



## President's Corner: Gary Cloud

My commitment to write this column, which seems easy enough since it appears only bimonthly, has given me new insight into a famous declaration by an old-time columnist. He said, in effect, "Yes, it is easy to write a column; you just sit in front of the typewriter until little red drops squeeze out of your forehead."

A perquisite of being an officer of the Society is the opportunity to become familiar with all aspects of our program. Some of these I had tended to ignore because they were not coincident with my own research interests. An example is the International Modal Analysis Conference (IMAC) which is sponsored annually by SEM and Union College. I have been fortunate in being able to participate in the last two IMAC's, including the one which was held recently in Honolulu. It was a fine meeting. The papers were interesting, the facilities were top rate, the exhibits were useful, and the general atmosphere was felicitous, owing perhaps to the location and the climate that many of us had escaped from. Dominick "Dick" DeMichele is the universally re-

spected director of IMAC, and he is responsible for much of its success. He is an icon in his own time. I hope that he will continue his work for IMAC and SEM. The IMAC Advisory Board, led by Randy Allemang, is effective and aggressive in assuring the future vitality of the conference. It was a personal pleasure to be able to present the "D.J. DeMichele Award" to our friend and colleague T.C. Huang for leadership and service to the modal community.

I have received a thought-provoking interim report from Walt Reuter on behalf of the Task Force on Technical Divisions. These folks are getting the job done, and we can be looking forward to subsequent findings and recommendations. Here is an interesting related statistic. When leafing through a directory of SEM members recently, I noticed that only about half had declared an interest in one or more of the technical divisions. The divisions are widely thought to be a strength of the Society, and I am curious as to why so many members do not engage, even passively, in these focus groups. I encourage all to become affiliated with the appropriate TD's.

Following the banquet at the 50th Anniversary Conference in Dearborn, several members suggested that it was past time to appoint a Society Historian. A first task would be to gather and preserve some of the photos and stories which are held, perhaps precariously, by our mature members. Would one of you care to serve the Society by undertaking this interesting task for, say, a two-year term? The Historian would be a sought-after source of anecdotes; he/she should have a display area at conferences; and I can visualize her/him giving a short talk at Society

events. Let me know soon if you are interested.

The roses go this time to all the dedicated folks in SEM who contribute so much to the success of our publications program. During my several years as reviewer, Associate Technical Editor, and Technical Editor of *Experimental Mechanics*, I was grateful for, and impressed by, the dedicated volunteers and skilled professionals who cooperate in getting that journal together. Now, as an officer of the Society, I see these activities in another light; and I am even more impressed. Think of them - authors, reviewers, technical editors, editorial advisor, managing editor, publisher, printers. As one example, did you know that, for many years now, Clyde Work has been reading every *Experimental Mechanics* paper for grammar, captions, style and balance? The result of all these labors is an archival journal that is widely respected. Recall that we publish two additional journals which involve somewhat equivalent numbers of volunteers and staff. Further, recognize that the Society publishes numerous other works including, for example, the *Handbook on Experimental Mechanics* and the *Strain Gage Users' Handbook*, all of which are prepared by volunteers and processed by staff. We then realize that the success of the program, which is a large component of the success of the Society, is derived from the cooperative efforts of a great many bright and devoted people. As President of the Society, as an educator, and as a person who deals in the written word, I salute all of you; and I thank you for contributing so much.

The Spring '94 conference in Baltimore is going to be interesting; get it on your calendars.