

# PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Volume 61, Number 6



OCTOBER 2000

## What happens to the Deltas?



Imagine yourself 50 years from now standing in the middle of a huge anti-septic warehouse staring at rows of tan colored objects that look something like footballs. Shiny stainless steel pipes descend from the ceiling and disappear into mouth-like orifices on top of each object. Black rubber tubes are attached by suction cups to the bottoms. The only attendant in the building tells you that the pipes bring water and rations to what he calls "the birds," while the rubber tubes carry excrement and urine to a sewer beneath the floor. You are staring at thousands of living egg machines, transgenic animals genetically engineered to convert feed and water into eggs more efficiently than any of their evolutionary ancestors, layer hens. Should scientific research aim to create this kind of science fiction farming? Should we continue to go forward, in another domain, with experiments that have created headless mice?

Dr. Gary L. Comstock, professor of philosophy and religious studies at Iowa State University, poses the scenario above to raise ethical issues in genetic engineering in his talk "Football Chickens and Headless Mice: Ethical Issues in Genetic Engineering" at the October 19 meeting of the Puget Sound Section, ACS at Seattle University. Comstock will suggest thought ex-

*(please see Bioethics on page 6)*

**Who:** Dr. Gary Comstock,  
Iowa State University

**What:** "Football Chickens  
and Headless Mice: Ethical  
Issues in Genetic Engineer-  
ing"

**Where:** Wyckoff Audito-  
rium, Seattle University

**When:** Thursday, October  
19 at 7 p.m. (dinner, 6 p.m.)

**How much for dinner:** \$10

CHEMISTRY



PUGET  
SOUND

# CHEMIST



## The Bulletin of the Puget Sound Section of the American Chemical Society

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## Puget Sound Section ACS Executive Committee Future Meetings in 2000

Meetings are open to all members and are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be **Wednesday, October 11, 2000**, in room 2430C (above the Bookstore) at North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way North in Seattle.



# Apply for K-12 Teacher Grants

The Puget Sound Section of the American Chemical Society intends to give several one-year grants or scholarships to K-12 teachers in the Section's geographic area (see below).

Any proposals that promote chemistry education will be considered. The following list gives examples of proposals that we would be interested in funding; however, proposals for other projects or activities will also be given serious consideration.

- Grants to groups or organizations involved in chemistry education.
- Funding to put on workshops, short courses, or seminars for the improvement of teaching chemistry.
- Expenditures for supplies and equipment for high school students doing chemistry demonstrations at K-9 schools, chemistry students participating in science fairs, or chemistry students putting on career days for younger students
- Funding to purchase chemistry journals and books including demonstration, safety, and waste disposal texts: for example, *ChemMatters*, *Chem-13 News*, *WonderScience*, and *the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*.
- Scholarships for K-12 teachers to attend chemistry courses, conferences, or institutes.

You may apply for grants of up to \$500. Please submit one-page proposals for these programs to: Education Committee, Puget Sound Section, 7712-18th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Be concise, clearly describing your proposal and detailing how specified monies will be used, along with a corresponding timetable. If matching money will be used to fund the proposal, please indicate this. The Education Committee will review proposals on December 1, 2000, and on March 1 2001. A one-page summary of accomplishments will be due no later than August 31, 2001.

We will consider grants for greater than \$500 if the grant involves more

*(please see Teacher grants on page 6)*

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by Tracy Furutani, Puget Sound Section editor

It works out like this: The *Puget Sound Chemist* was sent to 1593 US addresses for a total cost of US\$217.42, using the US Postal Service bulk mailing rates for non-profit organizations. The *Chemist* was also sent to 263 Canadian addresses for a mailing cost of US\$144.65 (55 cents US postage each) and a packaging cost of US\$15.20 (263 envelopes from Office Depot), for a total cost of US\$159.85. These figures were for the May 2000 issue, and are typical for any given issue of the *Chemist*.

These costs were borne by the Section, which receives an "allotment" from the ACS (a portion of the national organization dues given to local sections to support local section activities) and the local section dues (the US\$5 that you can pay when also paying for the national organization dues) to defray the costs. The "allotment" and the local section dues are paid to us by strict headcount, without regard to US or Canadian origin of the head.

The publication and mailing of the *Chemist* is one of the largest outlays in the Section budget. To exercise good fiscal policy as editor, I try to find new sources of revenue (i.e., advertisements), which is difficult, and try to cut costs where I can (e.g., having the *Chemist* photocopied and stapled at Costco). One clear way to save money would be to forgo the Canadian mailings of the *Chemist* in favor of a purely electronic posting (now available in pdf format at [www.btia.net/acs/](http://www.btia.net/acs/)); the figures in the first paragraph show a cost of US\$0.14

## Advertising rates for the *Chemist*

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er US reader versus US\$0.61 per Canadian reader.

This would not matter at all, except that once I drop off the Canadian bundle of *Chemist*-stuffed envelopes at my local post office branch, I have never received any indication that the *Chemist* actually *leaves* the branch, much less *travels* north of the border. In fact, on the occasional trip to Vancouver, I peek at the chemistry department mailboxes at Simon Fraser to see if *anyone* has received a *Chemist* (so far, no luck).

So please let me know, my theoretical Canadian readers, either by post or by e-mail (tfurutan@sccd.ctc.edu) *whether* you receive the *Chemist* in anything close to what might be considered a timely fashion and *whether* you find value in receiving a paper copy of the newsletter. I'll publish a selection of your letters in an upcoming issue.

## Pauling Award Symposium at WWU

The 2000 Pauling Award Symposium honoring Professor Gabor Somorjai of the University of California, Berkeley, will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 21 in Artzen Hall 100 on the Western Washington University campus. Speakers will include Professor Steven Bernasek of Princeton University, Professor Hans-Joachim Freund of the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, Professor Wayne Goodman of Texas A&M University as well as Professor Somorjai. The symposium will be followed by a reception at 5:30 p.m. Both the symposium and the reception are free and open to the public.

The Pauling Award Banquet will follow the reception with service beginning at 7 p.m. The meal will include a choice of baked salmon, chicken florentine, or stuffed portabello mushroom (vegetarian) and includes salad, side dishes, dessert and wine. The Pauling Medal presentation and Professor Somorjai's Award Address "Linus Pauling: The man and the impact of his science", will follow dinner.

Tickets for the banquet may be obtained by sending a check for \$30 per person, payable to Western Washington University - Pauling Symposium, to

Prof. James Vyvyan, Department of Chemistry, MS-9150, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9150. Please indicate your choice of entrée with payment. Deadline for receipt of payment is October 11, 2000. Banquet reservations may also be made online. For more information, visit the 2000 Pauling Award website at [atom.chem.wwu.edu/acs/pauling2000/](http://atom.chem.wwu.edu/acs/pauling2000/) or call (360) 650-2883.

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# Bioethics *(continued from page 1)*

periments and invite active audience discussion of them.

Comstock, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1983, has published more than 50 articles and book chapters in his areas of interest, life science ethics and philosophy of religion. He edited the volume *Is There a Moral Obligation to Save the Family Farm?* (1987), compiled *Religious Autobiographies* (1995), and is editing a forthcoming volume of essays called *Beyond Bioethics*. He is currently finishing a manuscript on ethical issues associated with biotechnology. Comstock is a member of the Center of Theological Inquiry at Princeton, past president of the Society for Agriculture and Human Values, and a popular speaker who lectures around the world. Recently, he has been concerned to develop an extensionist theory of environmental ethics.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 19 in Wyckoff Auditorium on the Seattle University campus. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in the Paccar Atrium of Pigott Hall; the dinner menu is an "Italian Extravaganza" of several pastas and sauces, salad, garlic bread, brownie or cookie and dessert. The charge will be \$10.00. Please make reservations by October 18 with Doris Sidrovich at Seattle University, (206)296-5950 or maria@seattleu.edu.

To get to Seattle University, take the James St. exit off I-5 (coming from the north, exit 165; coming from the south, exit 164A). Turn east up the hill past Broadway until you reach 12th Avenue (.6 of a mile). Turn left at the light on 12th Avenue and proceed north two blocks to East Marion Street and turn left, where parking is available in the SU visitor lot. There is a charge for parking and a box to receive the payment. The lot is adjacent to Pigott Hall where dinner will be served.

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## Teacher grants *(continued from page 3)*

than one institution or would impact an exceptionally large number of students. Contact Randy Engel at tawnydog@earthlink.net if you have questions about this.

The Puget Sound Section includes the following counties: Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom. We will also consider requests from San Juan county, which is not currently assigned to any section.

The Puget Sound Section Education Committee's membership includes Randy Engel (Chair, North Seattle Community College), Herb Bryce and David Munch (affiliated with Seattle Central Community College), Mary OBrien (Edmonds Community College), Laura Spencer (Edmonds-Woodway High School), and Steve Ufer (Washington High School).



# It must be election time again

In accordance with the by-laws of this Section, the following people have been nominated and certified by the Nominating Committee as the slate of nominees for officers of the Puget Sound Section in 2001.

Chair-elect: **Charles "Chuck" Cornman**, Georgia Pacific Industries

Secretary: **Sara Selfe**, Edmonds Community College

Treasurer: **David Munch**, Seattle Central Community College

Councilor (term expiring 2003): **George Kriz**, Western Washington Univ.

Alternate Councilor (term expiring 2003): Open

Each candidate may publish a statement in the next issue of the *Chemist*. A mail-in ballot will also be published and Section members are encouraged to return their marked ballots promptly. Additional nominations, as stated in this Section's by-laws, can be made at the October 19 meeting at Seattle University or to Craig Fryhle, Nominations Committee Chair, at [fryhle@rainier.chem.plu.edu](mailto:fryhle@rainier.chem.plu.edu) by October 19. Ballots will be included in next month's *Chemist*.

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# Upcoming meetings

- October 19*     **Gary Comstock, Iowa State University**  
"Football Chickens and Headless Mice"  
(site: Seattle University)
- October 21*     **Gabor Somorjai, UC Berkeley**  
The Linus Pauling Award Symposium  
(site: Western Washington Univ., Bellingham)
- November 3*     **Herb Bryce and Tim Hoyt**  
"National Chemistry Week Demo Show"  
and the Section's Outstanding Teacher Award  
(site: Shoreline Community College)

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