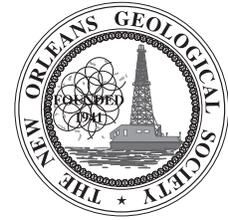


NOGS LOG

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Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

July 2007
Volume 48, Number 1

JULY AND AUGUST ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

July 9 - NOGS Luncheon

Ivor van Heerden, deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center, and Author of "The Storm: What Went Wrong During Hurricane Katrina - The Inside Story From One Louisiana Scientist," will present "Hurricane Blues."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

Note: As of July, luncheon costs will increase due to increased overhead associated with hotel charges. Please make note of the new luncheon costs.

LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or
front desk for location
Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$30.00
without reservation \$35.00
Student Member with reservation Free

July 20 - Geology Symposium for East and West Flood Protection Commissioners

Co-sponsored by NOGS and the Louisiana Geological Survey. Holy Cross College.
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. See NOGS website for more details.

August 6 - NOGS Luncheon

Dr. Richard H. "Dick" Fillon, Senior Associate of Earth Studies Associates, will present "Paleogene Deposystems and Evolution of the Gulf of Mexico Basin Petroleum System."

August 16- 17 - Eleventh Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium

Theme: New Challenges, New Solutions. New Orleans Hilton Riverside. Register at <http://spe-delta.org>. The symposium is a joint effort between SPE, NOGS and AADE.

FROM THE EDITOR

I am enthusiastic about taking over the reigns of the *NOGS Log* for 2007-08. I want to thank Robert Rooney for the excellent job he did the past year and for his help in the transition. Personally, I served as advertising committee chairman for nearly four years, and in the past year, I've gained a greater understanding and appreciation for the history of the *Log* while pulling together the Blast from NOGS Past column. With that foundation, my goal for the coming year is simple: continue to grow both the quality and quantity of *Log* content. To begin with, I hope to get some color back into the *Log* soon. We've had a lot of events over the past month or so, and the next couple of issues will feature photos from these. I welcome any and all feedback and promise to use any compliments, criticism, and/or suggestions to make the *Log* better.



Tim Piwowar
Editor, *NOGS Log*

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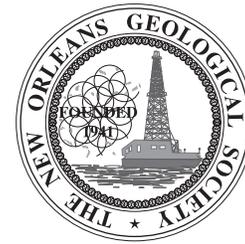
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from the President

Greetings Fellow NOGS Members,

With this column I begin my year as President of our society. I am grateful for this opportunity to lead NOGS, and especially appreciative of Mike Fein's leadership over the past year. It has been amazing to watch Mike in action, working hard and having fun at the same time – he is very much a tough act to follow.

The 2006-2007 board and committee chairs were excellent, as seen by the growth in membership and participation. The new officers are now off to a great start, with President-Elect/Entertainment Chairman Bill Whiting planning a very creative kick-off party for September and already getting the Christmas party organized for December. Vice President Robert Rooney is lining up luncheon speakers and Tim Piwowar is off to a fast start with the LOG.

I have appreciated the many calls from NOGS Past Presidents, offering encouragement and sharing ideas. Something I heard a lot was that I needed a “theme” for the year. This posed a bit of a problem, as I want to continue all of the great things NOGS has been doing well: great luncheon meetings, informative NOGS LOG articles, valuable continuing education courses, scholarships, and fun social events. There is, however, one area where I believe we need to grow; and that is in our outreach efforts.

Outreach can take many forms, and there are opportunities for NOGS members to play a part in this:

- **Outreach to the Geological Community of the Gulf Coast.** Plans have begun for a new volume of “Louisiana Oil & Gas Fields”. It has been 19 years since Volume III was published and I'm sure there will be a solid market for a new volume. Tom Bergeon is heading up this effort, but we will need a lot of participation from our members to make it successful. We will improve the NOGS website so that its value to our members and on-line visitors is strengthened. We are also making plans for additional field trips in Southeast Louisiana.

- **Outreach to Schools.** We are off to a good start with our involvement with UNO and have many opportunities to expand those efforts and results. In addition, I have spoken with a number of K-12 teachers and principals who would welcome geologists who could make classroom presentations. NOGS has a great collection of rocks and fossils, and those of us who have made school visits can attest to the value this has for the students. (It's also a lot of fun.) We are working to put together guideline “scripts” so that anyone interested can participate more easily.

- **Outreach to Community Leaders.** The levee failures and their aftermath demonstrated that the importance of subsurface geology was seriously overlooked by the organizations authorized to protect our communities from storms. Sharing our knowledge and sponsoring symposia are an important component of our outreach. As a first step, NOGS is co-sponsoring a one-day public symposium focused on geologic problems regarding flood protection. The symposium will be presented at Holy Cross beginning at 9:30 A.M. This event is being held during a meeting of the East and West Flood Protection Commissioners.

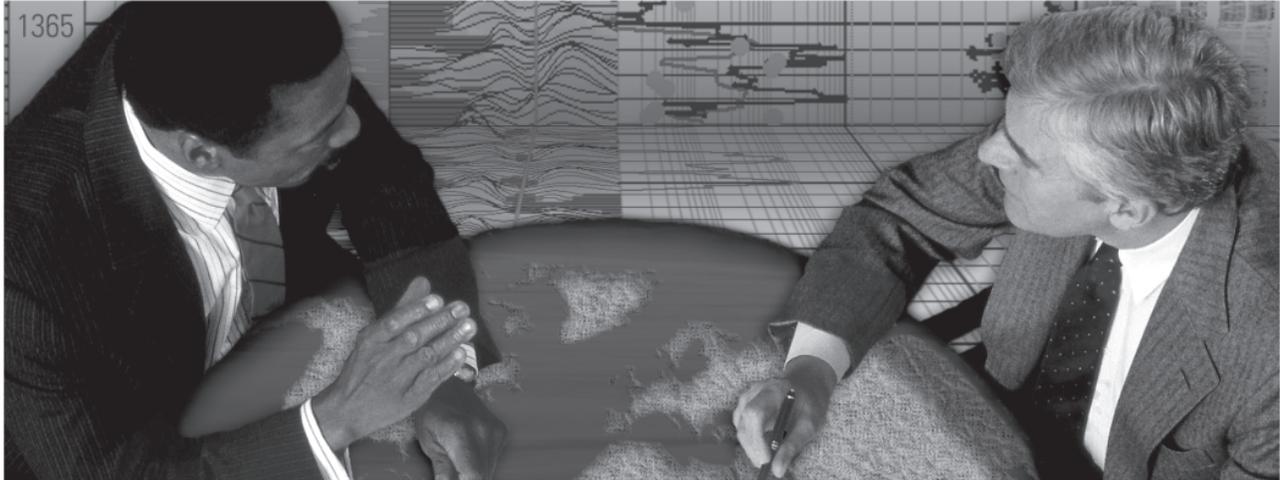
- **Outreach to the Community.** I was pleased by the turnout at our City Park clean-up in May, an activity that we leveraged with SGS. There will be many other events that will benefit from being joint NOGS/SGS functions and we will make the most of our joint efforts. Between those who came out that Saturday, those who wanted to be there but had other plans, and those who donated money to the cause, it is quite clear that community involvement is something that matters to our members. We will expand these efforts in the coming year.

NOGS is in great shape and this year will see us continuing to provide our members with the services they have always valued. In addition, we will reach out in many new ways that will require greater involvement from our members. Please help us achieve our goals.

I have learned a lot from listening to the Past Presidents and NOGS board members. I would also like to hear from all members on how we strengthen our society and maintain its value for all of our members.

Art Johnson

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July 9 Luncheon Presentation

Hurricane Blues

presented by

Dr. Ivor van Heerden

Deputy Director of the LSU Hurricane Center

ABSTRACT

This presentation will document events leading up to the hurricane Katrina catastrophe and how pertinent science was ignored. It will track the history of hurricane protection in the area as well as the nature and mechanisms of levee failures during Katrina. Thereafter, we will look at the question of "How safe is it?" followed by aspects of a plan that would ensure the continued habitation of southeast Louisiana. The presentation ends with a series of recommendations developed as part of the "Team Louisiana" forensic investigations on how to

proceed from here forwards. These recommendations include potential congressional actions as well a discussion of enforcing existing laws. Attendees will hopefully be better informed as to the hurricane surge realities of Louisiana, but at the same time recognize that through coastal restoration and engineered protection, coastal Louisiana can continue to thrive and become a leader in new coastal technologies, which will be in demand as global warming speeds sea level rise into the future.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Ivor van Heerden has been deputy director of the Louisiana State University Hurricane Center since 1999 and director of the Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes, a Louisiana Board of Regents Health Excellence Fund Center, since 2001. He is a faculty member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. A native of South Africa, he received his undergraduate degree in geology from the University of Natal in South Africa, and his masters and doctorate in Marine Sciences from Louisiana State University. He is a former Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources where he ran a very successful coastal wetlands restoration program. Ivor has been involved in natural disaster research projects

in various parts of the world and played a key part in the dissemination of information on the impacts of Katrina during the emergency. Presently he is leading the State of Louisiana's official forensic data gathering team as concerns the failure of the levees in New Orleans and the consequences for those who lost their homes. He has undertaken thousands of interviews and appeared in Spike Lee's HBO Katrina documentary as well as in documentaries done by amongst others; NOVA-PBS, History Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic and BBC. He is the author of *"The Storm - What Went Wrong and Why during Hurricane Katrina - the Inside Story from One Louisiana Scientist"* (with Mike Bryan) published by Penguin/Viking.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 5, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be August 6. Dr. Richard H. "Dick" Fillon, Senior Associate of Earth Studies Associates, will present "Paleogene Deposystems and Evolution of the Gulf of Mexico Basin Petroleum System." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

**Look for
Technomania
recap in next month's
NOGS LOG**

Introducing the
**2007-08
NOGS
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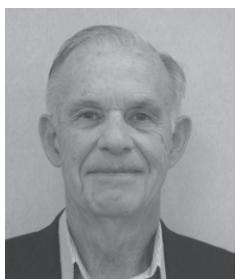
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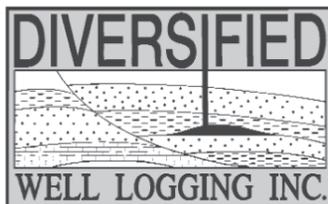


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New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

On behalf of the New Orleans Geological Auxiliary, we offer our thanks and love to Carol Andrews, not only for who she is, but also, her photographic ability! On the following pages are just a sampling of the pictures she has taken from our events over this past year.

The September Coffee at the home of Ruthie Grimes was a perfect beginning to start off the 2006 year. On a beautiful crisp November day, we enjoyed a tour, along with lunch at Houma's House. Our next event was in February, as our Northshore trek took us to Longbranch with Ann Dale as our Guest Speaker. NOGA experienced the generous hospitality of Ann and Louis Gilbert as they shared their home for our Spring Social. Finally, our Installation Luncheon at Chateau Du Lac, a great French meal and as lagniappe, door prizes! Many heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the Ladies who gave of their time, talents and homes in making this past year memorable.

The Planning Committee has arranged for some exciting events for the upcoming year, which will be noted in the next NOGS LOG. I would encourage any spouse who is not a member of NOGA to please join us, it would be our privilege to meet you.

I would like to thank our new "Lois Lane" - Arleen Falchook, who has graciously agreed (without any "arm-twisting") to write the NOGA Column this upcoming year.

With regret, we are having to say "Good-Bye" to Mim Brumbaugh and Jean Wood. Both members will be moving to Florida and Houston (respectively). We thank them for their years of loyalty and service to NOGA and will miss them more than they know...

In closing, our sincere condolences to Judy Sabate, Susan Danielson and Jean Jones on the loss of their husbands. We extend our hearts, prayers and love to these dear friends and fellow NOGA Members.

Thanks again to the NOGA Board for continuing on for the next year!!!!

Fondly,
Susie Baker
NOGA President

NOGA Application Form

Dues: \$15.00

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Home phone _____

Husband's Name _____

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*Please make check payable to New Orleans Geological Auxiliary and
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NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL AUXILIARY

2006-2007 PROGRAMS



Luncheon at Home of Ruth Grimes



Houmas House Plantation Luncheon & Tour

Committee - Alma Dunlap & Beverly Christina



Longbranch Restaurant Luncheon

Mary Walther, Chairman with Speaker, Anne Dale & Committee, Amber Klekamp & Trez Zotkiewicz



Spring Social at Home of Ann & Louis Gilbert

Ann & Louis Gilbert with Committee Members,
Carol Andrews, Jean Jones & June Perret

Past President's Luncheon



Past Presidents: (Back Row) Joan Sylvester, Carol Andrews, Ruth Grimes, Judy Lemarie, Earleen Rodan, Pat Williamson, Joan Collier, Mary Petrocco, Mary Walther. (Front Row) June Perret, Susie Bajer, Beverly Kastler, Judy Sabate, Ruth Ingram.



Chateau du Lac Installation Luncheon

Committee - Dolores Murphy & Judy Lemarie



Outstanding Service Award Recipient, Linda Pierce and Loyalty Award Recipient, Mary Walther with President, Susie Baker



2006-2007 Board Members

(Back Row:) Peggy Campbell, Linda Pierce, Judy Lemarie, Jean Jones, Dolores Murphy, June Perret, Ann Gilbert, Alma Dunlap. (Front Row:) Peggy Rogers, Beverly Kastler, Susie Baker, Earleen Rodan, Carol Andrews.

A Different Kind of Field Work

For NOGS and SGS members looking to help our community recover from Katrina, the chance to spend a day working in New Orleans City Park was a great opportunity. On May 19, seventeen society members and family spent a great day clearing brush along the lagoon across from the softball center and hauling trash. Over ¼ mile of the waterfront was cleared and as the before and after pictures show, we made a real difference.

Along with our call for volunteers, we requested financial support and our members came through with over \$1100. In addition NOGS and SGS each contributed an additional \$250.

The project came up on fairly short notice and many members could not participate because of prior commitments. There are additional opportunities to help City Park's recovery for anyone interested. NOGS and SGS are making plans to help set up the lighting for Celebration in the Oaks sometime in November. In addition, City Park has a "Super Saturday" work day, usually the first Saturday each month. If you would like to participate, volunteers are invited to meet at the tennis center parking lot (across from the Peristyle next to the gray doublewide trailer) at 9:00 a.m. Work assignments and tools will be handed out at that time and volunteers will work until 12:00 noon.

There are many other great opportunities for helping with the recovery of our community, including Habitat for Humanity and numerous church groups. I hope all NOGS members will find some time in their busy schedules to volunteer.

Art Johnson



Bridge, before (above) and after (right)



The final result!



Getting instructions

Lagoon, before (right) and after (below)



Break time



Hard at work



NOGS 2007 Golf Outing











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NOGS Membership News & Information

This is your page. We would like to fill it with your news. In addition to professional news from our members; e.g., promotions, transfers, moves, new employer, etc., we also welcome your success stories. Please e-mail items to log@nogs.org.

New NOGS Members May 2007

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Geophysicist
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Rudy Wilhelm
Shell Deepwater Devel., Inc.
701 Poydras St
New Orleans, LA 70161
504-728-7668

SMT Users Group Meetings to be Held on UNO Campus

SMT will have the Gulf Coast Users Group (GCUG) meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. They will occur every other month (2 months) and the first one will be on July 11th, 2007. The time will be from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM and will be held at the University of New Orleans (UNO), Geology Department. Please contact Mitch Luehr at (713) 464-6188, or email him at mluehr@seismicmicro.com if you wish to attend.

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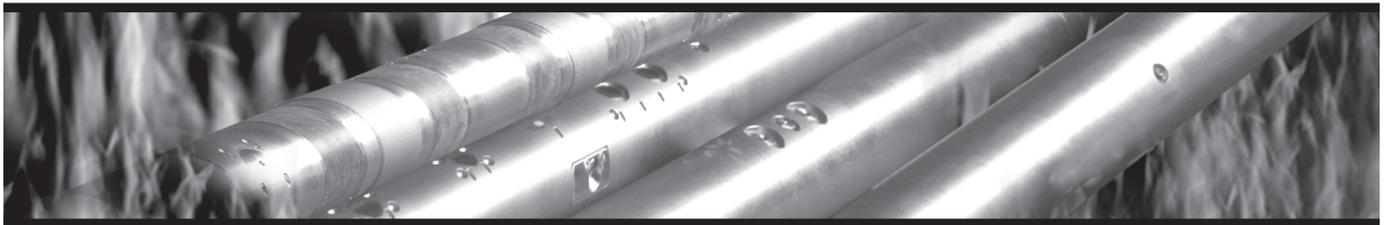
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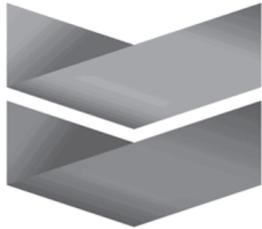
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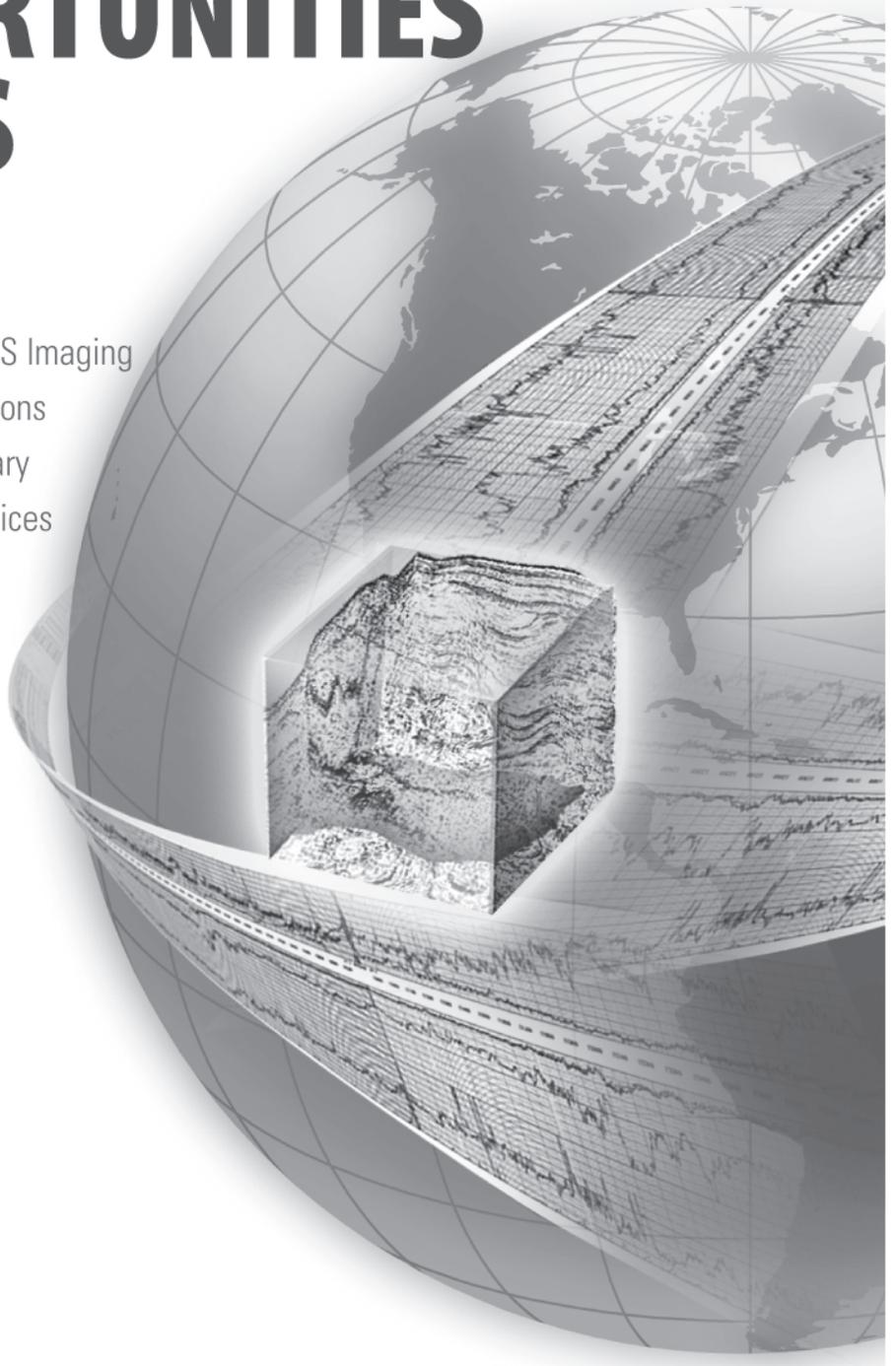
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South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

DRILL
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- **Total** and **Shell** are having issues over the subsea infrastructure for Shell's planned Perdido Regional Host, a spar project in ~8,000 feet of water with the facility located in AC 857. Total argues the project adversely affects the economics of its development scheme for the nearby Gotcha oil discovery in AC 856. Total claims that Shell's proposed locations for pipelines and anchors to moor its planned Perdido facility will cross into its west-adjacent lease. Total argues that, if the situation stands, Shell's mooring spread and pipelines will block access to the site where Total is evaluating plans to drill development wells and eventually moor its own production facility.

The Perdido Host is a regional DVA (direct vertical access) spar that will be the deepest spar production facility in the world. First production is anticipated in 2010. It will be a common processing hub near the Great White discovery, incorporating drilling capability and functionality to gather, process, and export production within a 30-mile radius. It will thereby provide regional synergies, reduce costs and lower risk, reducing the number and size of the facilities and operations in this frontier area, resulting in a lower environmental impact than would otherwise be achieved.

Gotcha is reportedly believed by Total to be a marginal field, with potential recoverable reserves of ~100 MMBOE. Consequently, a forced move to a less than optimum location could impact its development options. Sources close to Total claimed Shell's development permit application shows their anchors would conflict with Total's plans, resulting in issues between the two operators.

The MMS approved Shell's development proposal on the condition that it provides financial compensation to Total for any extra costs caused by a requirement to move one of its development wells to another location.

Depending upon the outcome of discussions between Total and Shell, it is possible that Total may elect not to pursue the project regardless of the outcome of a technical feasibility study started earlier this year. The study, focused on Exmar's deep-draft semi-submersible as a production facility, should have been completed by early May.

Another issue underlying the dispute is that Total indicates that Gotcha is an extension of Shell's Great White discovery that centers on AC 857. Given the rule of capture that prevails in the GoM (remember the old lease line wells?), this means that the operator starting production first will probably leave a smaller volume of hydrocarbons behind for the operator of the second field to recover. Consequently, Total is eager to get Gotcha on stream before Great White. Should the Perdido Host, centered on Great White, come online first, the economics of Gotcha would suffer. The fields included in the Perdido Regional Host; i.e., Great White, Tobago and Silvertip, are together expected to be several times larger than Gotcha with an estimated reserve life of 20 years, compared to an estimated 10 for Gotcha. The Perdido Hub is being designed to handle 130,000 BOEPD.

- **Dominion** on 30-April announced an agreement to sell its offshore natural gas and oil exploration and production operations to Eni Petroleum Co. Inc., a subsidiary of Italian energy company Eni, for approximately \$4.76 billion. The sale involves ~967 BCFE of proved natural gas and oil reserves on the GoM shelf and deep water as of 31-Dec-06 for a transaction value of ~\$4.92/MCFE for proved reserves. The properties involved had an average daily production of approximately 503 MMCFGEPD during 2006.

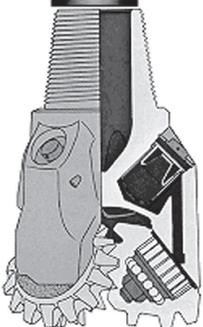
The sale of the offshore E&P assets to Eni is expected to close by early July 2007, subject to customary closing conditions and adjustments.

Eni has operated in the US since 1966. Pre-purchase, it holds interests in 242 leases in the GoM and 151 leases in Alaska. The acquisition increases Eni's equity production in the Gulf of Mexico from the current 36,000 BOEPD to more than 110,000 BOEPD in the second half of 2007, and its 2P equity reserves by 222 MMBOE. Eni quotes an implied cost per barrel of US \$18.4. From 2007-2010, production from the acquired assets will average more than 75,000 BOEPD.

The primary assets involved are Devils Tower, Triton and Goldfinger (75%), Front Runner (37.5%), San Jacinto (53.3% operated), Q (50%), Spiderman (36.7%) and Thunderhawk (25%). These fields account for ~70% of the total reserves acquired.

In addition, Eni will further enhance its portfolio in the Gulf of Mexico with new leases with significant exploration potential.

The deal is consistent with Eni's strategy of acquiring hydrocarbon reserves and production in key areas, where it can increase materiality and play an important role as operator utilizing Eni skills and technologies in deepwater development.



This acquisition, said Paolo Scaroni, Eni's CEO, is central to our strategy. "We grow our production and achieve relevant synergies with Eni's other US activities. Through this transaction we reach the necessary critical mass for our activities in the Gulf of Mexico, and will leverage on our technologies and competence in offshore and deep offshore." This acquisition follows others this year in Congo, Angola, Alaska and Russia and represents a further step in Eni's growth strategy.

While Dominion and its predecessor entities; i.e., Consolidated Natural Gas Supply Corporation and CNG Producing Company, have been fixtures in the New Orleans E&P scene, Eni's offices are located in Houston. Eni is offering employment to employees in New Orleans. Per the terms of agreement with Dominion, Eni will keep offices in New Orleans for at least a year, or it will pay severance to the New Orleans employees if it moves, Donovan said. Eni is taking over Dominion's lease, at 1250 Poydras St.

- **Marathon Oil Corporation** on 30-May-2007 announced that it successfully completed the appraisal of the previously announced Droshky discovery on Green Canyon Block 244. Following the discovery well, the appraisal process consisted of drilling a downdip sidetrack well and a lateral sidetrack well. The discovery is located in ~2,900 feet of water, two miles south of the Troika Field Production System. The initial well was drilled to a MTD of 21,190 feet and encountered ~250 feet of net oil pay. The downdip appraisal sidetrack encountered >600 feet of net oil pay, while the lateral sidetrack encountered ~300 feet of net oil pay. Preliminary analysis suggests that Droshky holds 30-32 degree API fluids, similar to the Troika Field. All pay intervals are Upper Miocene in age.

According to Philip G. Behrman, Marathon senior vice president of Worldwide Exploration: "The Droshky discovery is a good example of using higher quality seismic to see the value of a deeper opportunity adjacent to salt".

Based upon these well results, Marathon estimates the mean recoverable resources at Droshky to range from 80 to 90 MMBOE. The Company expects to produce the field via subsea completions through the Troika system and Bullwinkle Platform, with terms already in-place. The timing of initial production will be dependent upon delivery of key equipment; i.e., a drilling rig and subsea equipment, and regulatory approvals, but could be as early as 2010. Marathon holds a 100 percent working interest in the Droshky prospect and a 50 percent working interest in the Troika Unit.

Paul Post

July 20 - Geology Symposium on Flood Protection Issues in Coastal Louisiana

NOGS, the Louisiana Geological Survey and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West are co-sponsors for a one-day Technical conference focused on geologic problems regarding flood protection. The symposium will be presented at the Moreau Center on the West Bank campus of Holy Cross College from 9:30am until ~3:00 pm with a brief recess for lunch on your own.

Plans are to invite the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East Commissioners as honored guests.

It is urgently necessary for NOGS and the other sponsors to create this forum for technical, geological presentations because many of the new Commissioners are experts in other fields, but have not yet been informed about regional and coastal, surface and subsurface, geological circumstances affecting their flood protection efforts.

Presenters will include: Sherwood "Woody" Gagliano, Roy Dokka, Steve Nelson, John Lopez and Ivor van Heerden

Julie Baxter, an attorney with MWT Law, will moderate the panel Q&A session after the presentations. Ms. Baxter was the 2006 President of the Baton Rouge Press Club and a weekend news anchor at WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge.

Please check the NOGS website for more information, support it with your presence and RSVP to the NOGS office, (504) 561-8980, by July 16 so we can save you a seat.

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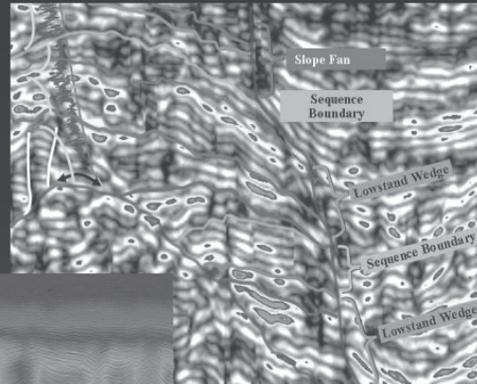
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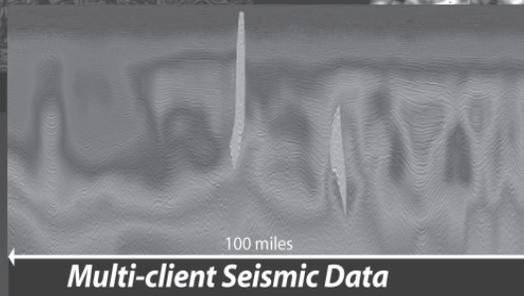
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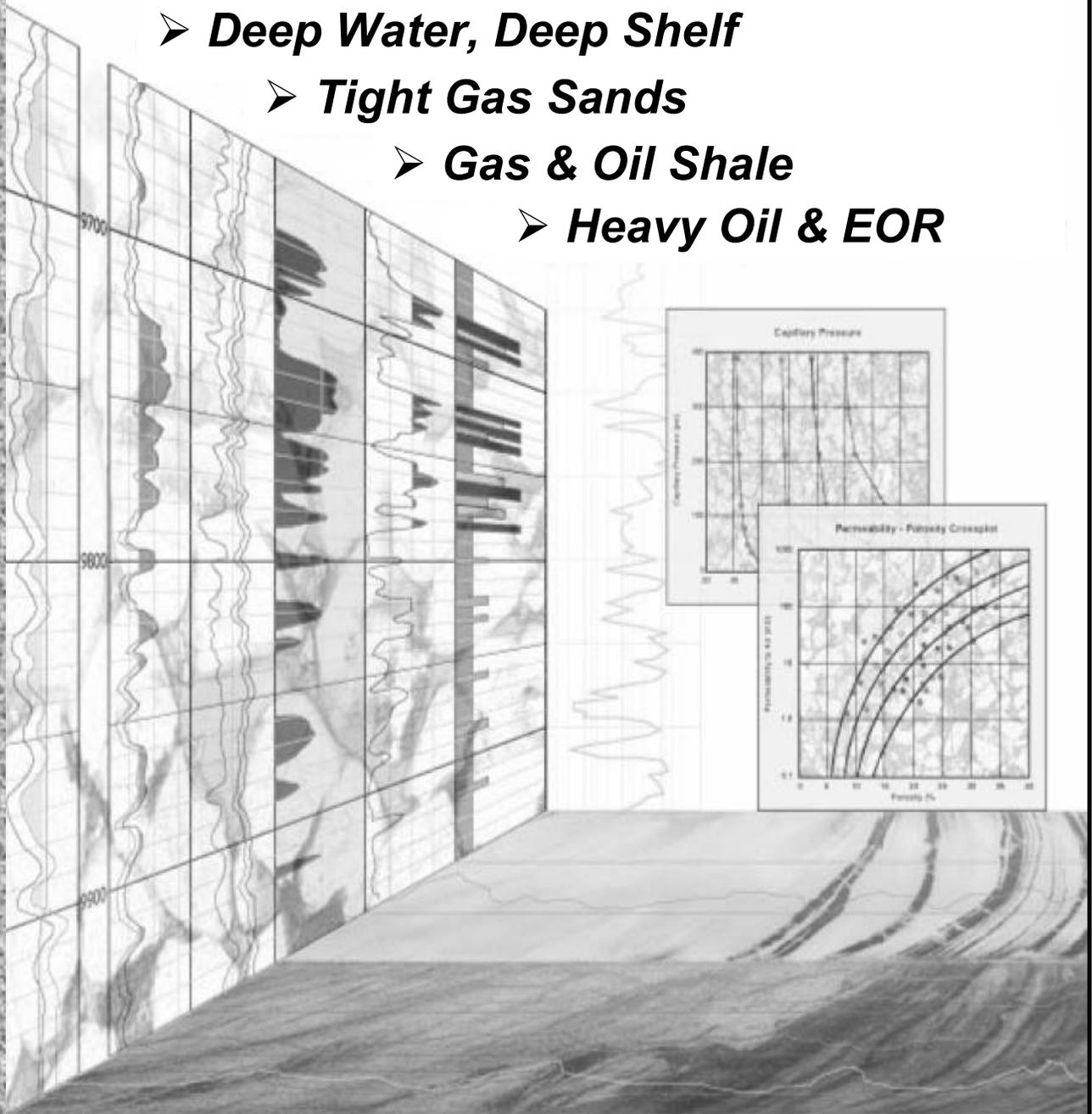
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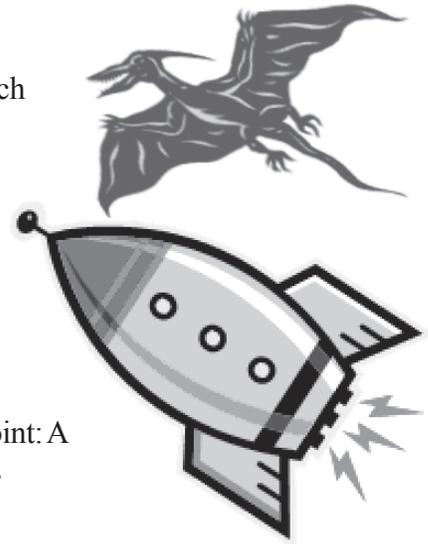
10 Years Ago (July 1997): Al Baker's President's column announced the launch of the first ever NOGS webpage.

20 Years Ago (July 1987): A tough time to find good news from. From Richard A. Edmund's President's Column: "Next month we hope to publish some results from the recent NOGS Questionnaire. In the section on employment, our early responses indicated that 25% of the membership may be unemployed or underemployed."

30 Years Ago (July 1977): The title of this month's presentation was "Door Point: A Buried Volcano in Southeast Louisiana". Jules Braunstein discussed Cretaceous volcanics, or more specifically igneous intrusions, offshore St. Bernard Parish.

40 years Ago (July 1967): The President's Corner by H. Grady Collier Jr. noted that NOGS' application for tax exempt status was still pending with the IRS. Note that NOGS was already 25 years old at that time.

- Tim Piwowar



INFO TIDBITS

✎ **200-year-old Shipwreck Excavated in the Gulf of Mexico:** In May, an archeological team including the Minerals Management Service and the Texas A&M Department of Oceanography and Nautical Archeology began the excavation of the "Mardi Gras Shipwreck" in 4,000 feet of water. The deepest non-commercial shipwreck excavation undertaken. The shipwreck takes its name from the Mardi Gras Gas Transmission line, found while an ROV surveyed the proposed pipeline route. Little is known about the ship, but artifacts recovered, including a stove, small arms chest, glassware, ceramics, cannon, and other items, are giving clues.

Details about the excavation can be found at <http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/mardigras/>, or at the MMS's website at: <http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2007/press0522a.htm>

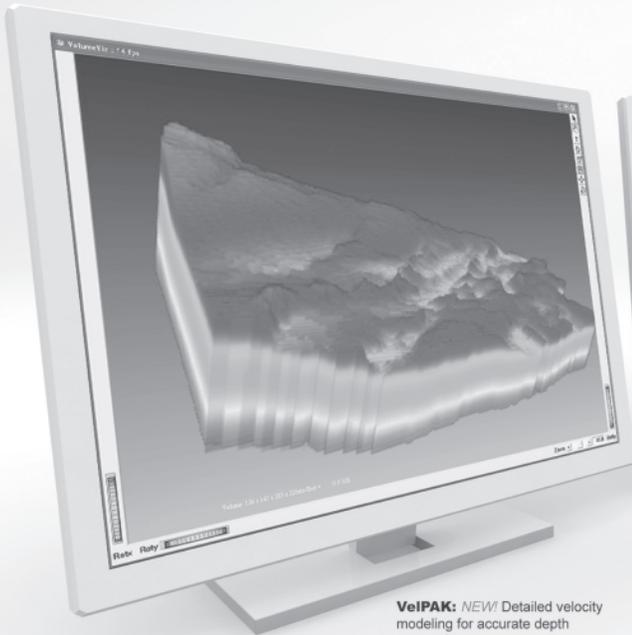
✎ **Mars Rovers Still Going:** The Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, are still operating and sending valuable data from the Martian surface. Initially expected to operate for 90 days back in January of 2004, the rovers have delivered superior performance in spite of mechanical challenges such as Spirit's right front wheel which no longer turns and needs to be dragged in reverse. The overarching consensus seems to be that Mars has been significantly shaped by water in the past, and recent discoveries of an abundance of silica continue to hint at the possibility of "life forms", perhaps in the Martian caves where water vapor may be trapped. The next Earth-launched probe will be the Phoenix Mars lander which will be equipped with a robotic arm that will be capable of digging into the icy surface.

Information and updates of the Mars expedition can be found at www.space.com

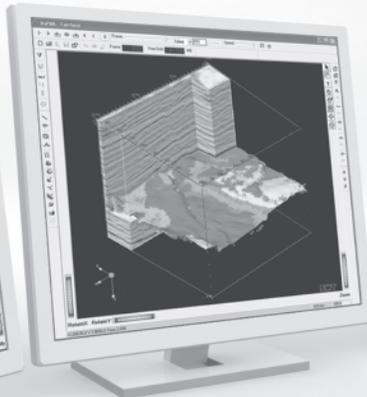
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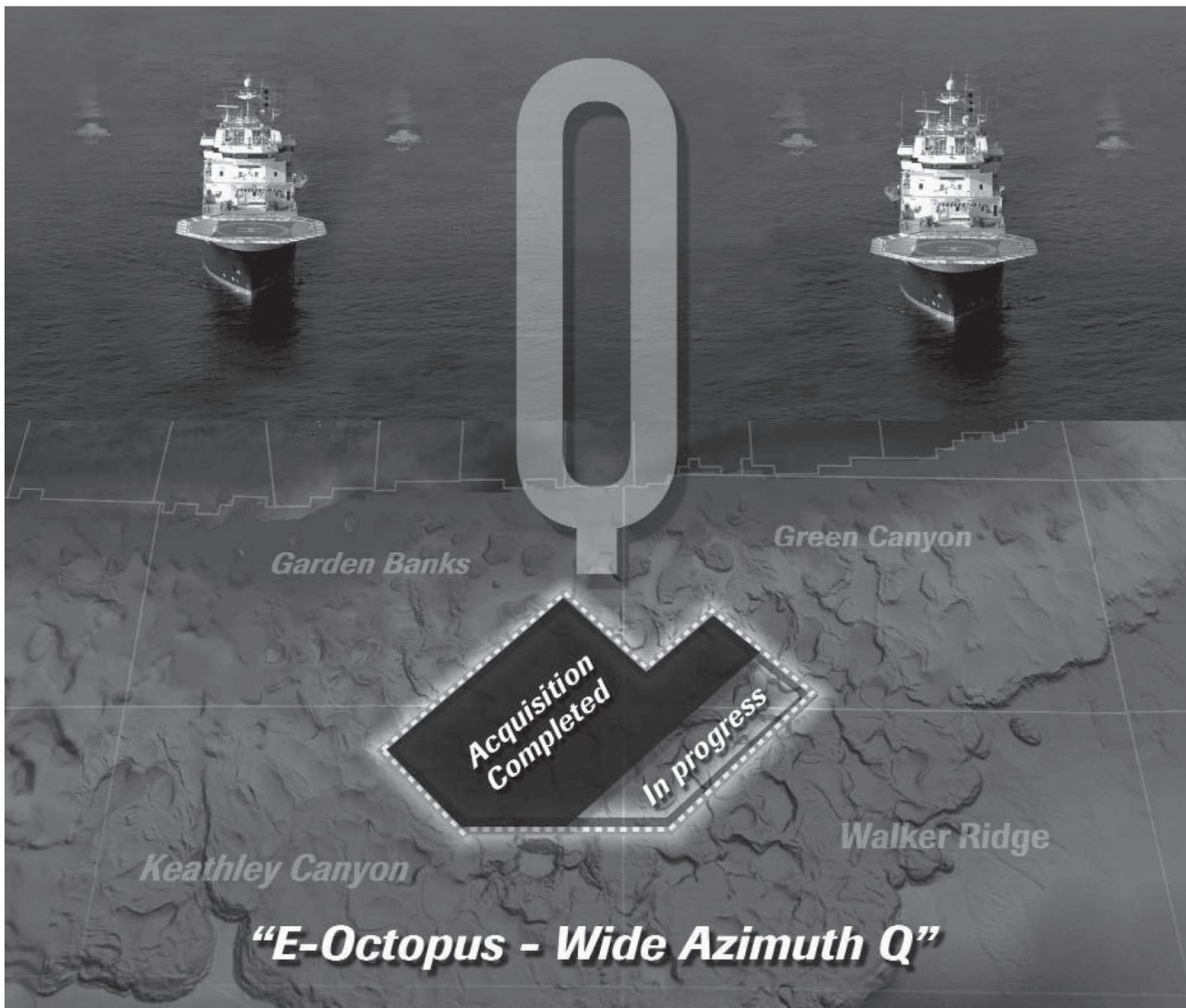
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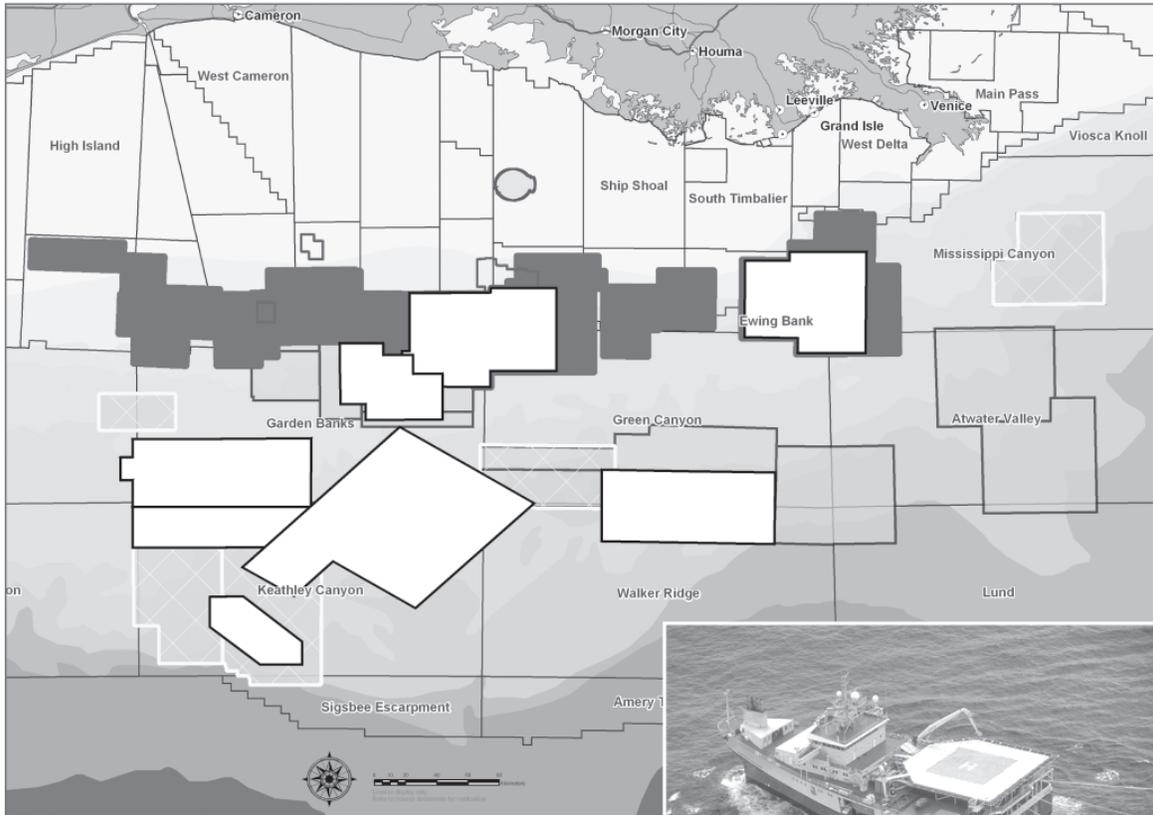
June's website trivia question was, "Of what rock is the Shell Building's exterior constructed?" One Shell Square was constructed in 1972 from Italian travertine and bronze glass. The building's structure is a double tube system, with a steel core and a concrete perimeter. With 51 floors at a total height of 697 feet, it is still the tallest building in Louisiana.. Here's some real trivia to impress your friends if they claim that the Place St. Charles office building with 53 floors is the tallest building - One Shell Square is actually 52 feet higher than Place St. Charles. At 716 feet tall with 69 floors, the new Trump International Hotel & Tower will snatch the highest building title when completed in 2009.



To become next month's winner, remember to look for the hidden NOGS question on our website, www.nogs.org, and correctly answer the question. Happy surfing, and good luck finding and answering this month's question!

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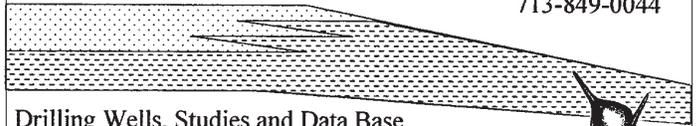
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