



The APInion

HOUSTON WIRE

Greetings to my friends and colleagues in the New Orleans area from your Houston energy correspondent!

My purpose in writing this brief message to you is to alert you to an alarming trend that, if unchecked, may cause great harm to Louisiana's oil and gas industry — the increasing use of lawsuits to inflict large judgments on the industry for cleanup, "toxic tort", surface restoration and abandonment costs.

Many people are surprised to learn that Louisiana does not have the concept "punitive damages," which results in such travesties as a \$3 million judgment from an Alabama court in favor of a woman who burned her fingers on a hot cup of coffee from McDonald's.

From 1984 to 1996, however, Louisiana did allow punitive damages for certain "toxic tort" cases, those involving the storage, handling or transportation of "hazardous" or "toxic" substances. While this provision was repealed by the Louisiana Legislature in 1996, creative lawyers have found a way around it — the "continuing tort."

Perhaps in frustration over the diminished nature of the e&p business in south Louisiana, Louisiana courts and juries have recently begun inflicting serious pain on oil and gas companies



under this and similar theories. These judgments are out of all proportion to any actual damages that may have reasonably occurred. They include the following:

- A \$1 billion dollar judgment from a New Orleans jury in 2001 against Exxon for damages allegedly sustained by landowners in suburban New Orleans relating to NORM deposits in an abandoned pipeyard near their property.
- A \$53 million judgment against Shell in southwestern Louisiana with the following elements: \$33 million for restoration of the site of an abandoned oil terminal (the market value of the land was \$900 per acre), plus \$16 million for damages related to a saltwater disposal well and \$4 million for attorneys' fees.
- Substantial damages awarded for restoration of Terrebonne Parish marshes created by oil and gas canals.

**Wednesday
April 17, 2002**

**2002 Annual
Teachers
Appreciation
Luncheon**

**Holiday Inn Superdome
8th Floor
330 Loyola Avenue**

**Guest Speaker:
Ro Brown
WDSU TV
TEACHING IS BRAIN
SURGERY**

*\$25 per person
\$20
API Members*

*RSVP to:
Dwight Paulsen
455-0858 or dcpaulsen@edg.net*

— continued, page 9

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This is my first Chairman's Message and I am pleased to report the API Delta Chapter is off to a great start! My challenge will be to continue the progress made in the last two years under the leadership Ben Waring and Bart Walker. I am grateful to them, the API Board and the membership for their hard work. Together, we can build on their success and have a positive impact on our industry.

Few events have made me more proud than API Delta Meritorious Service Awards Luncheon held on January 22, 2002. What a heart-warming success! Thom Philpott is a legend in our industry. Dave Lawrence's address on the Deepwater GOM was most informative. I am proud to be part of the API's effort to have honored such deserving gentlemen. And a special thank you to the New Orleans Area Oil and Gas Industry Associations for their commitment and help with this event.

One of our annual highlights is the 2002 Annual Teachers Appreciation Luncheon to be held on April 17, 2002. Ro Brown our education reporter from WDSU is our guest speaker with a talk entitled. "Teaching is Brain Surgery". In addition, API will honor selected Teachers from the six parish metropolitan area and their Principals and Superintendents.

Our technical meeting and the Third Annual Greater New Orleans Joint Industry Association Luncheon will be scheduled for later this year. Of course API-Delta Annual Golf Tournament will be held on October 11, 2002. The golf tournament is the chapter's major fund raising event, and this is an event not to be missed. Please make plans to join us now and make early reservations with Leo Kerner at 394-9901 or leo.kerner@mindspring.com .

API-Delta is committed to the greater News Orleans community. We will continue to sponsor and support the New Orleans Area Oil and Gas Industry Associations and their members; the API-Delta industry wide web page; our teachers; and the Louisiana Children's Museum.

2002 will be an exciting year— I am honored to be your Chairman and look forward to serving our industry and our community under the banner of API-Delta!

*Dwight Paulsen
Chairman, API-Delta Chapter*

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SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

Saturday, April 6

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

At the

Louisiana Children's Museum

**Sponsored by the American Petroleum
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Orleans Geological Society and the
Southeastern Geophysical Society**



Cool Things To Do In The Atrium:

- Explore Dino worlds from Jurassic and Cretaceous
- Create your own Seismic Earthquake
- Drill for oil in the Gulf of Mexico
- Watch out for the Exploding Geyser
- Visit with Stan, the 5 foot T-REX skull
- Create a Mammoth-Sized Dino Stencil Drawing
- See a real T-REX bite mark and more!



The Gulf of Mexico's Contribution to the National Energy Balance

Website Sponsors

Our last general meeting gave us the opportunity to honor two outstanding members of our industry. Tom A. Philpott, “a geologist’s geologist,” and Mr. Dave T. Lawrence, Vice President of Exploration and Development for Shell Oil Company, were presented the API Meritorious Service Award for their career achievements, leadership, contributions to the advancement of our industry, and community involvement. We congratulate this year’s recipients; they are part of a distinguished group who has received this API national award.

Following the award ceremony, Mr. Lawrence discussed the contribution of deepwater GOM operations to the national energy balance.

In addition to creating thousands of good paying jobs, the deepwater GOM generates billions of dollars of revenue for the US government. More significantly, it produces energy that fuels the economic growth that helps maintain our living standards.

Deepwater GOM operations are a “technological marvel,” commented Lawrence.

“Safety and environmental performance meet the highest standards despite rumors and misperceptions.” It is the industry’s responsibility to communicate our track record on safety and environmental issues to the general public, Mr. Lawrence said.

The deepwater GOM contributes approximately 1.3 million barrels of oil per day to our nearly six million bbl/day total production. Mr. Lawrence was proud that Shell, with twenty producing properties, is a major deepwater contributor. “Even though we face

formidable technological challenges, and the rate of additional reserve addition is unknown, the deepwater GOM has the potential to double its contribution and help meet the nation’s needs” Lawrence told the audience.

Mr. Lawrence reminded us that the GOM is a prolific hydrocarbon basin: “it contributes 30% of the total US oil and gas production, there are over 4000 platforms, 900 of which are manned; there are more than 6000 producing wells, 21,000 miles of pipeline and 30,000 workers offshore at any given time. GOM production generates about 8 billion dollars of revenue for the US treasury and about 5 onshore jobs per offshore job.”

“The future holds significant opportunities and challenges.” Exploratory drilling in water depths greater than 4000 feet, high pressure and high temperature environments, and target depths well below 20,000 feet sub sea to name a few.

Cost control will be critical to success. The initial exploratory drilling phase in these, more technically difficult, areas will be costly. “An exploration well can run between 50 and 100 million dollars,” Lawrence said.

The price of the commodity will continue to drive exploration and production strategies. Mr. Lawrence indicated that twelve dollars per barrel is not a break-even proposition. With 30% decrease in operational costs, twenty dollars/barrel is a more realistic break-even price.

The GOM is a “world class resource base” according to Lawrence. The Mineral Management Service estimates total GOM reserves at about 70



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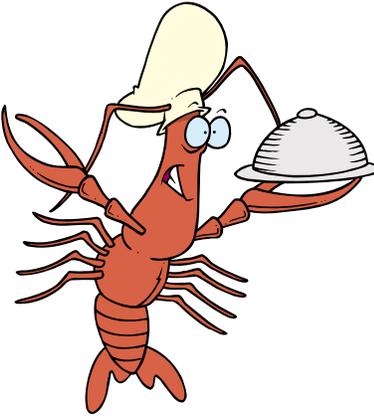
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API Delta Chapter Meritorious Service Award Winners:

2002	Tom Philpott D. T. "Dave" Lawrence
2000	Robert L. "Bob" Freeman Edward B. "Ed" Picou, Jr.
1999	John A. Melton Andrew R. Thomas
1998	Bill Linder Dave Welch
1997	Pat Taylor Jim Funk
1996	Jim Rike
1995	Johnson "Bubba" Hale

CRAWFISH BOIL

**April 11
4:30 - 5:00 PM**



API-Delta, PLANO, SIPES Crawfish Boil is scheduled for April 11, 2003 at the City Park Peristyle. Tickets will be \$26.50 per person for 3-4 hours of crawfish, soft drinks and beer.

Contact Frank Barber
589-0450.

Gulf of Mexico's Contribution (continued from page 4)

billion barrels of oil equivalent (Bbbloe). "Perhaps thirty to forty Bbbloe are recoverable at current oil prices." To date, five Bbbloe have been proved or produced, however, very technically demanding issues lie ahead. Improved seismic images together with visualization techniques, "smart wells" multilaterals, expandable liners, etc. "will be required to

find and produce the GOM hydrocarbons needed to meet the nation's demand over the next two decades" Mr. Lawrence told us in his concluding remarks.

An audience of about one hundred fifty enjoyed Lawrence's motivating presentation and our API Meritorious Award celebration.

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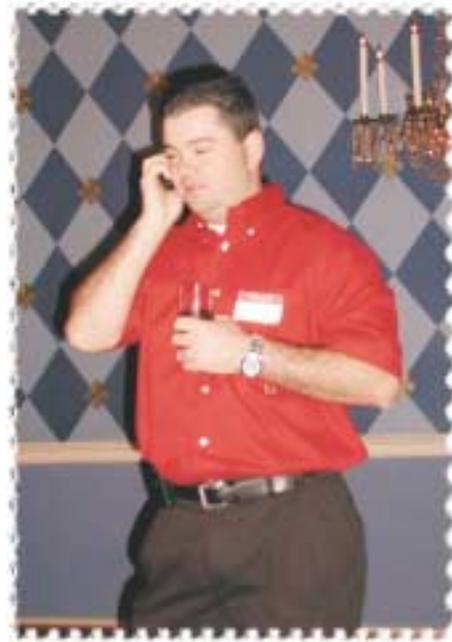


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Tom Philpott receives API award





M. del Papa presents award to David Lawrence



Ben Waring of API presents cash award to Louisiana Children's Museum



Mr. Dave Lawrence addresses the audience

Oil Industries Seek Fed Help Against Terror

It was not a terrorist act, just a drunken hunter with a rifle who shot a hole in the Alaska pipeline. Nonetheless, he disrupted the flow of 286,000 gallons of oil for three days and raised doubts about the ability to both protect the 800-mile pipeline from attack and maintain its flow of oil.

Energy companies are aware of the threat that terrorists pose and they are seeking help from the government to make themselves less vulnerable. Bracewell & Patterson, a Washington law firm that represents several energy companies, set out to explore the extent of security that existed for such companies and what needed to be done to improve it. A result is a 42-page overview of the state of energy security in America and how various facilities are vulnerable to terrorist attack.

The report makes several recommendations to the government. It calls for tax credits and low-cost financing to

help the industry improve security. It says the government should eliminate the “regulatory impediments” that it says preclude the industry from building plants that could withstand a terrorist attack, and it calls for the withholding of safety information that the government now requires companies to make available on the Internet.

Like the airline industry, the energy companies also want some liability and insurance protections. And they want to be able to file “security impact statements,” which can presumably override the “environmental impact statements” that often result in expensive pollution controls they did not want in the first place. They also expect protection that only the government can provide, like the National Guard patrolling their airspace, specially trained Guard units protecting them on the ground, the government sharing its intelligence to try to prevent attacks and the Coast Guard helping to protect ports and offshore rigs.

Houston Wire

(continued from page 1)

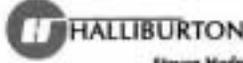
Perhaps some of this was inevitable, given Louisiana’s evolution from reliance on the petroleum industry to a more broad-based economy. One would hope, however, that the citizens of Louisiana would not want to “bite the hand that fed them” for so long and so well. Sadly, decisions such as these may show that Louisiana residents don’t really appreciate the petroleum industry and what it has contributed to the overall economy of the state.

In order to help avoid problems such as these, mineral leases and other oil-field documents need to be carefully drafted. Some of these decisions could have been avoided this way. Unfortunately, hindsight is always 20/20.

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API-Delta Chapter Teacher of the Year Recognition Luncheon

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

11:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn Superdome
330 Loyola Avenue

API-Delta Chapter annually recognizes teachers in the public schools in the parishes served by the Delta Chapter. This community focused program, which has been on-going for the past sixteen years, has resulted in over \$100,000 being awarded directly to classroom teachers in the public schools of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and St. Tammany parishes.

This year the recognition program to honor teachers will occur at an April 17, 2002 luncheon meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn Superdome, 330 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, at 11:30 a.m. In addition to the honorees, invited guests will include their principals and the Superintendent of Schools in each of the six parishes. The keynote speaker will be Ro Brown, WDSU-TV newscaster.

Additional recognition of selected teachers will occur at the six parish

school board meetings in May and June, when API-Delta Chapter member volunteers will present checks to three veteran teachers and one new teacher in each parish (\$1300 in each of the six parishes) and a certificate of recognition for their untiring efforts on behalf of the children in their classrooms. This annual event provides an opportunity to highlight API and showcase the contributions of the petroleum industry to the community.

Members of API-Delta chapter are encouraged to attend the luncheon meeting on April 17th to show their support for our fine educators as well as market the industry to those educators who are in the position to influence the promotion of the petroleum industry for career opportunities.

Corporations Find Social Responsibility Boosts Profits, Planet

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is creating more buzz in the boardroom these days.

Increasingly violent protests against globalization at world trade and other international meetings have put big businesses on guard.

Recent assaults against some of America's corporate and cultural icons – including Coca-Cola, KFC, Nike, Pizza Hut and Shell – mainly in Muslim countries after the terrorist attacks on America and the U.S. military response, have made multinational companies even more sensitive.

Cynics may consider CSR and “sustainable development” trendy catch phrases with scant substance, or outright oxymorons. For many years, CSR was an elective rather than part of the core curriculum at business schools. Within corporations, it was often merely a synonym for philanthropy.

But that is changing in response to growing protests against globalization, and rising awareness of environmental threats and social and economic disparities and the world.

In the September issue of the *Harvard Business Review*, DuPont Chief Executive Chad Holliday said that if every person in the world lived like the average North American, “we would need the resources of at least three planet Earths.” There are plenty of other disquieting inequities: developed countries reportedly receive 80 percent of world income. About half of the world's 6 billion people get by on less than \$2 per day. Developed countries' use of commercial energy, such as oil and gas, is heading toward more than 50 percent, from less than 20 percent in 1975.

Statistics in Brief

Domestic crude oil production rose by nearly 2 percent in February, its seventh year-to-year gain in the past eight months, according to API's Monthly Statistical Report, released on 3/13. New resources in Alaska, combined with the fruits of deepwater development on the Gulf Coast, contributed to the increase. Domestic liquids production was also boosted by a 14 percent increase in natural gas liquids extraction from natural gas streams. The gains for natural gas liquids and crude oil together put domestic liquids production at nearly 5 percent above year-ago levels for the month. Contacts: Tim Gill, Policy Analysis and Statistics, 202-682-8398 or gillt@api.org or Ron Planting, Policy Analysis and Statistics, 202-682-8509 or planting@api.org.



Delta  Chapter

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Friday - October 11, 2002 Bayou Oaks Golf Course

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2002 Annual Teachers Appreciation Luncheon

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8th Floor
330 Loyola Avenue*

*RSVP to: Dwight Paulsen
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*Reservations for the luncheon
should be made no later than
Monday, April 15, 2002.*

**Holiday Inn Superdome
8th Floor
330 Loyola Avenue
11:30 a.m.**



Ro Brown, WDSU TEACHING IS BRAIN SURGERY

A native New Orleanian, Ro has over twenty years' experience in both New Orleans and Lake Charles as a sports reporter. He is now the city's only reporter who exclusively covers education.

Come meet the outstanding teachers, principals, and superintendents. Teachers will be honored for their contribution to the children in the six parish metropolitan area.



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