



MAAFS

NEWSLETTER

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The MAAFS Newsletter is the official publication of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists, Inc., and is published at least twice each year. All communications regarding the MAAFS Newsletter should be sent to the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Edward Sykes Franzosa, at the DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory, 7704 Old Springhouse Road, McLean, Virginia 22102.

An Editorial Opinion: Who's Competent?

The following is an editorial opinion of Dr. Edward Sykes Franzosa, the MAAFS Newsletter Editor. This opinion is that of the Editor and does not reflect any official view of his employer nor that of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists. Written comments on this opinion may be submitted to the Editor and will be published as appropriate.

Walter McCrone apparently sits at the right hand of God judging each and every forensic laboratory in this country. Occasionally he descends from the firmament above to give us mere mortals his chosen words of wisdom and light everlasting. One such moment occurred recently on Tuesday, March 24, 1981, on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, before the House Committee on the Judiciary, the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

Harken forth my fellow forensic scientists and read for yourselves the Gospel according to Walter:

"I am Director of the McCrone Research Institute, an organization devoted to basic research and teaching in the field of light microscopy. As a result I have taught many courses for crime laboratory personnel throughout the U.S. During 1978-1979 I arranged and taught most of 20 workshop courses for more than 350 crime lab personnel from nearly 200 different crime laboratories. These courses were taught under contract to

LEAA. Ten of these "students" were from the FBI. I have also taught a short survey course in trace evidence examination in the FBI laboratory. In addition, more than 400 additional crime lab personnel have taken other forensic microscopy courses in our classrooms in Chicago. I have written extensively in this field and have testified many times as an expert witness, in both State and Federal courts, both in civil and criminal cases and for both defense and prosecution.

"In connection with these activities I have evaluated crime lab personnel as students and their laboratory performance by proficiency tests. My results confirm the results of similar recent evaluations, especially a highly publicized set of proficiency tests by the Forensic Science Foundation in 1975. *All such tests have shown that there are very few competent criminalists in U.S. laboratories. Trace evidence, i.e., drugs, explosives, gunshot residue, hair, fibers, glass, paint, etc., are seldom adequately collected from the crime scene; those collected are seldom analyzed; those analyzed are seldom analyzed correctly.* [Italics and boldface added.]

"In one series of proficiency tests to 350 criminalists only 9 (less than 3%)

—continued page two, column one—

JOBS

Al Bober is running an Employment Clearing House (under MAAFS auspices) for forensic scientists in the Mid-Atlantic area. He keeps resumes of MAAFS members who are looking for work for 90 days and provides the information to all potential employers who contact him. Al provides this service free of charge. All members interested in employment possibilities are asked to write to Al at the following address:

*Al Bober
8430 Allenswood Road
Randallstown, MD 21133*

If you should hear of a job opening or receive a notice of an employment opportunity, please send a copy of the notice to Al. Thank you for your cooperation.

† † † † †

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The Commonwealth of Virginia is seeking two Serologists with experience, one for its Tidewater Regional Laboratory in Norfolk, Virginia, (in the Virginia Beach area) and another for its Roanoke Regional Laboratory in Roanoke, Virginia, (in the Blue Ridge Mountains.)

Minimum requirements include know-

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Editorial continued

were 100% correct in identifying common fibers and explosives. In fact, only 69 (20%) of 350 attempted to make the analyses and submit results. In other words, 80% submitted no results and of those submitted 97% were wrong. [Editors Note: 9 correct out of 69 submitted equals 13% correct which leaves 87% wrong answers in the submitted results! Of course when you are spreading a new gospel, a bit of exaggeration is often useful.] The reasons for this sad state of affairs are:

1. Inadequate budgets for equipment
2. Inadequate salaries
3. Inadequate opportunities for training
4. Too high a caseload for too few criminalists.

The excuses given by those who failed the above tests included 1) no equipment, 2) no time and 3) test samples lost.

"How did the FBI personnel do? — The 10 students from the FBI taking classes with criminalists from other prosecution laboratories ranked: 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 20, and 21 in their classes (of about 20 students); 2 were unable to complete the courses because of court appearances or family problems. Of the 8 participants in the proficiency testing only 2 returned their analytical results and 1 of these was right, one wrong. In spite of this poor showing the FBI laboratory undoubtedly ranks higher than the various State and City crime labs. They have better equipment and can attract and hold better scientists. Yet, *FBI personnel, as a group, are far from acceptably competent.* [Italics added.] The biggest problem for all crime laboratories are lack of formal academic training, lack of on-the-job training and too large a caseload for present staff.

"There are, of course, many good criminalists in the FBI and other prosecution laboratories across the country. Hopefully, this nucleus of good performers can be used to help train the others. Universities and colleges should be encouraged to initiate forensic science curricula and to upgrade the courses now offered. The FBI Academy for training criminalists should be expanded to help upgrade their own and especially outside crime lab personnel. In time, the local laboratories will become proficient and able to handle their caseloads adequately. In the meantime, I see no alternative to the present system of direct FBI assistance to the local jurisdictions in the form of analytical services."

/s/ Walter C. McCrone

FALL 1981 MEETING

The following is the proposed schedule of the Fall 1981 MAAFS Meeting to be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, September 24 and 25, 1981, at the Holiday Inn on the Ocean at 39th and Atlantic Avenues.

THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 24th

9 to 10 AM	Registration
10 to 10:30 AM	Opening Remarks
10:30 AM to 12 Noon	Scientific Papers
12 Noon to 1:30 PM	Luncheon
1:30 to 3 PM	Scientific Papers
3 to 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 to 4:30 PM	Scientific Papers
4:30 to 5:30 PM	MAAFS Business Meeting
8:30 to ???	Hospitality Room

FRIDAY — SEPTEMBER 25th

9 to 11 AM	Scientific Papers
11 to 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 AM to 1 PM	Scientific Papers
1 PM	Drawing for Door Prizes

Ah now, my fellow heathens, we have read the words of our Moses who would bring us forth from the desert of our own sloth and incompetence. Is not each heart filled with joy for we have received the word directly from the Prince of Forensic Science, the Lord High Priest of Microscopy.

And now go forth to sin nevermore, for the light has been revealed to you.

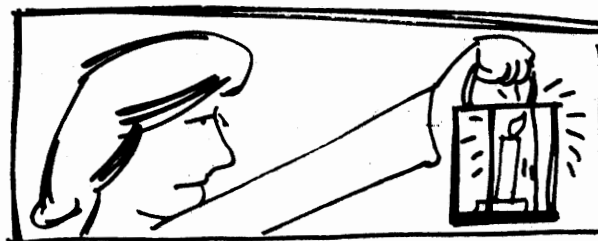
As for myself I cannot remember ever reading or hearing such concentrated gall and arrogance. Walter McCrone is hardly capable of judging all the forensic laboratories in this country, much less the quality and quantity of the evidence analyses performed in each of these laboratories. This self-proclaimed Pontifius Maximus has decided on the basis of inadequate knowledge, blind prejudice and colossal arrogance that most forensic

scientists are too lazy to analyze the evidence brought to them and that when they do analyze the evidence, their results are incorrect as most forensic scientists are incompetent.

Our self-raised prophet says "that there are very few competent criminalists in U.S. laboratories." Perhaps he really meant to say that there is ONLY ONE forensic expert in the United States and his name is Walter McCrone.

† † † † †

Rather I submit that Walter McCrone is seldom qualified to judge the entire forensic community; these judgements so freely given by him are seldom based on the facts; and that his opinions based on these judgements seldom contain that certain fundamental value — the truth!



The pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple.

MAAFS FALL 1981 MEETING

The Fall MAAFS meeting will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at the Holiday Inn on the Ocean on Thursday and Friday, September 24 and 25.

Virginia Beach, famous for its roaring surf and golden beaches, also has many sites of historical as well as contemporary interest. Many consider it an ideal vacation area.

Holiday Inn on the Ocean is located on the beach at the north end of the resort area. Rooms have been reserved and will be held until September 10. Rates/night are as follows (not including 8% tax):

	<u>Ocean View</u>	<u>Ocean Front</u>
Single	\$33.00	\$37.00
Double	37.00	41.00
Two-Room Apartment	-	47.00

Rates are good for a maximum of two nights. Those who wish to spend more than two nights will have to add \$2.50/night to the above-listed rates. It is strongly recommended that those who are planning to stay longer than two nights get their reservations in now. This is a very popular time of the year because the weather is still very pleasant and the rates are "off-season." The two-room apartment is particularly nice for families. It consists of a bedroom (two double beds), bath, and a studio-living room with a mini-kitchen, dining area, a sofa bed, and balcony overlooking the ocean. Make your reservations early!!

Holiday Inn on the Ocean
39th and Atlantic
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
(804) 428-1711

Meeting registration forms will be sent out at a later date. For planning purposes, registration fees should not vary too much from those of the spring meeting. If there are any questions, call Bob Campbell at (804) 623-8327. Program chairman for this meeting is Robin Porter, (804) 786-4707.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Beach.

Bob Campbell

Jobs continued

ledge in the forensic principles, practices, procedures and techniques used to prepare, examine and analyze items of evidence related to serology, hairs and natural fibers and involving microscopy, chemistry, physics, biology and other sciences.

Experience is required in the identification of blood group antigens and polymorphic enzyme and protein systems of blood; other physiological fluids and their stains; identification of specie origin of animal hairs and vegetable fibers; comparison of questioned hairs with known hair samples.

Salary: \$16,040 – \$21,910; a 9% increase has been approved effective July 1, 1981.

Contact:

Warren G. Johnson, Director
Bureau of Forensic Science
Box 999
Richmond, Virginia 23208
(804) 786-2281

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"However, if you still want something less expensive, we have this economy timer...."

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From CAENewscripts:

"Material copied from one scholarly book without credit comprises plagiarism. Material copied from two scholarly books comprises an essay. Material copied from three scholarly books comprises a dissertation. Material copied from four scholarly books comprises a fifth scholarly book" (translated freely from German with the help of a handy linguist.)

NEAFS FALL 1981 MEETING

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists will be holding their Seventh Annual meeting on October 23 and 24, 1981, at the Holiday Inn on routes 309 and 22 in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

There is a call for papers in the following areas:

1. Illicit drug manufacture and identification.
2. Laboratory analysis of arson debris.

3. Forensic alcohol determination.
4. Forensic photomicrography.
5. Forensic toxicology.
6. Forensic serology.
7. Criminalistics.

For further information please contact
Alexander Stirton
Box 133
Limeport, PA 18060
(215) 691-6110 Extension 256



"I'm Special Agent Kerrington, of the F.B.I., Mr. Ently, and I just wanted you to know that we've checked you out and you're a good citizen."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Print in ink or type application; obtain signatures of two current MAAFS members and then mail this form to Secretary-Treasurer. Application fee is \$2.50 (non-refundable) and must accompany this application form. Yearly dues are \$10.00. MAAFS By-Laws require an applicant to attend one MAAFS meeting before application can be accepted.

Name:

Occupation/Job Title:

Employer:

Business Address & Phone:

Home Address & Phone:

(Please circle or check your preferred mailing address.)

Education and Experience (include all past employment relating to the forensic sciences:)

Circle MAAFS meetings that you have attended (By-Laws require attendance at one meeting before application for membership can be accepted):

Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
1978	1978	1979	1979	1980	1980	1981	1981	1982	1982	1983	1983

Membership in Professional or Scientific organizations:

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

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FORENSIC SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

For the Forensic Scientist of the Year Award I hereby nominate:

Name:

Address:

Give a brief summary of the nominee's background and reasons for the nomination:

Submitted by Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Nominations by ten (10) members will be required in support of each nominee for the award. All nominations will be submitted to the Awards Committee for authentication and review by two (2) month before the semi-annual Spring Meeting. The nominations will then be forwarded to the Executive Committee who determines a final choice of one or none before the Spring Meeting.

Submit this form to: Rose Marie Lanzetta
Maryland State Police Headquarters
Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, Maryland 21208

**FOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT
GOTTEN AROUND TO PAYING
1981 DUES, HERE IS A . . .**

**ROUND
TUIT**

How many times have you said:

"I'll do it as soon as I get a round tuit"

Now's your chance, now you can do it!

Now at last, you've got

A ROUND TUIT

**Send dues to: Mike McGee
Bureau of Forensic Science
Box 999
Richmond, Virginia 23208**

MAAFS 1981 FALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 1981

CALL FOR PAPERS

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the fall meeting, please return this form to Robin D. Porter, Bureau of Forensic Science, Box 999, Richmond, VA 23208, by July 31st, 1981. This will allow for a completed program to be published by mid-August. Questions may be directed to either Robin Porter (804) 786-4706 or Bob Campbell (804) 623-8327.

TITLE:

TIME REQUIRED:

TYPE(S) OF VISUAL AID EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

ABSTRACT OF PAPER (please be brief):