without sanctions.
 - c) Revoke membership.
- (4) The President of NWAFS shall notify the respondent and complainant of the decision within ten (10) business days after the decision.
- (5) The affected member can appeal the revocation of their membership. A notice of appeal must be submitted, together with any written statement that he/she may wish to submit on his/her behalf, with the Membership Secretary not less than 120 days prior to the next regular meeting. The Secretary will immediately advise each member of the Board and forward to each a copy of the supporting papers from the appellant.
- (6) The appellant must obtain a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at the next regularly scheduled annual meeting to overrule the action of the Board of Directors in regard to any censure, suspension, or expulsion of a member.
- (7) Board or Committee members will make no other public or private statement regarding the investigation. No record of testimony provided to the Board of Directors or Ethics Committee members will be released regarding NWAFS's action on the complaint and its resolution.
- (8) The only record to the membership is reported adjustment of any loss of membership as regularly recorded and reported by the Membership Committee.

RECORDS

The President shall securely maintain the case files of the Ethics Committee and transfer them to his/her successor. Other members of the Committee shall destroy their files when the case is completed.

CAPTION THIS!

CURRENT



Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the always popular “CAPTION THIS!,” the captioning game that is sweeping the nation. The power to deliver a witty slogan, subtitle, or description is finally in your hands.

The best caption submitted for the photo presented above will win a STARBUCK’S Coffee Gift Card.

Decision of the editor is final. Bribery may not be tolerated.

EMAIL: JOSH.SPATOLA@DOJ.CA.GOV

WINNER

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“In an early experiment with the Gramophone, Thomas Edison believed that the vibrations would travel from his fingertip, up his arm, and the music would come out his mouth.”

Jan LeMay

Weld County Sheriff's Office

Congrats! Your STARBUCK'S Coffee Gift Card is on its way!

Honorable Mentions...

I received a great many “Caption This” this time and wish I could put them all in because they were extremely creative. Here are a few more...

“Toolmark examiners do it on there knees!”

(Leland Samuelson, Portland Crime Lab, Oregon State Police)

“In 1956, after years of research, Professor Heidelberg perfects the “ultimate” in data storage...The Humongous Disc (HD). Which, as we all know, was the predecessor to the Compact Disc that we all know and love.”

(Scott Bauer, Central Valley Crime Lab, California Department of Justice)

Original Caption...

A craftsman smooths the running surface of the world's largest thrust bearing to support the weight of Pickwick Landing dam waterwheel generator being built at the East Pittsburgh works of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. The bearing has a 105-inch diameter and will carry a load of about 2,500,000 pounds
Original Caption by Science Service® General Electric Company

2002 - 2003

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WILLKOMMEN ALLES ZUM OKTOBERFEST



**NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF
FORENSIC SCIENTISTS
FALL MEETING
PORTLAND, OREGON
OCTOBER 13-17, 2003**



SEMINARS INCLUDE:

- BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS (3 DAYS)
- GLOCK ARMORERS SCHOOL (1 DAY)
- OCCULT CRIME SCENES (1 DAY)
- MASS SPECTRAL INTERPRETATION (1 DAY)
- TOPICS IN THE EXAMINATION OF FOOTWEAR IMPRESSIONS
(1 DAY INCLUDING NIKE FACTORY TOUR)
- DNA AUDITING WORKSHOP (2 DAYS, 20 STUDENTS MINIMUM)

TECHNICAL SESSION KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Perspectives on the World Trade Center Crime Scene after Sept. 11, 2001
Detective Sgt Joe Blozis, New York City Police Department Crime Scene Unit

For more information visit the NWAFS website at www.nwafs.org
or contact
Rhonda Banks
rhonda.banks@state.or.us
503-229-5017 ext.228

Registration packets will be available July 1st: mailed to NWAFS members,
available online @ www.nwafs.org or mailed to non-members by request.

HOME BREW TASTE TEST

*at the Northwest Association
fall meeting in Portland*

to participate, bring your best
brew to the Hospitality Suite
on Tuesday the 14th.
bring enough for all
(or at least a 12-pack)

