

Pyroclasts: How Did You Hear of That Article?

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Features



Pyroclasts

How Did You Hear of That Article?

In these days of computers, data storage, and abstracting services, you tend to think of your brighter colleagues pushing buttons and generating a computerized literature search while you still laboriously browse through the library and subscribe to expensive journals. Not so, as a fascinating NSF (USA) study of "Statistical Indicators of Scientific and Technical Communication 1960-1980" will inform you.

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038-000-00295-3). It will show you how to advertise your own or your Department's research effort at minimal cost.

Are We On The Way At Last?

It could just be that Canadian geoscientists are finally moving into some of the national science control points occupied for so long by chemists, physicists and, more recently, biological scientists.

We've often overestimated our clout because we've long been so conspicuous in the international circle of our peers. *J. Tuzo Wilson* was president of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in its vintage year and *George Garland* later served as its Secretary-General. *Jim Harrison* was the first president of the International Union of Geological Sciences and that union is now establishing its headquarters in Canada under our own *Bill Hutchison* as Secretary-General. On the east coast, *Tony Berger* runs the Association of Geoscientists for International Development and on the west coast *Don Russell* manages the International Committee on Geodynamics.

However, purse strings and/or political impact seem to rest with interdisciplinary agencies and societies in our own National Capital District where we never have had more than token representation in the higher echelons. This situation may be changing. *Bob Folinsbee*, newly elected president of the Royal Society of Canada, is the first leader of the Royals to be selected for a three-year term. That should be time enough to cut the purse strings, red tape or whatever needs cutting. *Hugh Wynne-Edwards* has led SCITEC into its most promising and productive period which has spawned a Parliamentary science group and which may give birth to a Canadian

Association for the Advancement of Science and a large circulation science magazine. Hugh is now moving into a term appointment with the Ministry of Science and Technology as ADM for universities. Here he will join geologist *Peter Meyboom* who is ADM for industry. With *Chas. Smith* (ex ophioliteologist) as senior ADM for Energy, Mines and Resources, *Fred Roots* as science advisor for Environment Canada and *Walter Kupsch* a member of the Science Council, we should now be able to create a major flexure (preferably a structural high) on the national scene instead of the usual invisible ripples. I hope all these guys will lunch together occasionally and remind each other of their ties to the Earth.

What Price Participation?

With power in Ottawa at last, the rest of us can get back to our microprobes (if we ever left them!) and rest easy in our beds at night. That's what we're doing already according to *Cornelia Baines, M.D.*, who wrote a review of the recent SCITEC Forum on Research for Survival. This Forum, organized and widely advertised by a committee under the chairmanship of *David Strangway*, was designed to bring politicians, industrialists, senior civil servants and scientists together to discuss the decision-making process in these critical times. It was apparently a very stimulating meeting lacking only one major ingredient - the scientists who were supposed to provide the audience! Reviewer Baines suggests that scientists across Canada will be hard pressed to restore their credibility with those who came to talk with them and found them absent. *Frank Maine, M.P.* noted that special groups in the scientific community (e.g., geoscientists?) were continually demanding special treatment although

hardly any turned up at this meeting to contribute to pressing, multidisciplinary national and world problems. It recalls a common viewpoint of scientists which was cited at the CGC Forum in Vancouver last May: "Selfish, narrow, myopic creatures wrapped up in their research projects and oblivious to the broader implications of their research and of world needs".

Surely all of us have duty to briefly raise up our eyes from the bench or the outcrop to look at the wider world and maybe even to comment upon it.

Elevation to the Bench

Government geoscientists are now being encouraged to resign their appointments as research managers voluntarily and to return to the bench or outcrop when they feel that they've made their contribution to chaos and they require a recharge. University professors have done this for some years - very successfully where renewable term appointments are involved, much less so where regular rotations prevail and a person never really has any motive to get his teeth into the management job (because he knows his colleagues will soon be able to kick him in the teeth). Industry seems less able to adopt this system possibly because (unlike universities and government science) salary scales are commonly more closely tied to management duties.

Brian Norford, who is abdicating as Head of the GSC's Paleontology Subdivision, says that it is tough for science managers like him to voluntarily relinquish their positions and re-activate their minds when everyone downgrades the move by referring to the incumbent "stepping down" or "going back to the bench". He suggests we use the legal phrase "elevation to the bench" and modify it for field men who "ascend to the rocks". How do we word this for a marine geoscientist like *Bosco Loncarevic*, who has left his post as Director of the Atlantic Geoscience Centre to climb into a berth at sea? Will he hit the deck after splicing the main brace?

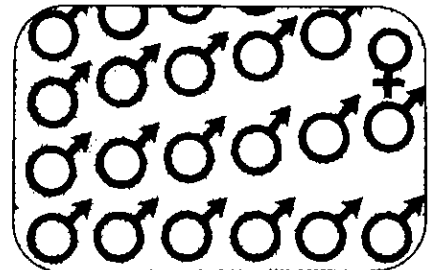
Les Girls Libres

Barbara Mioduszewska remains active with a report on Mining Exploration Women in the August issue of *Geology* and a report on females in the oil industry

published in the CSPG Bulletin last spring. Women geologists are continually in the news: *Pauline Moyd* has become a CIM councillor (and that is really breaking down barriers!), *Helen Belyea O. C.* has received yet another honorary degree (this time for Dalhousie) and for the first time our own Association has two female councillors (Norah Allman and Sharon Bachinski). A recent visit to a mammoth GSC camp in the northern Mackenzie Mountains showed young women engaged in arduous climbing and rugged fly camps. A trip to Newfoundland revealed that an eastern bastion of male supremacy, the Alexander Murray Geology Club had proudly elected *Jeannie Mills* as its first female president. Attitudes have changed fast in the last four or five years, thanks in no small measure to the work of Barbara, Norah Allman and their committee members. Their work will not be completed, however, until a few Joans, Nancies and Hildas are esconced as exploration managers, deans of science, geology department heads and chief geologists.

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The Status of Women Geoscientists in Canada

A Report by the Status of Women Geoscientists Committee
of the Geological Association of Canada

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