

Volume 58

No. 3

November 2009

# MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *eBulletin*



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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Joe Johnson*

Fellow Members:

We are quickly moving on in the year and the cool weather has finally arrived. Karl is working on our speaker line up for the year, Brian Sims is doing what he does best, and David, Stanley, and Bob are doing a great job as always.

For our October luncheon Dan Buller from Halliburton discussed the current activity in North Louisiana on the Haynesville Shale. The unconventional shales defiantly require a different type of petrophysical evaluation then conventional reservoirs. It is astonishing how a different way of thinking can kick off a play that has not been viable for over a hundred years. It was an excellent talk and we appreciate those of you that joined us.

Lisa Ivshin did an excellent job organizing the IOGCC annual meeting in Biloxi. My boat caught the only two redfish in the sponsors fishing tournament. The LT. Governor Phil Bryant was there updating his mental repertoire with current information on the future vitality of natural gas use and CO2 Tertiary recovery in our great state. I heard him on MS Supertalk radio quoting some of the information he heard at the conference. I think I like this whole idea of politicians getting informed on a subject before they decide our fate on that issue. Maybe the government should make that some kind of requirement for political service. Just a thought.

It sure is good to see that not only oil prices, but gas prices have made a rebound! We look forward to seeing you this month at the luncheon.

Sincerely,  
Joe

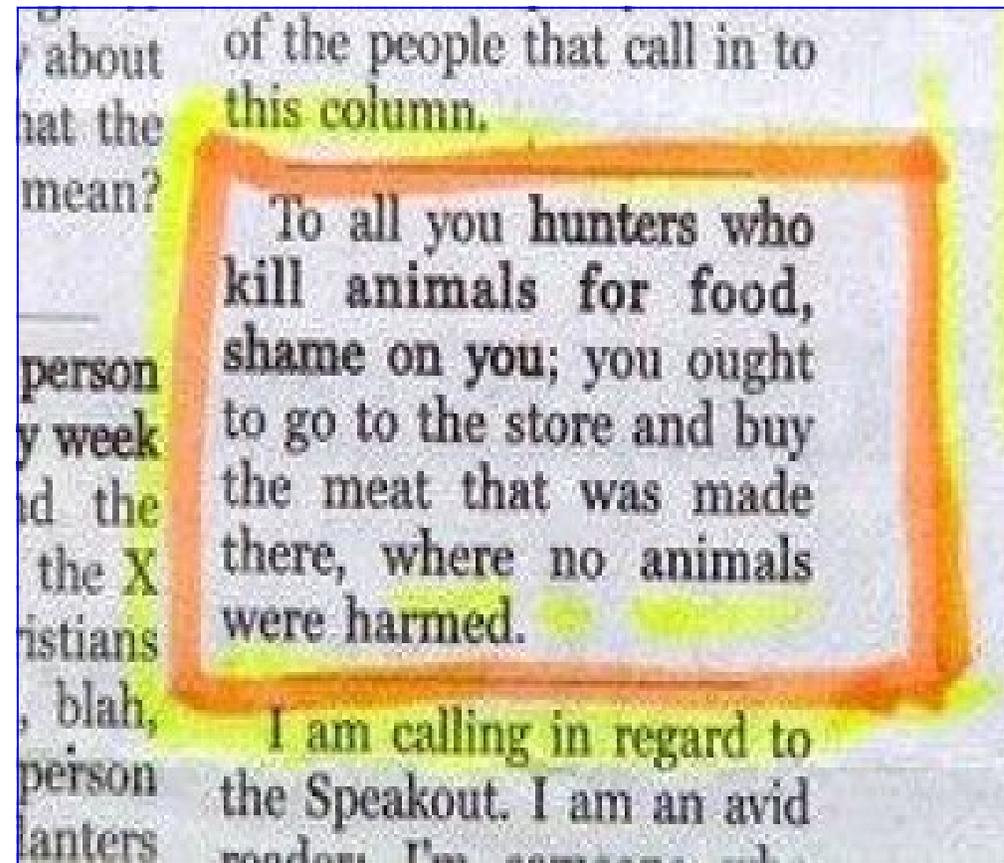


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## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 10, 2009	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 8, 2009	Dan Buller—Petrophysical Evaluation of the Haynesville Shale in NE Texas and NW Louisiana	River Hills
November 12, 2009	Gregory J. Zerrahn —North Monroeville Field Monroe County, Alabama	River Hills
December, 2009	TBA	Colonial Country Club
January 14, 2010	TBA	River Hills
February 11, 2010	TBA	River Hills
March 11, 2010	TBA	River Hills
April 8, 2010	TBA	River Hills
May 13, 2009	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club



They walk among us & they vote !!!

OFFICERS MEETINGS
August 11, 2009
September 1, 2009
October 6, 2009
November 3, 2009
December 1, 2009
January 5, 2010
February 2, 2010
March 2, 2010
April 6, 2010
May 4, 2010

## North Monroeville Field, Monroe County, Alabama

### ABSTRACT

North Monroeville Field, discovered in 1997, is the second largest and northernmost field in the Upper Jurassic Frisco City sand (Lower Haynesville) trend of Monroe County, Alabama. The field, which only covers 840 acres, has produced 3,019,361 BO through December of 2008. The trap, like the other fields in the trend, is structural/stratigraphic in nature. The stratigraphic component is the deposition of thick (>100 ft [30 m]) well to moderately sorted very fine to medium grained sand with high porosity and permeability on the flanks of a cluster of erosional knobs of basement rocks (inselbergs). The sand pinches out towards the crestal positions. At North Monroeville the porosity is occluded by anhydrite cement in the structurally highest well. The structural component of the trap is four way closure due to differential compaction over the inselberg complex, which is capped by impervious Lower Haynesville shale. The proven productive hydrocarbon column is 155 ft (47 m) at North Monroeville. The closure was filled to spill-point which is -10,500 ft (-3200 m). North Monroeville Field was discovered using the northern edge of a 3D seismic grid that was shot to define Monroeville Field, which is located about 1.5 mi (2.4 km) to the south, and a proprietary vibroseis/dynamite 2D line. North Monroeville Field is situated beneath the city of Monroeville, Alabama. Therefore, a post-discovery 3D grid was acquired using a combination of vibroseis and dynamite shots. Development of North Monroeville Field was guided by this 3D survey. The field is currently developed with seven productive wells and one dry hole. Peak production occurred in 2005 at 579,678 BO.

Gregory J. Zerrahn  
Biography

Greg earned a bachelor's degree in Geology from the State University of New York at Oswego in 1973 and a M.S. in Geology from the University of Arizona in 1976. A portion of his master's thesis on the strata associated with the Upper Ordovician Taconic Orogeny was published in the GSA Bulletin. His career in petroleum geology began in 1976 when he accepted a position with Shell Oil in New Orleans. While at Shell he worked the Mesozoic of the Upper Gulf Coast, the eastern offshore Gulf of Mexico, the offshore of the North Atlantic and the Santos Basin of offshore Brazil. Greg returned to the Upper Gulf Coast when he moved to Shreveport in 1981 to work for Texas Oil and Gas, then Arkla Exploration and currently Palmer

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LISA IVSHIN  
State Oil & Gas Supervisor

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Board Attorney

October 8, 2009

Mr. Dudley F. Hughes, President  
Hughes South Corporation  
2829 Lakeland Drive – Suite 1670  
Flowood, Mississippi 39232

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I would be remiss if I did not extend to you, on behalf of the Mississippi oil and gas industry, our deep appreciation for the critical support which you gave to the recent Annual Meeting of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission ("IOGCC") held in Biloxi on October 4-6, 2009..

Your letter to the Mississippi oil and gas industry soliciting financial support for the IOGCC's Annual Meeting in Biloxi was vital to the success of this event. The Annual Meeting was well attended and reflected great credit not only upon the State of Mississippi but upon the Mississippi oil and gas industry.

Both Governor Brad Henry of Oklahoma (the outgoing Chairman) of the IOGCC and Governor Rick Perry of Texas (the incoming Chairman) expressed their appreciation to the State of Mississippi as the host state for this event .

On behalf of the Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board and our industry, I want to again personally thank you for the critical support you gave to this effort.

I'm enclosing for your information a brochure regarding the recent Annual Meeting of the IOGCC.

Enclosure

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa".

Lisa A. Ivshin  
Executive Director

## Dudley J. Hughes Exploration Internship

The Millsaps College Department of Geology is accepting applications from petroleum and geophysical exploration companies interested in participating in the Dudley J. Hughes Exploration Internship Program. This is our third year of the program, the first recipient is working with Denberry Resources in Dallas, and the second is starting graduate school at the University of Arkansas. The internship is awarded to a Millsaps undergraduate student majoring in geology. The intern will be matched with a local or regional exploration company for work experience, but paid a stipend by the endowment. The student would be permitted to work up to, but not over, 10 hrs per week up to a maximum of 125 hrs. Based on corporate participation, if agreeable to the student, it may be possible to extend the internship beyond the primary term.

Periodic feedback from both the intern and the corporate supervisor will be solicited by a faculty representative to ensure that both parties are satisfied with the internship program. Ideally the internship experience will consist of a broad base exposure to many aspects of petroleum exploration and research. While the students are expected to be productive, we anticipate that some of the experience will be observational.

At the conclusion of the internship, the student will be required to make a presentation to the department staff and majors. A final paper detailing the experience may also be required.

Interested parties should submit a letter explaining why they should be awarded the student internship program. The letter should also include the name of the intern's supervisor, their job title, and an indication of expectations and what you can offer the student.

Please submit letters via regular mail, or electronically by October 15<sup>th</sup> to:

Dr. Stan Galicki  
Millsaps College  
1701 N. State St.  
Box 150647  
Jackson, MS 39210

[galics@millsaps.edu](mailto:galics@millsaps.edu)

## MISSISSIPPI AND THE GREAT “CARBON BURP” 55.5 MILLION YEARS AGO

David T. Dockery III, Office of Geology

The 55.5-million-year-old Paleocene-Eocene boundary was a time marked by the sudden release of methane from gas hydrates on the sea floor, informally referred to as the “Carbon Burp,” which changed the composition of globally distributed carbon isotopes. It was followed by a geologically-brief, 170,000-year episode of global warming (of 5-8E C) in both low- and high-latitude regions. Associated with this warming event were biological crises on land and sea, including migrations, extinctions, new species, and the acme zone (or algal bloom) of the marine dinoflagellate *Apectodinium*, a mobile blue-green alga. Today algal blooms of the dinoflagellate species *Alexandrium fundyense* and *Karenia brevis* cause the fish-killing red tides of the North American East Coast and of the Florida coast, respectively. *Apectodinium* was found to be abundant at the Paleocene-Eocene boundary section behind the old Red Hot Truck Stop at Meridian, Mississippi, and was recently found by Professor Appy Sluus of Utrecht University (Netherlands) to be abundant at this boundary in the Mississippi Office of Geology #1 Harrell core from Lauderdale County, based on his examination of core samples previously collected for pollen study by Guy Harrington of the University of Birmingham, England. To pinpoint the Paleocene-Eocene boundary in the Harrell core (one of many such cores archived in the Office of Geology’s core and sample library at its North West Street building), Dr. Sluus sent his graduate student Linda van Roij, on short notice, to Mississippi to sample the core at 15 cm intervals. Linda arrived in Jackson on November 12 and departed on November 21, 2008. While here, Linda traveled also to the Geological Survey of Alabama (on the campus of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa), where she sampled the Paleocene-Eocene boundary interval in the St. Stephens core from the St. Stephens quarry in Washington County, Alabama. The climate history preserved in Mississippi’s sedimentary rocks is important in the study of current global warming trends.



Linda van Roij, a Dutch graduate student at Utrecht University, standing on the grounds of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science among fossiliferous boulders from the Bashi Formation, which were transported to the museum from just above the Paleocene-Eocene boundary in Meridian, Mississippi. The picture (digital) was taken on November 14, 2008.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**October 10-12, 2010**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

*Hosted by the South Texas Geological Society*



Welcome back to San Antonio! Our theme this year is "Weathering the Cycles" – a challenge that resource geologists certainly have faced and overcome in the past! How do we weather the economic cycles? We...

- ✓ Network with our community
- ✓ Experience the latest technology in the technical exhibition
- ✓ Take a course or a trip and grow new and diverse skills
- ✓ Listen to special presentations on strategies to endure and prosper during an economic downtime and prepare for the inevitable rebound.

By celebrating our successes, facing our challenges, and learning from the research results of our peers, we are paid back many fold by sharing ideas and experiences among our professional community. So come and share your experiences! Suggest a session topic, present an oral paper or a poster, learn about the latest ideas and technologies in our field. Come to San Antonio and enjoy the Gulf's own geoscience convention!

### PROPOSED TECHNICAL SESSIONS INCLUDE...

- ✓ **Organic 'Shales' of the Gulf Coast – Controls on Reservoir Quality and Producibility**
- ✓ **Gulf of Mexico Paleogene – Reservoirs, Events and Controversies**
- ✓ **Eastern Gulf of Mexico – Exploration Potential and Environmental Challenges**
- ✓ **Texas/Mexico Borderlands – Structures, Resources, and Lessons Learned**
- ✓ **Unconventional Resources – Exploration Decisions and Production Issues**
- ✓ **Integration of Seismic Geomorphology and Wellbore Data – Case Studies**
- ✓ **New and Evolving Technologies – Impact on Commerciality**
- ✓ **Horizontal Drilling and Formation Stimulation – Edwards, Wilcox, and elsewhere**
- ✓ **Carbon Sequestration – Risks, Opportunities, and Implications for EOR**
- ✓ **Alternative Energy Solutions – The Role of Geoscience**
- ✓ **Water for a Growing Region – Geology, Water Quality, and Resource Management**
- ✓ **Geologic Training and Education – Preparing for the Crew Change**

### HOW TO SUBMIT:

Abstracts (not more than 250 words) should be submitted for review online or via email to the technical program chair. Papers should have application to Gulf Coast and Gulf of Mexico geology. Include your full mailing address, telephone and FAX numbers, email address, and whether you are submitting for **oral** or **poster** or **either** (preferred).

Submit abstracts by **February 1, 2010** as instructed on the website [www.gcags2010.com](http://www.gcags2010.com)

Notification of acceptance by March 1, 2010. All presenters, both oral or poster, must submit either a paper (10-12 pages) or an extended abstract with key figures for review by **April 16, 2010**, for inclusion in the *Transactions*. Full instructions for authors will be posted at [www.gcags2010.com](http://www.gcags2010.com).

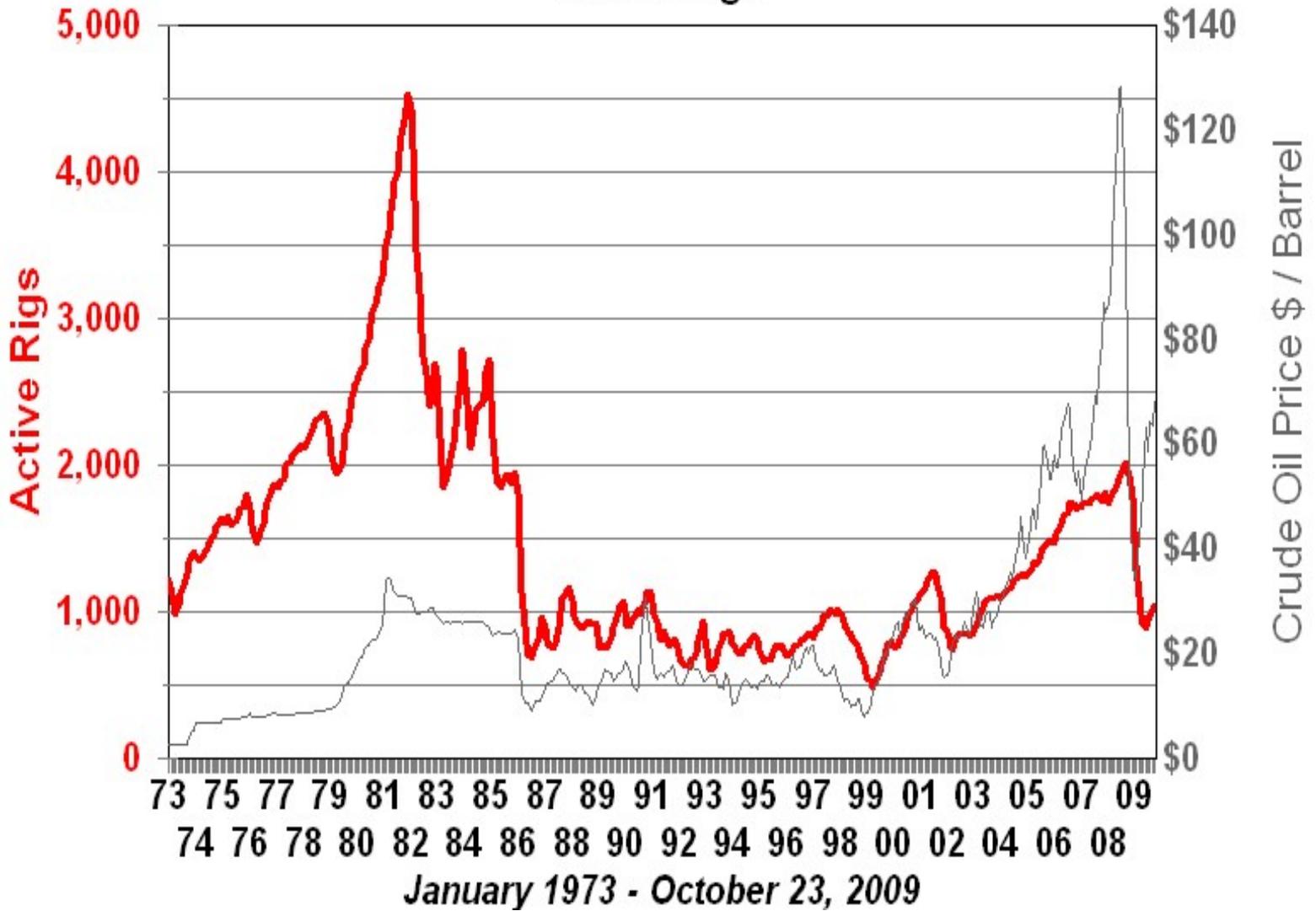
### ABSTRACT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2010!

Questions or ideas for the technical program should be directed to:  
Dr. Mary Feeley  
Technical Program Chair  
281-654-3588  
[missy.feeley@exxonmobil.com](mailto:missy.feeley@exxonmobil.com)

Dr. Alan Dutton  
GCSSEPM Co-Chair  
210-458-5746  
[alan.dutton@utsa.edu](mailto:alan.dutton@utsa.edu)

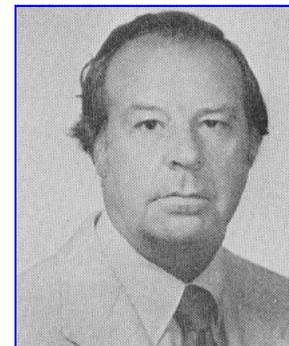
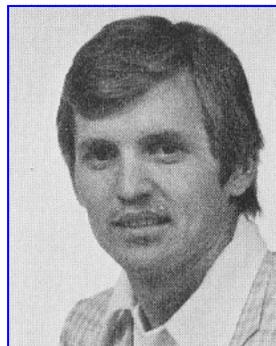
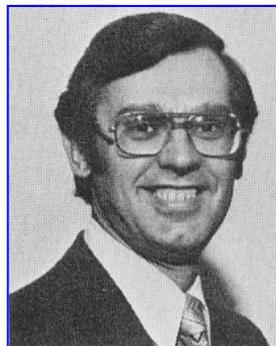


# U. S. Rotary Rig Count Active Rigs



## Who are these MGS members?

Hint: 1962 or 1978



Answers on last page

## MGS BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. Your contribution will help the Society recognize and reward outstanding earth science students at its annual Honors Day meeting on March 11, 2010.

Since inception in 1980, the Society has honored 104 students with the Boland Award. If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or mail your check (L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund) to him at 217 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39201.

The MGS gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for the 2009-2010 year.

### The Boland Family

Joe  
Bill  
Pat  
Liz  
Butch  
Mike  
Mary

Dave Cate  
Bob Schneeflock

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**P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422**

**2009-2010**

Membership year is June through May

New Membership (\$20/yr)\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal (\$20/yr)\_\_\_\_\_ Student (\$5/yr)\_\_\_\_\_ Associate (\$20/yr)\_\_\_\_\_

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September 2009 – May 2010

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<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Full Page Ad (6" x 8")	\$500	\$ _____
1/2 Page Ad (6" x 4")	\$300	\$ _____
1/4 Page Ad (3" x 4")	\$200	\$ _____
Business Card Ad (1 1/2" x 3")	\$100	\$ _____
Professional Listing (1/2" x 3")	\$ 50	\$ _____

## II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

<u>Type of Web Page Ad</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Front Page Sponsor (Banner Ad – limit of 5)	\$500	\$ _____
Second Page Banner Ad	\$250	\$ _____
Professional Listing/Link	\$100	\$ _____

(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

**Total Remitted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact John Cox at (601) 978-1763 or john\_cox@bellsouth.net

**2009 - 2010 MGS Ads are due.**

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**John G. Cox**  
Petroleum Geologist

**John G. Cox**  
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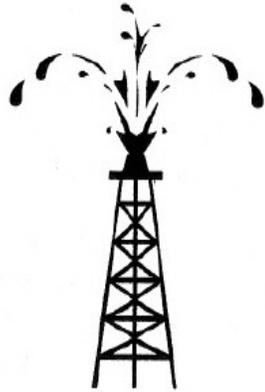
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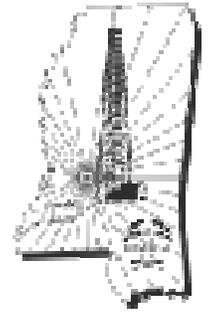
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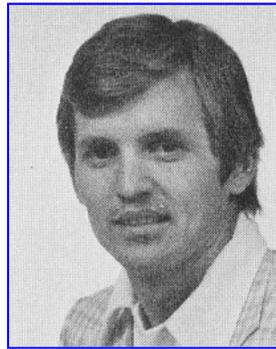
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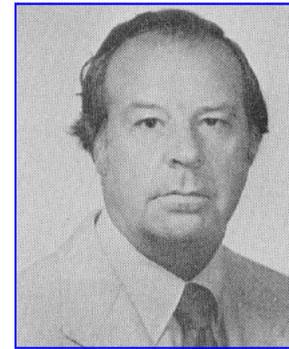
Robert Womack



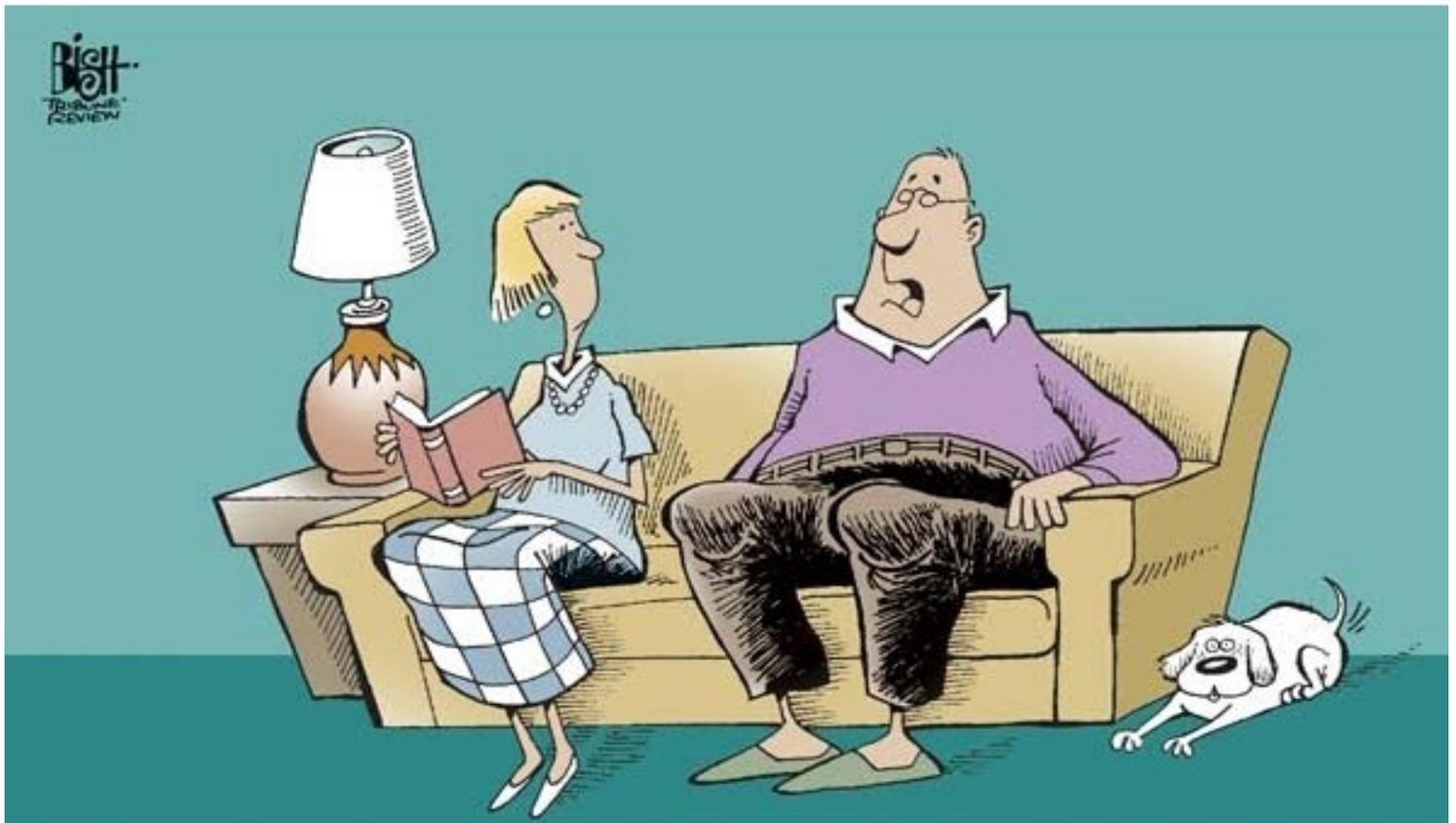
Ed C. Andress



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**IF A MAN YELLS "YOU LIE!" IN A ROOM FULL OF POLITICIANS, HOW DO THEY KNOW WHO HE'S TALKING TO?**