

**FEBRUARY D-FW ACS MEETING  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

**FORMER ACS PRESIDENT  
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**“FROM GARBAGE TO STUFF:  
HOW WE RECYCLE PLASTICS”**

**Times: 5 p.m.**, Bill Carroll meets with Student Affiliate Chapter,  
**6 p.m. Social Hour, Sponsored by the UTD Chemistry Department and  
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The latter three functions are in the UTD Conference Center in Rooms  
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**Reservations.** Contact Linda Heard at UT-Dallas by noon, Monday, Feb. 12:  
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**How to Get There.** UT-Dallas is in Richardson on Campbell Road. Take the  
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Drive A. Turn left on Drive A and travel to Drive H. Turn right on Drive H and  
take the first right into the visitor’s parking lot. The Conference Center is at the  
end of the parking lot on the right.

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**TCU. Feb. 8**, Paul Hanson, Uni-  
versity of Kansas, TBA. **Feb. 20**,  
Miguel Mendez Rojas, Universidad  
de las Americas Puebla (UDLA),  
TBA. Seminars are normally in Room  
139, Tucker Technology Center  
(immediately adjacent to Sid  
Richardson Science Bldg.) at 11 a.m.

**UT-Southwestern Biochemis-  
try. Feb. 1**, Youxing Jiang, UT-  
Southwestern, “Structural Study of a  
Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> Conducting Channel.”  
**Feb. 15**, Chuan He, University of  
Chicago, “Mechanisms for Anti-

biotic Resistance, Virulence, and  
Metal Ion Regulation in Bacteria.”  
**Feb. 22**, David A. Sinclair, Harvard,  
“Genes and Small Molecules that  
Extend Lifespan.” Seminars are  
normally at noon in Room L4.176,  
Biochemistry.

**UT-Southwestern Biological  
Chemistry. Feb. 27**, Li Deng,  
Brandeis University, “Development  
and Education of Asymmetric  
Reactions with Organic Reactions.”  
Seminars are normally at 6:30 pm  
Room L4.162, Biochemistry.



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**PERIODICAL**

# Fifty Years Ago in the Southwest Retort

The cover was a picture of the 15-member ACS Southwest Regional Award Committee. Those pictured from the Dallas-Ft. Worth Section were **Harold Jeskey** and **Roscoe Libecap**. Jeskey represented *The Retort* at the meeting, taking photographs and making editorial reports.

The feature article was an abstract of the talk given at the December Southwide Meeting held in Memphis and given by Southwest Regional Award winner, **W. O. Milligan** of the Rice Institute. The title of the talk was "The Structure of Inorganic Gels."

The Southeastern Texas Section (*now Greater Houston*) is now officially a "large" ACS section. The membership now exceeds 1000 to rank 15<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. Following are the officers for the Section: Chairman, **Simon Miron**; Chairman-Elect, **Richard Turner**; Secretary, **George W. Campbell, Jr.**; Treasurer, **Charles H. Beckworth**; Councilors, **S. S. Shaffer**, **W. O. Milligan**, **J. L. Franklin**, **P. L. Brandt**; Alternate Councilors, **R. B. Turner**, **J. H. Gast**, **H. E. Morris**, **E. B. Barnes**. From Baroid it is reported that **J. L. McAfee, Jr.** will be Supervisor of the Technical Service Laboratories. **Professor Henry Taube** of the University of Chicago conducted a course in Humble's Lectures in Science program on "Structure and Reactions of Complex Inorganic Compounds."

**Dr. William B. Cook**, a Baylor faculty member since 1953, has been granted an 18-month leave of absence to accept an NSF appointment to a government program to intensify scientific education in the nation's schools.

Texas A&M attendees at the Southwide Chemical Conference in Memphis **Ralph Zingaro**, **Fred Jensen**, **Tom Burkhalter**, **Kenny Hancock**, **Albert Jache**, and **A. F. Isbell**. **Karl Zimmerman** of A&M was burned seriously but is making a recovery and should be back teaching physical chemistry soon.

From the University of Arkansas, **Dr. Paul K Kuroda** coauthored two papers at the recent Southwide Chemical Conference in Memphis. **Dr. Jacob Sacks** will take a month's leave of absence to conduct a course in radioisotope techniques and uses at Caracas, Venezuela, sponsored by the Venezuelan Association for the Advancement of Science.

\*\*\*\*Continued From Page 14\*\*\*  
fingers). Cyanamid was unimpressed by all this and even by my discovery of the groundbreaking herbicide Avenge™. The company produced the herbicide on a large scale in plant in the Netherlands, and it was singled out as an achievement of exceptional importance in a published company history. It seemed to me that this highly profitable discovery offered useful lessons in research management; but, when I attempted to bring  
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## BETWEEN DISEASES: How a Remission in Anti-Semitism Enabled Me to Have a Career of Sorts Until Ageism Reared its Ugly Head

by **Erwin Klingsberg**,

4000 Massachusetts Ave., NW; Washington, D.C. 20016

*Editor's Foreword.* The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the U.S. was dominated by the fight against racism. It's very easy to forget that the discrimination battle of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was against anti-Semitism. A physical chemist whose work in electron spin resonance I admired was Sam Weissman of Washington University in St. Louis. I was shocked when reading a memoir by him of the quota systems in science to which Jews were subjected. Here Dr. Klingsberg describes his problems with anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitism, the fear, suspicion, and hatred of Jews, was long blamed on Jewish failings and vices, real or alleged, but its central importance as a pillar of the religion of Christianity was finally forced upon the European consciousness by the 20<sup>th</sup> century catastrophe that has come to be known as the Holocaust of Shoah. Its manifestations will continue for generations to pose questions for scholarly inquiry. The debilitating effects of the disease have been implicated in the demise in 1967 of the *New York Herald Tribune*, a brilliant newspaper that many readers much preferred to the *New York Times*. More recently, the frantic efforts of the Ivy League colleges to keep Jews out have been chronicled by Jerome Karabel in "The Chosen" (Houghton Mifflin, 2005). Those interested in the ferocious anti-Semitism of American chemists can find a gold mine of documentation in the oral histories of the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, which are beautifully

transcribed and indexed and contain a galaxy of youthful victims of rejection and insult who went on to achieve world scientific fame.

Racism bears a certain resemblance to the sexism encountered by a young woman trying to gain a foothold in chemistry around the middle of the last century, as recounted last February and March in *The Southwest Retort* by Dr. Peggy Wilson. Sexism and racism have now weakened, but the changes did not come of their own accord. Some insiders fought them tenaciously while others tried to encourage them; the vast majority as usual sat on the sidelines. I have tried to write the following reminiscence in the spirit of Dr. Wilson's absorbing account.

When I became infatuated as a teenager with chemistry and decided to make it my life work, I was unaware of the notorious hostility to Jews within the profession, although I could easily have learned this by glancing at ACS employment  
\*\*\*\*Continued on Page 9\*\*\*\*

# FEBRUARY METROPLEX SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Seminar schedules for Spring semester are still being worked out. Here are the ones for which we have information. Call the department or check departmental websites before attending.

**UT-Arlington, Feb. 2**, James C. Weisshaar, University of Wisconsin, "Vesical Fusion and Protein Diffusion." **Feb. 9**, Thomas Mallouk, Penn State, "Nanostructural Design of Photocatalysts and Photoelectrochemical Cells." **Feb. 16**, Anne-Francis Miller, University of Kentucky, TBA. **Feb. 23**, William G. Tong, San Diego State, TBA. Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Baker Chemical Research Building.

**UT-Dallas, Feb. 14**, Romas Kazlauskas, University of Minnesota, TBA, **Feb. 21**, Brent Summerlin, SMU, "Controlled Radical Polymerization: Tailored Polymer Synthesis to Prepare Novel Function-al Materials." **Feb. 28**, Mary Jane Cunningham, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), "Toxicogenomics." Seminars are normally at noon in CN 1.120, in the Conference Center.

**SMU, Feb. 9**, Christopher W. Bielawski, UT-Austin, "Multitopic Carbenes in Small Molecule and Macromolecular Chemistry." **Feb. 15**, Romas Kazlauskas, University of Minnesota, TBA. Call Dr. Patty Wisian-Neilson at 214-768-2483 for room numbers and times.

\*\*\*\*Continued on Page 16\*\*\*\*

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past their early thirties virtually unemployable, no matter what their accomplishments. Our job market, to the extent that it exists at all, is confined to recent graduates, who within a few years have become totally uninteresting to recruiters. Until this is plainly acknowledged, C&EN employment surveys will continue to be misleading to the point of mendacity; see my articles in *The Southwest Retort* beginning in May, 2002.

Unable to leave Cyanamid or to advance within it, I did what I could to advance within the profession. One result was a four-volume monograph on pyridine chemistry (Wiley-Interscience 1960-64). A second was the solution of an analytical problem that, despite its immense commercial importance, had long since been abandoned as impossibly difficult (see pp. 177 and 208 in "Dyes Made in America" cited above). A third was a series of publications on novel sulfur heterocycles that led to a British government traveling fellowship in 1972, visiting professorships in France, to regular invitations to deliver plenary lectures at international research conferences. (When asked after such a lecture "How big is your group?" I would reply, "This is the group" while holding up ten

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72 Hf 178.49	73 Ta 180.95	74 W 183.84	75 Re 186.207	76 Os 190.23	77 Ir 192.222	78 Pt 195.084	79 Au 196.967	80 Hg 200.59	81 Tl 204.38	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 208.98	84 Po (209)	85 At (210)
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SMU's Dedman Life Sciences Building is dedicated to him.

His medical school recommendations were eagerly sought by students and were respected by medical school admissions committees. His students included more than 800 future physicians, 200 dentists, 75 PhDs, and two university presidents. Often he would give one of his "boys" on graduation from medical school one of his trademark red ties. At his funeral the audience was dotted with red ties. When his "boys" were asked to stand up, literally dozens of individuals stood.

Impressive as these facts are, they don't capture the warmth of Harold. His fellow faculty member Ed Biehl said that he "collected people." Harold only knew me through local section ACS meetings, but he always greeted me with that trademark warmth. A few months before my former Mobil colleague and former Retort Editor Herman Custard died, he invited me to go to the Rotary Club with him. When I arrived at his house, Herman said, "Now we have to go pick up Harold Jeskey. I very often take him to these meetings." I don't know how Herman would even have known Harold! However, it shows again that Harold was a person you wanted to do things for and, more importantly, with.

It's worth noting that Harold was a faithful attendee at local section ACS meetings. He was at the October meeting honoring Bob Patrizi, although he had to use a walker. While he no longer drove, his faithful friend Vito Jurevics would bring him. I wish that more of

our 1200 local section members would make attending meetings a priority as Harold did. We might have 250 members attending a meeting instead of 25.

Generally the attendance at funerals for 94-year olds is sparse, not because they were bad people but because all of their friends have died. The big attendance at Harold's funeral is a tribute to his capacity for making friends all his life and to his impact on generations of SMU students. Farewell Harold. You will always be missed and never forgotten.

\*\*\*\*Continued From Page 2\*\*\*\*  
these to the attention of company higher-ups, I was threatened with dismissal for insubordination. I managed to dodge this time, but somewhat later was fired anyway as punishment for having attained the age of 60. The resulting age discrimination litigation is the subject of articles in *The Southwest Retort* (see, for example, the issue of Sept, 2003) in which I also tried to sketch life in the chemical industry slave quarters.

Somewhat better informed now than as a teenager, would I again choose a life in chemistry? Probably I would, not being much good for anything else, and we have been assured by Tennyson that it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. ♣

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Award, died Jan. 10 with a funeral on Jan. 14. We will publish a tribute to Jim Melrose in a future *Retort*. In this issue we will sing the praises of Harold Jeskey, and there is a lot to sing about.

Harold Jeskey was born in St. Louis on Aug. 18, 1912. He received a B.S. degree from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1933. He then received a B.A. degree in chemistry in 1937 from St. Louis University. There followed a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1941. After three years teaching at the University of Tennessee-Memphis, he joined the SMU faculty in 1945. He served the DFW ACS Section as Chair in 1947-48. He became a full professor in 1958. He was named to the R. S. Lazenby Chair in Chemistry and served his department as Chair from 1962-74. After he retired from SMU in 1979, he served UT-Southwestern as an Adjunct Professor for many years. A big supporter of SMU athletics, he served on SMU's athletic committee. After retirement he volunteered in the athletic department.

If you have to characterize Harold Jeskey in one word, that word would be "amazing." He was a Shakespearean actor, a Shakespearian actor, and a Shakespearean actor. He gave his lectures without notes and after the first class period would have all the students' names memorized. After he once learned a student's name, he would be able to recall it for years thereafter. His lectures involved colorful examples, tending toward double entendre. His exams

were rigorous, consisting of four pages. Supposedly any student could answer the questions on page 1. "A" and "B" students, in theory, could do the questions on page 2. Only "A" students could do questions on page 3, and only God and Jeskey could do



page 4. Several of the speakers at the memorial service spoke of their talks being a "Page 4 moment." Speaker Dr. Phil Williams talked about how Jeskey helped build the SMU business department.

Many SMU students after taking one of Harold's tests would decide to switch their majors to business.

Harold referred to his students as his "boys," a generic term covering ladies as well. He habitually wore red ties to class except on exam days, when he would switch to a black tie. He was the first recipient of SMU's Phi Eta Sigma Teaching Award in 1951. He was also the first recipient of the Alumni Association Teaching Award in 1957. He received SMU's Outstanding Professor Award for 1976-77. He was the first education honoree in the D-FW Section's "Salutes to Excellence" program. After his retirement, an endowed chair was set up in his name, currently held by Dr. Ling Hua, and a lecture hall in



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# Southwest *Retort*

FIFTY-NINTH YEAR

JANUARY 2007

## BILL WATSON REMEMBERS

by Bill Watson

**Editor's Foreword.** Probably no one is more qualified to reflect on the growth of chemistry at TCU and, as a consequence, in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex than Professor William H. (Bill) Watson. Bill was one of three Salutes to Excellence honorees feted on Jan. 23 at UT-Arlington. He was born in Houston and as a teenager worked for several years as a cowboy. He attended Rice, where he received both a B.A. and a Ph.D. in chemistry. In 1957 he joined the chemistry faculty at TCU, and TCU then went on to initiate the first chemistry Ph.D. program in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Bill worked in the area of crystallography with interests in the structure of biologically active molecules and the phytochemical investigation of Central and South American plants. He has painted for more than four decades and now resides in Santa Fe, where he devotes full time to painting. Now let's let Bill speak for himself.

I came to Texas Christian University (TCU) in 1957. The department consisted of three faculty members nearing retirement, an instructor with an M.S. degree, and Joe Hodgkins, who had received his Ph.D. from Rice the year before. The University at that time had almost no endowment and a very modest yearly budget. The president was McGruder E. Sadler, who had a unique style of administration. If you were ambitious about your academic pursuits, he was

willing to provide support. Joe Hodgkins and I received support from the Welch Foundation, and Texas Instruments provided me with additional research funds as well as a consulting arrangement. In 1960 Bill Smith came as a Welch Visiting Professor and remained until his retirement several years ago. That same year the Welch Foundation provided the department with the first A60 NMR in the region and possibly in the state of Texas. With

the appearance of Sputnik and the sudden general interest in science, Dr. Sadler saw an opportunity to initiate Ph.D. programs in chemistry, physics, mathematics, and psychology. At that time there were no other chemistry Ph.D. programs in the North Texas area. In 1963 Professor W. O. Milligan was appointed Professor of Chemistry and Vice-Chancellor for Research at TCU and was essential in the development of the graduate program. From 1964 until 1973 the department added Jim Kelly, Manfred Reinecke, Ken McCloud, John Albright, Cliff Venier, Bill Koehler, Dale Huckaby, and Joe Bobich to the faculty.

In the 1970's the department was awarded a Welch Chair, and Professor Paul Bartlett from Harvard was the first recipient. Paul's international reputation gave the graduate program credibility, and a continuous stream of important chemists visited the department during his tenure. They not only contributed to our knowledge, but they provided us with international recognition, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. After Paul's retirement, the chair was filled by David Gutsche who attracted a different set of leading chemists to the department. Both were excellent chemists and gentlemen, and it was my privilege to cooperate extensively with both of them.

Since there were no other Ph.D. programs in the area, our graduate students came primarily from universities in north and east Texas, southern Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Many of our first Ph.D. graduates accepted

positions at small colleges in the region and became the source of additional graduate students. From about 1960-1975 a former faculty member at Austin College had connections with Taiwan and provided us with the first influx of Asian students. At one point I had six excellent Taiwanese in my research group. There was adequate funding for graduate students with stipends supplied readily by NASA, NSF, and other federal agencies in response to the call to educate more scientists.

I feel very fortunate to have been in the North Texas area during this period, and my many excellent students and colleagues deserve much of the credit. I served as Chairman of the Dallas-Fort Worth ACS Section and was a Councilor from the section for more than 15 years. I am honored to have been a recipient of the Doherty Award. I also received an International Faculty Award from PRF, a DAAD Fellowship from German, the Chancellor's Award at TCU, and I spent sabbatical leaves at Southampton University in England, the University of Bonn, Heidelberg University, at several universities in Turkey, in the Ukraine, where I was supported by NATO, and at the Argonne National Laboratory. At one period I was fortunate enough to have simultaneous funding from the International Division and the Biology Division of NSF to collect and study plants of the Andes from Colombia to Chile. This was an

\*\*\*\*Continued on Page 8\*\*\*\*

# Around-the-Area

## University of Arkansas

**Bob Gawley** was named an AAAS Fellow. He was selected in the chemistry section for distinguished contributions to the methods and principles of asymmetric synthesis, the biochemistry and analysis of marine toxins, and mentoring of women and minorities. **T.K.S. Kumar** gave a talk in Nov. to the local section of Sigma Xi. **Ryan Tian** attended an MRS meeting in Boston Nov. 25-29.

The department will sponsor an NSF supported REU summer exchange pilot program for the second time with Moscow State University and the Moscow State Academy of Fine Chemical Technology. The 10-week summer program allows undergraduate chemistry majors who will be juniors or seniors in fall, 2007, to experience research in an international exchange program in Moscow.

This fall the department awarded 27 scholarships and named 15 undergraduates as honorary scholars. *Arthur and Lois Fry Scholarships*. These are awarded to chemistry majors with a 3.0 GPA, who plan chemistry careers. The scholarship was established by University Emeritus Professor Arthur Fry and his late wife Lois. These scholarships were awarded to: **Natalie Anderson, Randy Carney, Zach Donnell, John Faver, Whitney Gammill, Jana Gertsch, Shelly Kaufman, Preston Stewart, and Tom Zhang.** *Jacob Sacks Scholarships*. These scholarships are awarded to outstand-

ing premedical students. These are made possible through memorial gifts in honor of former Professor Jacob Sacks. He and his wife Wilma were both medical doctors and established the first biochemistry research laboratory in the department. These scholarships were awarded to: **Heather Ainsley, James Balch, Vanessa Bradley, Juan Chipollini, Sarah Covey, Christopher Hall, Michael Gates, Fredisha Manning, Marcie Mulling, Jamie Nelson, Lindsey Pharis, Latisha Puckett, Laura Wilson Pratt, Rosalba Razo, Vignesh Rajan, Tyler Rogers, Maria Super, and Thaddeus Vasicek.** *Honorary Scholarships*. These are awarded to applicants who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. These go to: **Tammy Binz, Kyle Blair, Andreas Chen, Eric Flagg, Nicole Hart, Khalil Ibrahim, Caleb Magee, Christopher Sichmeller, James Steele, Tara Teff, Whitney Tharp, Rachel Thomas, Khoi Vo, Andrew Whiteley, and Blake Williams.**

## Dallas-Fort Worth

**In Memoriam: Harold Jeskey and James Melrose.** The Dallas-Ft. Worth ACS Section lost two outstanding chemists in the course of a month. Legendary SMU chemistry teacher Harold Jeskey died in his sleep Dec. 22 with a memorial service on Jan. 13. Retired Mobil surface chemist James Melrose, past winner of the Section's Doherty

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# CHEM GEMS AND JOULES

## COME TO CHEMED 07: LONE STAR SOLUTIONS

by Jane Smith, Frisco Centennial High School

It's about time you considered participating in ChemEd 07: Lone Star Solutions. This international conference will be bringing chemical educators to the University of North Texas for five days of chemical camaraderie, July 29-Aug. 2, 2007. Not only will you have the chance to learn about applications of chemistry in art, history, cooking, and the environment through the Texas Instruments Lecture Series, but you'll also get to choose from a wide variety of workshops that will offer hands-on participation as you try new learning strategies, demos and lab activities. North Texas area folks will have unique chances to take some behind-the-scenes field trips to popular destinations like the Dallas Museum of Art and the Ft. Worth Zoo. Many chemistry-oriented exhibitors will be able to show you a much more streamlined version of their products than what you would see at a conference like CAST or NSTA. Best of all, we're planning lots of Texas-sized fun culminating in a BBQ and Demos in the Dark show at the Circle R Ranch in Flower Mound! Online registration and housing arrangement are at [www.chem.unt.edu/chemed07](http://www.chem.unt.edu/chemed07).

Special events include Bette Bridges, Reg Friesen Lecturer, a Mole Day Breakfast and Fun Run, an Ice

Cream Social, and events at Circle R Ranch. As part of the TI Lecture Series, you'll get to hear **Bill Deese**, master juggler and demo-er, **Jim Marshall** on "Rediscovering the Elements," former ACS president **Bill Carroll** on "Why Study Chemistry?," **Galen Suppes** on "Green Chemistries," **Jim O'Brien** on "Famous Mad Hatters," **Mary Virginia Orna** on "Art and Chemistry," and **Jerry DeMenna** on "Chemistry of Texas BBQ." Sponsors of the conference include ACT2, Flinn Scientific, Texas Instruments, Educational Innovations, University of North Texas, Scholar Chemistry, and *The Journal of Chemical Education*.

Interested in presenting in Chem Ed 07? We'd love to have you share your classroom favorites. Graduate students through college professor are as anxious for new ideas as you are. Don't feel you have any new ideas? Well, neither does anyone else. Just come and share your version. Everyone can benefit from your experience. Proposal submissions will be accepted through April 15 and can be submitted online at [www.chem.unt.edu/chemed07](http://www.chem.unt.edu/chemed07).

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experience that I will not forget. I have published almost 500 papers, written four book chapters, and edited a volume on a conference held at TCU. I thank the Welch Foundation for 40 years of continuous support, my many students, my colleagues both at TCU and at neighboring institutions, and I thank TCU for providing me with these opportunities and for supporting me.

## TV-Alert Feb. 6 Nova Program on Percy Julian

Finally, at long last a PBS Nova program dealing with chemistry. In connection with Black History Month, Nova will present a film on pioneering black chemist Dr. Percy L. Julian: Scientist, Humanist, Educator, Entrepreneur, and Inspirational Trailblazer. The film is entitled "Forgotten Genius." Julian was one of the 75 eminent chemists chosen to be honored in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *C&EN*. Of course, *Retort* readers with long memories will recall that Lyman Caswell contributed an article about Percy Julian to our magazine many years ago. We urge all our readers to view the program about this under-appreciated black chemist.

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advertising. My adoring parents were more sophisticated in such matters but accepted my ill-informed decision without a murmur. My father, a born skeptic who saw to it that I was brought up without religion, had become a bank clerk after WWI service and had risen to a vice-presidency in a major Philadelphia financial institution. He and my mother probably believed that what he had achieved in the anti-Semitic world of banking, their son could achieve in chemistry, and that in any case a young man should be free to make his own mistakes with a minimum of parental interference. As it turned out, I was bright and hard-working enough to win scholarships at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a graduate fellowship at the University of Rochester.

At Rochester, the government WWII anti-malarial project seemed to have an insatiable demand for graduate students doing organic chemistry, but somehow these attractive openings never came my way. It was surely no coincidence that the acting head of the chemistry department was a confirmed anti-Semite who at one point summoned me to his office to denounce me as a troublemaker. This absurd accusation, flung at me without a shred of supporting evidence, was, if anything, the reverse of the truth, inasmuch as I had been urging my classmates to bellyache less, but for this eminent scientist "Jew" meant

"subversive", and the appropriate response to student grumbling was to pounce upon the lone Jew in their ranks and terrify him into silence. It was just as well that in my stupefaction I did not reply very eloquently, for there would have been no recourse if he had thrown me out of the university.

Long before graduation, my contemporaries had all accepted offers of employment from industry recruiters who visited the campus and, with the approval of the department interviewed every member of my class except me. No one on the faculty offered the slightest help in finding employment. The ACS Employment Clearing House proved to be a waste of time at meeting after meeting (with *C&EN* all the while trumpeting a "shortage" of chemists), but in 1946 I found a position with American Cyanamid in Bound Brook, NJ. A number of my Rochester classmates had joined Cyanamid laboratories in Stamford, CT, but these were off limits to Jews. Hans Lecher, a research director in Bound Brook, ran his domain differently, but after hiring me he told me more than once that my future at Cyanamid was blocked by entrenched anti-Semitism, which he was powerless to change. In his honesty on the subject, Lecher (ironically, a German) was, in my experience, unique (see p. 170 in "Dyes Made in America" by Anthony Travis, Hexagon, 2004).

Thus warned, I naturally looked for brighter prospects elsewhere, but year after year of searching never led to a single interview. It slowly dawned upon me that overcrowding and age discrimination have rendered chemists

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