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is a new member service which falls into step with President Gary Cloud's objective to give the Divisions and Committees additional tools to create new and meaningful programs. The next issue of the newsletter will be mailed in September 1993.

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## President's Corner:

## Gary Cloud

Those of you who have known me for any time at all, and who know of my general antipathy toward committee work, no matter how just the cause, must be wondering if I am possessed by a demon. I promised in my Goals Statement to form no less than three additional ad-hoc task groups to look into some important

matters which should affect, favorably one hopes, the health and vigor of the Society. Two of these groups are established, and the third is being formed.

The goals of the first ad-hoc task force involve potential revision of the structure of our major conferences. Why should we do this? We have heard many negative comments in the past several years about conferences which offer only a few papers on each of a host of topics. The scheduling of multiple simultaneous sessions in any sort of logical array has severely tested the TPPC; and the result, with its many conflicts, tends to stretch the patience of all involved. Session audiences tend to be small; and participation by members from business is negligible. These factors, and more, adversely affect meeting attendance and participation. In one way, these symptoms are reflective of the diversity of our society, which is a strength. From a programming viewpoint, the diversity is a source of difficulty which affects our success. Instead of applying more patches, it is time to undertake a comprehensive study of meeting programming. I do not know what will come of this process, but we expect it to be useful. Mark Tuttle has kindly agreed to chair this task force, and Susan Foss, Jon Rogers, and Kristin MacDonald are creative participants. I am sure that they would appreciate your thoughts on our technical programs. You can convey them to me or to anyone on the committee.

Further on the subject of meetings. Several of us from SPIE and SEM will be meeting soon to

brainstorm about the future of technical meetings. Our earth is shifting, and it is time to think. I will keep you posted on what comes of this exercise.

The second task force is studying the alignment of our Technical Divisions. This group is led by Walt Reuter, and it includes six folks who represent a broad spectrum of professions, ages, and locations. Look for some details about motivations and goals of this effort in the next issue. In the meantime, we would find your input on this topic to be useful.

Roses to organizers and judges, especially John Ligon and George Warren, and all participants in the student paper competition at the Dearborn Conference. I was able to hear portions of a few of the papers, and I found them to be outstanding. All the speakers were winners. They are our future.

While working on my book these past several months, I again traced through the development of wave optics and general diffraction theory; Coulomb - Faraday - Young - Newton - Maxwell - Helmholtz - Rayleigh - Kirchoff - Fresnel - Fraunhofer, and all the rest. These were awesome minds that did so much with such limited laboratory resources. What if Young or Maxwell had been granted a laser? Do we sometimes substitute apparatus for imagination?

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