

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Is there life after you are downsized/retired/denied tenure by your former employer (fill in name of culprit) due to changing business climate/departamental politics/age/sex? If you have not yet asked this question, it seems to be only a matter of time before you will. Life-long careers with the same employer are on the list of endangered species. With the unrelenting mania by companies to merge, staff reductions continue. Can you avoid it? Probably not. Can you do anything about it? Possibly. Will you survive? Of course you will. Will you have a future in micropaleontology? Hmmm.

While reading over the President's Letters in some back issues of NAMS News, I found it interesting how the mood of the Geoscience Community changed in the 90's. Early on, things were rosey and the future looked great. There was high excitement in academia and in industry. You couldn't attend enough meetings or go on too many field trips. Members reaching retirement were actually envied! By the late 90's, the reality of industry downsizing had reached us all. One thing we need to keep in mind are the overall trends in the industry. In technology, most people don't work all their lives for one employer, but since the field is growing, it doesn't matter that much. Oil and gas is one of the few fields

in the U.S. where employment is decreasing, so if you leave one employer, there may be no new spot to land in. That is a long-term problem for the industry: how do you recruit entry-level employees to a shrinking enterprise?

More than industry micropaleontology is suffering. Universities, which formerly prepared the next generations of technical geoscientists in many disciplines, began changing the direction of future student training towards environmental and hydrology. There are significant differences in the trends in academic and industrial paleontology. Karl Flessa's academic study indicated that the decrease in academic paleontologists has been close to zero over the 15 years of his study (roughly 1980-1995). In the current issue of *Geotimes*, John Armentrout and NAMS Treasurer Martin Farley report that there has been roughly a 90% decrease in the number of paleontologists employed by oil companies in the past 15 years (1985-2000). Given that academic geoscience departments have expanded over this period, a flat total is no cause for celebration, but it is not exactly a disaster. Specialties in small number to begin with, such as palynology or nanofossils, are in particular danger of random extinction, and that is a perfectly real problem.

Whether or not the upcoming national



### NAMS NEEDS OFFICERS

NAMS is pleased to announce that two important positions are open for nominations and election early next year. We will hold elections for President-Elect and Newsletter Editor in January, 2001.

President-Elect organizes the MMRG meeting at AAPG during the year before ascending to the position of President. Section President organizes officer meetings, relations with other groups, including SEPM, and authors a column in this newsletter. The presidential conveyor belt ultimately leads to the position of Past-President, in which our retiring monarch organizes symposia and field trips at annual meetings.

The Newsletter Editor assembles news of the section into a newsletter twice per year and mails it out to the members. The current Editor also maintains the NAMS website. More information about the organization, duties outlined in our constitution, and the august lineage of past officers are available at the web site.

### INA PRESIDENTS

Incoming president of the International Nannoplankton Association, Woody Wise, poses with outgoing president Shirley van Heck at the recent INA meeting in Bremen, Germany. See report on page 2.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTD

elections [PLEASE VOTE!] will affect the oil industry is not yet clear. Certainly the arguments over piping oil from the North Slope to slow a price war indicate that oil is in the mix of national politics. It would be nice if that translated into renewed exploration coupled with technical work.

In the October 1998 President's Letter, my predecessor Tom Dignes put a positive spin on all this Doom and Gloom by recommending a 3-Way Relationship between industry biostratigraphy coordinators, consulting specialists, and academic departments. John Armentrout wrote a stronger statement in the May 1999 issue. I won't repeat all the ways they cited as means to strengthen our mutually beneficial interactions, but I will underscore their importance. While the downsizing mania continues, we need to not just hold on but also beginning planning for what will come next.

That vague "Next" is different for each of us. For some, "Retirement" was just that: a little early, but not worth fighting any longer. We all know colleagues with young families who cannot ride out this wave of uncertainty and were forced to change direction. A few found temporary refuge with a new employer only to be chopped a second time. Personally, I chose to set up my small consulting business, created a website, networked a lot, and got caught up on a lot of computer skills I had let slide. We'll see if that was a good choice or not.

NAMS is also coping with these trying times. We will continue to have a Marine Micropaleontology Research Group (MMRG) meeting during the AAPG/SEPM annual meeting in April. We are now an integral part of SEPM, and use them to advertise our meet-

ings and events. Thanks to the efforts of past-President Hilary Olson, we now have the "NAMS Micropaleontology Endowed Fund." Although our membership is stable, we would like to see it grow. You would be surprised at how many of our peers out there who, for example, belong to the Cushman Foundation or AASP are not NAMS members. I'm not singling out those groups except that they are large and come to mind. We are actively communicating the British Micropalaeontological Society to hold a joint meeting in the not too distant future. We both saw a natural similarity between the diverse interests of our members and, with the internet and email, we are no longer all that far apart.

Peter Thompson, NAMS President  
prthomps@flash.net

### U-DUB SEEKS MICROPALAEONTOLOGIST

The Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison seeks a geobiologist with expertise in marine microfossils for a tenure-track, Assistant Professor position, beginning August, 2001. We are interested in individuals with strong research programs in one or more of these areas: the dynamics of the earth-life system over time, paleoceanography, paleoclimatology, biogeochemistry, and the molecular phylogenetics of microorganisms in relation to earth history. Contact Prof. Dana Geary, Geobiology Search Chair, Dept. of Geology & Geophysics, UW-Madison, 1215 W. Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53706-1692. Deadline: January 2, 2001.

## International Nannoplankton Association Conference Report

Close to 150 micropaleontologists attended the INA's 8th biennial conference at the University of Bremen, Germany, so ably organized by Professor Helmut Willems, Tania Hildebrand-Habel Cristine Hoell and their enthusiastic staff of 20 or more. Well over 100 published abstracts and presentations provided a state-of-the-art snap shot of the rapidly moving field of calcareous nannoplankton research, ranging from the discovery of new paleoceanographic and biostratigraphic indicators among ancient coccolith assemblages to a wealth of biological and climate-change information being derived from major international projects such as the European Community-sponsored CODENET project. A copy of the Program and Abstracts (published as volume 22(2) of the Journal of Nannoplankton Research) plus the recently released Proceedings from the previous meeting in Puerto Rico, can be ordered from Jeremy Young (NHM) or the Journal Editor (Jackie Lees) through the Association's web site at [http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted\\_sites/ina/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/ina/). Back issues of the JNR and most previous Proceedings are also available. During the business session, long-time President of

the INA, Shirley van Heck, handed the leadership of the organization over to incoming President Woody Wise, who announced that the next biennial meeting will be held in Parma, Italy (Giuliana Villa, Organizer) in the fall of 2002. He also announced that the Student Best Paper Awards for that meeting will include one for Best Poster Presentation in memory of the late Ralph Solomon, whose legacy to the Association lives on through his award-winning and stunningly beautiful "Calcite Palace" of nannofossils, which can be accessed through the web site noted above. To support the Solomon Award as well as student travel funds to the meeting, the INA Foundation has been established under the directorship of David Watkins (Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln) to receive contributions. We hope that all interested members of NAMS will support to their fullest the activities of the INA and will make every effort to join us for the next conference in Parma two years from now.

-INA President Woody Wise  
Florida State University

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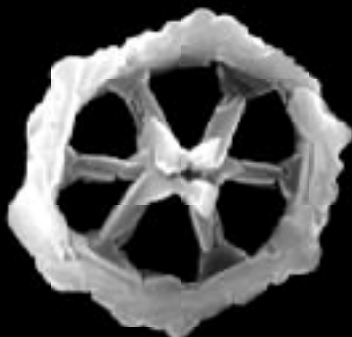
### TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 15 October 2000, the NAMS treasury contained about \$6295. From 15 March to 15 October, NAMS received \$702 from member dues and interest. Expenditures totaled \$873 for newsletter expenses, support of the Cushman Foundation/NAMS reception at GSA in 1999, and miscellaneous expenses. In addition, the section made a \$2500 contribution to the NAMS Fund of the SEPM Foundation. For the last 12 months, expenditures totaled \$4429 and receipts \$2314.



--Martin Farley, NAMS Treasurer

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NAMS NEWS is published two times a year, just before the GSA meeting in the fall and AAPG meeting in the spring, by NAMS. Submissions are always welcome. Copyright 2000.

# MEETING CALENDAR

**BMS Annual Meeting**  
November 15, 2000 2:00 pm  
University College London, UK  
Cruciform Bldg Lecture Theater 1  
www.bmsoc.org

**Palaeontological Association  
Annual Conference**  
December 17-20, 2000  
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
contact: Vicen Carrio-Lluesma  
National Museum of Scotland  
Chambers St  
Edinburgh EH1 1JF Scotland, U.K  
e-mail: palass@palass.org  
www.palass.org

**SCUM V  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIFIED  
MALACOLOGISTS the mollusk people**  
January 20, 2001  
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
contact: George Davis  
Tel. 213 763-3450 Fax: 213 746-2999  
e-mail: gdavis@nhm.org

**GSA Southcentral 50th Anniversary  
Meeting**  
April 5-6, 2001  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
contact: Edward F. (Skip) Stoddard  
N. C. State University

Raleigh, NC 27695-8208  
Tel. 919-515-7939  
e-mail: kip\_stoddard@ncsu.edu  
www.geosociety.org

**GSA Cordilleran Section & AAPG  
Pacific Section**  
April 9-11, 2001  
Paleontology of the West Coast Session  
Sheraton Universal Hotel  
Universal City, North Hollywood, CA  
contact: Dr. Richard Squires  
Dept of Geological Sciences  
California State University  
Northridge, CA 91330-8266  
Tel: 818-677-2514  
Fax: 818-677-2820.  
e-mail: richard.squires@csun.edu

**ST. JOHN'S 2001  
Geological Association of Canada -  
Mineralogical Association of Canada**  
May 27-30, 2001  
St. John's Newfoundland  
contact: Dept of Mines and Energy  
St. John's, NF A1B 4J6  
Tel: 709-729-2301 Fax: 709-729-3493  
e-mail: dmp@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca

**Upper Cretaceous-Neogene Dino-  
flagellate Cyst Course  
Morphology, Stratigraphy &  
Paleoecology**  
June 4-8, 2001

Urbino, Italy  
contact: H.Brinkhuis@bio.uu.nl

**North American Paleontological  
Convention**  
June 26 - July 1, 2001  
Univ of California, Berkeley  
contact: UC Museum of Paleontology  
Berkeley, CA 94720-4780  
e-mail: NAPC2001@ucmp1.berkeley.edu  
www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/napc/

**14th International Symposium on  
Ostracoda**  
August 1-4, 2001  
Shizuoka University, Japan  
contact: ISO2001  
Dept. of Biology and Geosciences  
Shizuoka University  
Oya 836, Shizuoka 422-8529 Japan  
Fax: (81) 54 238 0491  
Email: iso2001@se-geomail.sci.shizuoka.ac.jp

**FORAMS 2002**  
February 4-8, 2002  
University of Western Australia, Perth  
contact: David Haig  
Department of Geology and Geophysics,  
The University of Western Australia  
Nedlands, 6907  
Western Australia  
Email: forams@geol.uwa.edu.au  
www.geol.uwa.edu.au/forams

## PERSONAL NOTES

### Andersen, Ven Den Bold Memorials

It is with great regret and sorrow that I have learned of the recent deaths of two prominent North American micropaleontologists, Dr. Harold V. "Andy" Andersen, and Dr. Willem A. Van Den Bold. Edward B. Picou, Jr., in a recent LSU Alumni Newsletter, wrote that "after a valiant fight with congestive heart failure, Doc Andersen passed away at his home in Baton Rouge on June 28, 2000." He had retired from LSU's Geology Dept in 1977 after more than 30 years of dedicated teaching and research. However, Andy remained active almost until his death. Many of Doc Andy's students went on to become key personnel on the biostratigraphic staffs of many petroleum companies exploring and developing reserves in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere. Andy remarked to me in April that he now "owned" most of the genera in the foraminiferal Family Miliolidae. A detailed Memorial to Andy is in the Gulf Coast Section SEPM Foun-

ation Web site at: [www.gcssepm.org](http://www.gcssepm.org). Dr. Van Den Bold ("Vim" to his close friends and ex-students) was hired by Henry V. Howe in about 1958 from Shell International, where Vim had been working in Trinidad. He retired circa 1988 after about 30 years of service at LSU, and moved back to his native Holland. He maintained an office at Utrecht, his alma mater, until the end. I learned of his demise (Oct. 20, 2000) yesterday from his former student, Dra. Maria Machain Castillo (now Dean of the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnologia at UNAM in Mexico City), and Sr. Raul Gio-Argaez, also with the same Institution. Vim was the premier ostracode biostratigrapher of the Antillean/Caribbean area. I assume someone in the community will be writing his Memoriam shortly. Both of these outstanding teachers/researchers will be sorely missed!

- Paul R. Krutak

### LUNDQUIST SNAGS BOOK AWARD

The 2000 NAMS Student Book Award, which carries with it a \$100 check, was made to Jason Lundquist, then a doctoral student at the University of Texas at Austin Department of Geological Sciences. Jason recently completed a dissertation entitled "Foraminiferal Biostratigraphic and Paleooceanographic analysis of the Eagle Ford, Austin, and lower Taylor Groups (Middle Cenomanian through Lower Campanian) of Central Texas". He now works for BP in Houston, Texas as a micropaleontologist.

Careful readers will note that Jason was to be the leader of a NAMS-sponsored field trip to the examine the Austin Chalk in the central Texas area in conjunction with the 1999 AAPG Annual Meeting in San Antonio. A snafu in advertising led to cancellation of the field trip, but Jason has organized a fine virtual field trip available online at [www.geo.utexas.edu/JasonL/Field\\_Trip/Trip.html](http://www.geo.utexas.edu/JasonL/Field_Trip/Trip.html).



## 2000 GSA Annual Meeting November 9-18 Reno, Nevada



### Selected Highlights

8:00 am, Monday, November 13  
Oral Session

T117. Developing Paleontology: The Emerging Developmental Biology/Paleobiology Synthesis  
Sponsored by The Paleontological Society

1:30 pm Monday, November 13  
Poster Session  
Paleoclimatology/Paleoceanography

3:30 pm Monday, November 13  
Oral Session  
Micropaleontology: Environmental Change, Human Impact and Evolution

8:00 am Tuesday, November 14  
Poster Session  
Micropaleontology

## NAMARWATCH PROPOSAL

### NATIONAL MARINE SENTINEL HABITAT MONITORING PROGRAM (NAMARWATCH) CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dear NAMS members,

Over the past year I have been in touch with several U.S.-based colleagues on an idea for a long-term, U.S.-focused coordinated national marine and freshwater habitat monitoring program aimed at contributing to U.S. sustainable development policy objectives, and as an initiative designed to strengthen what I call the "supporting infrastructure" of U.S. micropaleontological sciences. The outcome of this exercise at this point in time is a draft set of "discussion notes" for a 25 year long (+) project called NAMARWATCH. At this stage, the project's goal is to establish a network of 6-8 U.S. institutions that collectively have expertise covering the entire spectrum of U.S. regional-scale coastal marine and Great Lakes benthic habitat settings (including Alaska and Hawaii). These institutions will have taxonomic, marine, and lacustrine micropaleontological expertise as well as infrastructure capacity that would permit their participation in a coordinated NAMARWATCH program. The NAMAR WATCH program could be initiated over a three year period (2001-2003) during which time the network of institutions, a national data base archive facility, and participating government agencies at the federal and state levels would be identified and solicited as joint partners.

The impetus for this national-level project arises from at least three perceived needs. Firstly, it seems evident that the historical level of general support enjoyed by the micropaleontological sciences through their popularity and utility in the petroleum exploration sector as a source of stratigraphic and paleoenvironmental information is on the decline because of an

increasing reliance on emerging, physically-based techniques. Secondly, there is evidence for a growing worldwide trend on the application of micropaleontological techniques to environmental and climatic issues.

Thirdly, there is a view that has been expressed in the contemporary ocean policy literature to the effect that, to date, there have existed few opportunities for rational and long-range planning for the protection, enhancement and use of U.S. ocean [and lacustrine?] resources (e.g., see: Cincin-Sain and Knecht, 2000, "The Future of U.S. Ocean Policy"). At this stage of the project conceptualization process NAMARWATCH is thought to have potential to:

- contribute benthic habitat proxy information useful in accelerating the United States towards a goal of sustainable development of its coastal ocean and Great Lakes.
- strengthen and enhance state/federal partnerships that are committed to effective management and preservation of U.S. ocean/Great Lakes natural resources using a university/private sector - based linkage structure.

We are now in a position to be able to offer interested parties a set of the draft "discussion notes" that will perhaps provoke the initiation of a national-level dialog on this idea. Please contact me using the e-mail route if you would like to receive an electronic version of the 8 page draft discussion notes document and/or would like to offer any initial thoughts/suggestions regarding this idea.

Charles Schafer, Emeritus Scientist  
Marine Environmental Geology Subdivision  
Bedford Institute of Oceanography  
cschafer@sprint.ca

# PUBLICATIONS

## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CUSHMAN FOUNDATION SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Anyone working on a foraminiferal or related project that has resulted or will result in a thick manuscript with plentiful data-tables, appendices and plates, should consider publishing their work as a Cushman Foundation Special Publication. The Foundation publishes on average one Special Publication per year. To learn the scope and variety of past Special Publications, please visit their web site at [cushforams.niu.edu/specialpub.html](http://cushforams.niu.edu/specialpub.html).

This year the Foundation has monies available to help fund publication of work. If you are interested, please contact the Special Publications Editor, Steve Culver, at Department of Geology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina 27858 USA, or send a message to [culvers@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:culvers@mail.ecu.edu)

-Jennifer Jett  
Cushman Foundation

## FORAMINIFERA FROM LAKES? NOT REALLY

LI, Q & MCGOWRAN, B., 2000. Miocene foraminifera from Lakes Entrance Oil Shaft, Gippsland, southeastern Australia. *Memoir of the Association of Australasian Palaeontologists* 22, 1-142 ISSN 0810-8889

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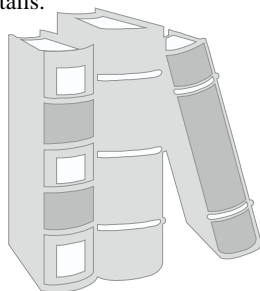
## POLLEN BOOK BACK IN PRINT

Textbook of Pollen Analysis, 4th. edition  
by Knut Faegri, Johs. Iversen, Peter Emil Kaland and Knut Krzywinski

This book is a reprint of the fourth edition of the Textbook of Pollen Analysis and is unique in its approach as it discusses both the practical and theoretical aspects of palynology. It uses palynological techniques as tools for solving problems in quaternary geology, ecology and archeology. There are over 130 illustrations and the identification keys have been thoroughly revised and are now illustrated. ISBN 1-930665-01-6 Visit [blackburnpress.com](http://blackburnpress.com) for more details.

## ONLINE RAD REFS

Two on-line sites providing information about radiolarians will be available early in 2001. One will be part of the ODP web site, [www-odp.tamu.edu/publications/pubs2.htm](http://www-odp.tamu.edu/publications/pubs2.htm) and is an on-line version of a manual compiled by Catherine Nigrini and Annika Sanfilippo,



originally for use on board the Joides Resolution. The manual, "Cenozoic Radiolarian Stratigraphy for Low and Middle Latitudes", provides the user with descriptions, dimensions, distinguishing characters, variability, phylogeny, range data and illustrations of 160 stratigraphically useful Cenozoic species.

The other new on-line source of information about radiolarians will be available via the web site of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris ([www.mnhn.fr/mnhn/geo](http://www.mnhn.fr/mnhn/geo)). This site is the first public exposure of a relational database, RadWorld, constructed by Catherine Nigrini, Jean Pierre Caulet and Annika Sanfilippo. It contains original and subsequent generic and specific descriptions and images, generic and specific citations and geographic and stratigraphic occurrences of radiolarian species of all ages. It currently includes all published genera through 1999 (~ 2500 genera with original descriptions, type species, and type localities), over 4000 references to radiolarian literature, and about 4700 species (original descriptions and dimensions and type localities). Currently, through database queries, one can request generic descriptions, compile synonymies and conduct literature searches. Initially the web site will show all genera with their type species and all radiolarian literature. The literature part of the database is basically the same as RadRefs, but will lack the ability to construct bibliographies. RadRefs, for use with the EndNote bibliographic software continues to be available via annika Sanfilippo and Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

- Catherine Nigrini

## INTERRAD IX REPORT

My best greetings regarding the INTERRAD IX in Blairsden, California. It was a very nice and fruitful meeting and I would like to thank Paula Noble for having gone through all the pain of organizing this meeting. We achieved a quite general agreement on several topics and I would like to report in an informal way to keep everybody up-to-date.

There was a general agreement on supporting two online databases that provide access to radiolarian references, systematics and images on the web:

[www.radiolaria.org](http://www.radiolaria.org) is run by [jane@one.no](mailto:jane@one.no) and is interactive; any qualified person is invited to input data. Once the data is reviewed by a specialist, it goes into the formal and retrievable part of the base. This base is seen by many participants of the meeting as a forum for discussion of new or problematic taxa, as well as a reference base for the future.

RADWORLD relational database constructed by Cathy Nigrini ([nigrini@idt.net](mailto:nigrini@idt.net)) -see article above.

Late Cretaceous - Early Tertiary Working Group. This working group held a meeting and established a list of collaborators and their field of interest. You will get the minutes of this meeting from Chris Hollis ([C.Hollis@gns.cri.nz](mailto:C.Hollis@gns.cri.nz)).

During the business meeting it was decided to have the next INTERRAD meeting in mid September, 2003 IN Lausanne, Switzerland. The organizing committee will be: Peter O. Baumgartner (president of INTERRAD), Paulian Dumitrica, Spela Gorican, Jean Guex, Luis O'Dogherty and Anna-Chiara Bartolini who will propose a field trip to Sicily (Paleozoic-Mesozoic-Cenozoic).

Best wishes and SEE YOU IN LAUSANNE!

-Peter Baumgartner

# ODP CALENDAR



## JOIDES Resolution Legs 192-195

<http://www-odp.tamu.edu>

Leg	Region	Co-Chiefs	Dep. Port	Date	Objectives
192	Ontong Java	Mahoney Fitton	Guam	Sept 13	Initial series of holes to document the age and style of emplacement of the world's largest igneous province.
193	Manus Basin	Binns Barriega	Guam	Nov 13	Study the magmatic-fluid interactions in a felsic volcanic-hosted hydrothermal system in the Manus back-arc basin.
194	Marion Basin	Anselmetti Isern	Townsville	Jan 6	Study absolute magnitude of Cenozoic sea level fluctuations on a carbonate platform complex.
195	Mariana/ Pacific Ion	Shinohara Salisbury	Guam	Mar 5	Drilling and casing a hole on the Philippine Sea abyssal seafloor coupled with the installation of a broadband seismometer for a long-term sub-seafloor borehole observatory.

## NAMS Renewal Information

Your official NAMS address label on this newsletter is the key to your dues responsibility. Please note the code and/or date after your name on the mailing label. The date tells you the year through which your dues are paid.

2000 or later - dues are paid up  
 1999 - please pay \$10.00 for 2000 dues  
 1998 - please pay \$10.00 for 2000 dues, \$10.00 for 1999 dues, and \$.50 late fee.  
 1997 - you must pay \$27.50 this fall or you will be dropped from membership!!

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BEFORE YOU FORGET!**

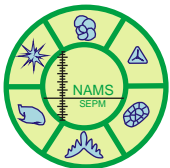
remit to:  
 NAMS, SEPM  
 Martin Farley, Treasurer  
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 Houston, TX 77057  
 mfarley@hal-pc.org

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