**Note from the editor**

I have been alarmed to find that some people take OX-eye seriously. The contributions have tended to be less frivolous than one would have expected but then you are meant to be a serious-minded lot! Some of the requests I have received are physically impossible and I have decided to ignore the death threats.

**Further contributions**

Anything else you have to contribute should be saved for the next conference -- don't forget Budapest, May 1994 -- or read aloud to your local literary society. And good luck to you!

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**Cooperation between Paul and Paul**

Wednesday's plenary session demonstrated, in case any of you had doubts, that all plenary sessions end up with the delegates discussing what they came here to discuss in spite of the best endeavours of the chair and speaker to lead them back to the subject of the session. In a curious way this form of aberrant behaviour brings out some interesting points and, like most things, eventually leads back to the subject under debate.

Perhaps what did emerge was that national and international journals have such different roles to play that cooperation might be expressed as a willingness to recognize the differences, to build bridges with two-way traffic where they would be appropriate. In defining what made a journal "national" or "international" various criteria were proposed, including the origin of authors, subscribers and references -- if any or all of these were from many countries the journal could call itself "international". Standards of editorial input and the title of a journal were not judged to be factors affecting its status.

The need for international journals to keep local politics out of their pages, and for national journals to do the opposite, was emphasized by several participants. It was recognized that for a journal to be international it had to be published in English, the international language of science. National journals, on the other hand, needed to serve their own communities and to be published in their own languages -- unless, like Yugoslavia, that in itself produced problems of communication.

There was some evidence of cooperation between the national and international scientific communities where an organization like the World Health Organization would act as brokers in the splitting-up of data collected world-wide, with results of particular relevance to certain national communities.

The efforts of the Nordic countries to produce national/international journals in all fields of science had obviously paid off, as many of the titles are now identified as "international" although they started life as the national answer to cluttered and fragmented scientific literature.

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**Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor

Our discussions on what "national" and "international" mean prompted me to make a quick count of the countries represented at this EASE meeting. I counted the participants listed in the programme and in OX-eye of 9 September -- hastily, without checking the count, and without allowing for cancellations -- and got the following result: UK 104, USA 24, Netherlands 24, Sweden 11, Switzerland and France 10 each, Canada 8, Germany and Finland 6 each, Denmark, Hungary, Norway and Australia 4 each, Nigeria, Japan and Israel 3 each, Poland, Ethiopia and South Africa 2 each, Italy, Bahrain, Mexico, India, Belgium, USS, China, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Yugoslavia, Cote d'Ivoire, one each.

Thus, for those who like statistics, 30 countries are represented (I thought you said 22, John?) [he trusted the secretary-Treasurer - unwise] and 54 out of 245 registrants are from countries outside of Europe. Whatever the statistics, it's been a great meeting which I've thoroughly enjoyed, except for the dilemma of having to decide at breakfast whether to be sociable to the people around me or to read the latest OX-eye!

Anon

[So that's where my calculator went! When it cools down I'd like it back, please. Well done, anyway. Ed.]

To OX-eye Editor: please note: I am not afraid of Maeva. She makes a very good read -- see Editing Scientific Books & Journals.

[Yes, I agree she makes a good read; she also makes a good gin and tonic. In fact she shows promise all round. Ed.]
STOP PRESS

Luggage!
Great news -- you may leave your (packed) luggage in your room until after lunch on Thursday.

Please don't use the clean towels then - they're for the next visitors! Letters etc. to the Editor of European Science Editing: the sad fact is that there aren't enough, so get cracking. Perhaps thoughts on the next conference would be welcomed: planning has to start soon!

Daisy’s Diary

A sock (yes, just the one) was found in Liddon Quad. Please check your neighbour for odd socks at the next parallel session. If you find the loser we shall be grateful for the information. We’ll treat this information as completely confidential -- sadly this is the last OX-eye so we shall be unable to spill the beans, dig the dirt or generally discredit this careless individual. Pity.

A cultural bit now . . .

Oxford Blues
At last I’ve got into Oxford!
What hopes it can raise . . .
Dreaming spires, punts on the river, college oratorical ways.
The home of the lost cause, Polite rounds of applause,
But how can I avoid being kicked out at the end of six days?
[Oxford failed]

About the ghost: it has been spotted again, this time flitting silently along the corridor in an aura of blue. Researchers likened this to a blue nylon nightie (a fair description), and it appeared to be supporting, almost as if wearing it, a blue Marks and Spencer’s cardigan. The whole vision was quite unreal.

Name Tags
(Fondly dedicated to the Local Organizing Committee)
Badges provide an ID
For persons one’s meeting at tea.
But when cards fall out
It provokes a doubt
As to who all these people might be!
[Anon]

Miscellaneous jottings

WANTED: A publisher for the forthcoming "Sayings of Chairman Maeve" (N.B. We're all afraid of Maeve -- but we love her really).
P.S. Is this the secret behind the recent film "Driving Miss Daisy"? and is she the same Daisy as in Ox-eye's Daisy's Diary, and if not, why not? [What does 'this' stand for in that sentence? -- Ed.]

A new technology surfaced during the debate on O.K. Harlem's proposals at the General Assembly -- Tricho-bifurcation. Those who wish to continue calling it hair-splitting may do so.

Will the person who left the ten empty wine bottles in a skip outside the Henry Ley Room please submit (in triplicate) an explanation of their relevance to the parallel session concerned.

One of our eagle-eyed cub reporters has spotted what could be the first issue of Garbageology, or possibly Turgidology, under a different title. He has noted a (?) perfectly genuine) copy of an issue of the Journal of Irreproducible Results!

If you wish to get a free portable filing system designed for editors, try making a purchase at a certain shop in Broad Street. You will receive a free biodegradable plastic carrier labelled "The Reject Shop".

Have we an unexpected eminent visitor in our midst? When names were checked on the bus trip to Blenheim Palace a certain Russian delegate announced himself as "Gorbachev"! [Please don't let the other delegates know about an unexpected eminent visitor]. They're all under the impression that they are the eminent visitor, unexpected or otherwise. And who are we to disabuse them of that belief . . .?]

Footnote: Why does Maeve keep losing my contributions to OX-eye? (I'm still afraid of Maeve).

Message to the editor
Possible slogan for EASE: "Editors in difficulty need EASE". On the other hand, in his opening address on Sunday evening Sir David Weatherall thought that EASE sounded like a mild laxative - I suppose that depends on what you're presenting the first paper in the morning.

Further message to the editor
On the Keble Story: a French visitor to Oxford is reputed to have said of Keble "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la gare." [GCRC]

World weather

Our correspondent from Berlin reports a heat-wave in Switzerland. As he flew over Paris he got the impression that it was pretty warm there too. We are told that temperatures in Madrid, New York and Cape Town are pretty much as you'd expect them to be at this time of the year. Meanwhile, in Ulan Bator the yaks are drying out nicely, due to a light south-westly wind (Force 4 to 5 on the Beaufort Scale). Careful positioning of the yaks on a handy knoll has been found to speed up the drying process. Our correspondent in Outer Mongolia hopes this pleasant weather will continue, as it's his granny's birthday next week. -- As to Oxford, who was it who blasphemed in the quad and deleted the perfect weather we'll all remember when we think of EASE at Oxford?