



Ore-Cutts

Volume XL, Issue V

May, 2005

Girls Gone Wild!

By Ralph Bishop, as told to Wes Lingerfelt

It has come to the attention of this informant that an event of concern has occurred in recent history. With the recent temporary withdrawal of one local "Off the Road Agent" there has emerged a new possibly more devastating set of stalkers. A trio who combines unbridled drives, intelligence, experience and allure. It has always been the policy of this informant to delete the identity of the principles involved. I do this to protect the guilty, of course. Public and private stones are in jeopardy so some 1108 evidences need to be admitted. I will leave it up to the readership whether this informant is in this case "Full of Hot Air" or "Bull Flatus". However, it should be disclosed that a member of the OMS recently led this informant down the garden path. This path did lead to a Physic Fair where my mind was plumbed, an exercise not for the faint of heart. In accordance with my policy on non-disclosure I can only disclose the first letters of Joanna Turnbull's name, J. T. Oops!

With this experience I believe I am competent to discern the information compiled below. I can assure the readership this is not a gaseous extrusion.

Now, utilizing Jade to the third eye (see picture, right)...It's clearing up now... the ring leader, the scout from her hideout... I see a vast expanse of water... yes, the ocean; I can see the last stone that succumbed to her feminine wiles. Yes, DeeDeeite! Is it true that she once tried to swim around Agate Point with a big rock under each arm? Is it true that the Great White sharks in the area fled in stark terror at the thought of trying to separate the rocks from said Red

Head? Yes, yes again, yes! I'm encountering maximum overload. Take a deep breathe, exhale!



Ralph utilizing jade to the "third eye"

The second of this wild trio is somewhat of a mystery. She is like a butterfly emerging from a long dormant period. I see birds.... It is apparent she prefers well rounded but not rotund men, spherical in nature. One can only have sympathy for the rocks that come up against her quiet strength of intelligence and experience. Yes, Yes again, Yes! The smoke is coming out of my auditory orifices!

The third and not the least of said Sirens (the smoke is already coming out my ears) the innocent one! She who once admitted to the craven act of smoking tobacco under the cover of darkness in her father's Mercury (the informant here must confess: although I have done a "variety of things in my "ill spent youth" I have never, never...." the words escape me. However, I feel certain another member of the OMS, who currently runs the gaming table at our meetings

would concur we were both shocked, shocked to the core of the admission of such a past deed). Her style seems to lull the prey into complacency. Then with a wink and a smile they are summarily dispatched. After the stones are “polished off” they are summarily wrapped in golden wire, a trademark of her prowess. I am close to vapor lock so...

I have it on good authority that the trio traveled in a northerly direction from the “hide out” in Avila. It was time to “Rock and Roll”. There, in a virgin location the ladies threw caution to the wind and ran amuck. Then they traversed the Canyon of Apples until they could no longer see a fence. There in the fine tradition of road hunters (such as the famous log spotter, Sylvia Nasholm) their vehicle came to a shuddering halt. The rocks, sensing danger, scattered in terror! The beautiful brightly colored Jasper did not blend into the more humble coloration of the earth and brush. Alas! The bright yellow jasper with scarlet reseals had little chance. One piece after another was bagged. Although the material is fractured, it remains one of the more striking types of Brecciated Jasper in our region. The guilty parties will no doubt display spheres and stones at the next OMS meeting.



A chunk of jasper that couldn't hide...

Our Central Coast area, although not the only place in the world, is a world-class area for Brecciated Jasper. Because of our position on a Seismic Plate boundary and our geology, we are blessed with possibly the widest variety of color and patterns on the planet. Numerous locations on two NNW trending faults on the Central Coast produce countless tons of high-grade material. One coastal fault, the Big Pine/ Nacimie nto, begins in the Paradise-Figueroa Mountain area where jasper is found in the creeks and foothills in water-worn cobbles (sometimes weighing over a ton) and in veins in place on the higher elevations. A small area west of Lompoc on a spur fault produces beautiful material but it is on Vandenberg AFB and therefore off limits. DeeDeeite could be logically classed as Jasper at Avila, and some areas to the North have been discovered. Santa Rosa Creek, San Simeon Creek, Pico Creek and the corresponding beaches are rich in Jasper. As the fault travels into the ocean at Lime Kiln Creek a rich Jasper and Rhodonite/Jasper formation has produced beautiful material. The San Andreas Fault to the east begins its Jasper production as its geology (proper host rock) allows around Parkfield, CA. Just beyond this area is the “type location” of Stone Canyon. This location was open to the public for many years and a megaton of material was collected from there. It was one of California’s “Classic” gemstone materials. Unfortunately at present it is “Off Limits”. The material follows the fault northward through Peachtree Valley and crops out again north of Panoche. After Panoche the fault travels through sedimentary rock that is not conducive to Jasper production.

Well, years ago Jasper was kind of a “down stream” rock. Most of the old “Moss Backs” held it in low esteem as there were so many other more exotic materials, i.e., Petrified Wood, Sagenite, Marcasite etc. (Unfortunately so many locations are now closed.) Although I hate to admit it there may be moss growing on my back. This humble informant in fact was similarly spoiled. It took a gentleman named

Charles Azevedo, a long-term member of the OMS to “specialize” in this material. His displays of flawless 52mm x 38mm cabochons literally “blew the socks off” of cases of foreign and exotic materials of extreme value. The variety of colors and patterns are unending and mesmerizing.



One of Charlie Azevedo's premier cabochons

Well, I'm rambling again. But it's hard to stay on the straight and narrow when you've spent so many years threading the needle. The Brecciated Jasper in our region is born out of our strongest geological forces, faulting, and the earthquakes that result. Unlike some faults, those on a plate boundary are deep seated; their plumbing descends well below the Earth's crust. It is for this reason hydrothermal water carrying minerals in solution have the ability to course their way to the surface of the Earth. The temperature at Earth's depths is extreme, thousands of degrees hot. At the surface environment we live in water would become steam, but at depth this is not the case (due to pressure). Minerals such as Iron, Manganese, Mercury, and Chrome all flow up with the water along with fine silt eroded from the walls of the fault. The mineral rich fluid then courses under pressure to the surface. At some point in its journey the temperature drops low enough so that the minerals and silt precipitate out as solids and end up clogging the conduit (fissure) leading to the surface. The surface remnants of this hydrothermal water are usually expressed as sulfur hot springs. Over

time, the fissure is clogged solid with silt and a certain set of minerals from that “Flush” or event.



The Girls' sphere emerging from the captured jasper

The period of time between “Major Events” can only be speculation. But suffice it to say this time period is sufficient to allow the infilling of the fissure to dry and become solid and brittle. With the occurrence of another “Major Event” the solid infilling of the fissure is shattered and the fissure again provided with a conduit to the surface for mineral rich hydrothermal water. Usually the primary deposition acts as somewhat of a filter so less silt finds its way toward the surface. Then the secondary flush usually expresses itself as mineral rich silica (quartz or agate). This causes silica infilling of the fractures in the fault. In this particular case (Coastal Faults) the original infilling was silica rich silt heavy in Limonite iron thus the yellow Jasper. The successive flushes of filtered silica with a Hematite iron influence deposited a red agate reseat. Erosions exposed this deposit and the Girls Went Wild!

The Wanderer**GPS Rockhounding**

On field trips, we use a simple GPS tool to explore the fascinating world of "GPS Rockhounding". We recently found a book called *The GPS Guide to Western Gem Trails* that is chocked full of helpful information for both new users and old-timers.

GPS means "Global Positioning System". This is an excellent way to find and record favorite collecting spots, document positions, and share the information.

Dick is a former Air Force navigator who learned his skills before the aid of aeronautical GPS. When we travel these days he can track our progress with this cool tool (when the attendants let him turn it on). Even our Grandson, Brandon, has a GPS unit made by Garmin. The Garmin is a useful tool for locating hidden Geo-Caches (it's like a giant treasure hunt!).



Holly, our African Grey parrot, checking her coordinates and heading – note the low tech attachment repair (the owner must be a rockhound!)

Getting to and marking the site

We use a PalmV handheld unit with an attachable GPS unit. Our GPS unit is a "Magellan Companion" that functions as a compass, marks elevation, latitude, and longitude. It's simple and effective. Included in our software is a mapping program for real-time tracking and display, as well as street names with look-up features.

How many satellites support the GPS? Between 8 and 12 are on the horizon simultaneously. The satellite system has onboard an atomic clock that is accurate to within one second every 70,000 years. Triangulation between the satellites is used to calculate the GPS user's precise location.

Be careful to treat the quadrifilar antenna gently: it's your key to great reception! Choose an open space, hilltop or high point, turn on the GPS, and allow it to get a good fix. The GPS will then keep updating as you change positions.

Each GPS unit contains programmable waypoints or landmarks that safely guide rockhounds in and out of collecting sites. GPS doesn't work in mines, or caves where satellite transmission is blocked.

Record any locations you find that are unusual or out of place and you want to explore again later. Take road maps to use in conjunction with your GPS unit (USGS maps, AAA county maps, and Dibblee geologic maps are excellent).

Remember to take the GPS recharger, and/or spare batteries (two AAA alkaline batteries last about 10 hours). Palm units will lose the charge faster than the GPS unit, and has its own recharger. Our palm has an adapter to charge off the 12 volt connection available in most vehicles. We always try to remember fresh batteries for the GPS unit.

After the hunt/rewards of the pursuit

If you have older Gem Trail books and a new GPS, look up the mine or diggings you want to explore. Take the Gem Trail book with you on the trip, and write down the coordinates on the page so you will have a record of its GPS location. Just because the book is a few years old doesn't make it obsolete.

When we return home, the post-processing feature interfaces with the DeLorme topography program on our computer. It allows us to print out copies of our collecting site information, coordinates, notes, minerals found, etc. to share with friends. Remember the maps to Kramer

Junction, the Borax Mines, and chalcedony site? Dick printed those out using GPS coordinates.

Older Gem Trail books are available in our OMS Library. The collecting locations were pre-GPS coordinates, but the collecting site information is still valuable.

Chances are you'll become more adventurous once you get to know your GPS system. The price of units is not expensive. Take advantage of the technology, because it's a "cool tool". It sounds like time for Grandson Garrett to get one, too! Look out world, here comes the GPS Wanderer!

Happy Hunting,
Love, Bess

Resources:

The GPS Guide to Western Gem Trails by David A. Kelty pinpoints site coordinates in 11 western states: AZ CA CO ID MO NV NM OR UT WA WY.

GeoCaches: <http://www.geocaching.com/> for more information about this interesting activity.

Garmin GPS units: <http://www.garmin.com>
Magellan GPS Companion:
<http://www.magellangps.com/en/>

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
5 April 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Lucky Virgin. Present were Lucky Virgin, Sharon Duncan, Wes Lingerfelt, Bess Shields, Sylvia Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, DeeDee Magri, and Debbie Hood. Guest attending was Bill Hood.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Bess Shields complemented Wes on his amusing article about the recent collecting trip to Lucy Tunnell's rock pile in Rosamond. Bess welcomes articles from members, and will assist in composing the information for publication.

Property: Geary Sheffer invites members to help with the annual locker cleaning on April 9th at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast will follow at Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Kay Vollmer is going home after her recent recovery in Country Oaks Care Center. Bob Bullock is recovering well after surgery. Debbie Hood's cast comes off April 15th. Christine Clason faces back surgery soon.

Correspondence:

- *Dinny's Doin's* newsletter.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.
- Desert Tortoise Recovery Office correspondence.
- American Lands Access Assn. correspondence.
- Don Loats thank you and check for Abused Children's Fund charity.

Unfinished Business: none.

New Business:

1. Wes Lingerfelt reported on a new book donated to the club, and written by Sir Paul Howard called *Fossicking Queensland Agate*. Additional copies of the book will be available from Wes Lingerfelt soon.
2. Sharon Duncan presented Jill Nelson and June Apperson's applications for membership. Debbie Hood seconded the motion to accept them for membership. The motion passed. Nametags will be presented to Jill and June at the General Meeting next Tuesday.
3. Wes Lingerfelt presented a Standing Rules and Operating Procedures amendment for Board consideration. The amendment addresses reimbursement for OMS sponsored event gasoline expenses (e.g., field trips, library display set-up, etc.). After much discussion, the amendment vote was tabled until it can be rewritten to reflect modifications.

The program for next week's General Meeting is a video on "Copper Mining". Display will be copper minerals. Refreshments are cookies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. by President Virgin.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
12 April 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Lucky Virgin. Flag salute was led by Bill Hood. Invocation was given Mike Hensen.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting, and General Meeting were approved as printed in the *Ore-Cutts*.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

Elaine VonAchen reported 34 members and 13 guests were present. Guests were Bret Newman, Erica Erskine, Keith McKay, Tyra Laurenaria, Todd Cralley, Lois Turnbull, Pete Turnbull, Robert Cochran, Kevin Cochran, Linda Nadeau, Dick Bazzell, Lisa Barton, and Justin Abercrombie.

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: Debbie Hood reported on the success of the Abused Children Fundraising Raffle "crystal" at \$1.00 per ticket.

Adopt-a-Highway: Marshall Reeves says the next highway cleanup will be on April 16th followed by coffee and muffins at Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt read the invitation to attend the Cady Mountain and Afton Canyon field trip from the CFMS newsletter. Also, "Paleo Bill 263" was reintroduced, and needs our letters (sample letters are in the CFMS bulletin, and can be obtained from Wes). Roseville CFMS Annual Gem Show is between June 10 and 12. Members are invited and encouraged to attend this state-wide rockhound event.

Field Trips: Bob Bullock reported a good time, and a safe trip to Lucy Tunnell's on 12 March.

Library, Books, Videos: Geary Sheffer has numerous books and tapes that members can check out tonight. Please contact Geary with your library needs.

Membership: Wayne Mills has blank membership applications available.

Refreshments: DeeDee Magri thanked the Shields, the Hoods, the Hensens, Bob Bullock, Geary Sheffer, DeeDee Magri, and Truman Burgess for bringing tonight's refreshments.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood welcomed Frank and Mary Sausa to the meeting after a long absence. Jeannie Lingerfelt is recovering from a cold. Christine Clason faces surgery soon.

Correspondence:

- *Dinny's Doin's* newsletter.
- Desert Tortoise Recovery Office correspondence.
- Sun Valley Newsletter.
- Don Loats thank you and donation to Scholarship and Abused Childrens' Fund.
- American Lands Access Assn. newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.
- *Rockonteur* newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds.

Unfinished Business:

Ken Kreh reported that the monthly breakfast will now be held each month at Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt invited everyone to attend the Bakersfield Gem Show on April 23 and 24 at the Fairgrounds. Four OMS members will have displays. Contact Wes if you

want to display any of your items, and an OMS club case can be assembled.

Following refreshments, the video on "Copper Mining" was played. Members who brought copper minerals for display: Dick Bazzell, Kathy Collison, Robert Cochran, Jere Clements, Ralph Bishop, Wayne Mills, and Bess Shields.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by President Virgin.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

For Sale: Sanding Machine - \$300

Highland Park Sanding Machine, Model 8EDC. 2 diamond grinding wheels, 2 rubber sanding wheels that use sanding belts. Water ports above each wheel. Mounted on work table. \$300.00. Call Joanna Turnbull at 805-686-9137.

Web Sites of Note:

May 2005

Forestieri Underground Gardens, Fresno CA:

<http://www.undergroundgardens.com/>

Kern County Mineral Mites:

<http://www.kcmineralsociety.org/clubkids.html>

Fossils of Southern California:

<http://www.elcamino.cc.ca.us/staffpages/mobrien/fossil.html>

Sykes Hot Springs, Big Sur CA:

<http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org/sykes-nytimes.html>

Historic Preservation Sites, Santa Barbara County:

http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21521

Colorado Plateau aerial photographs

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0505/feature2/index.html>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

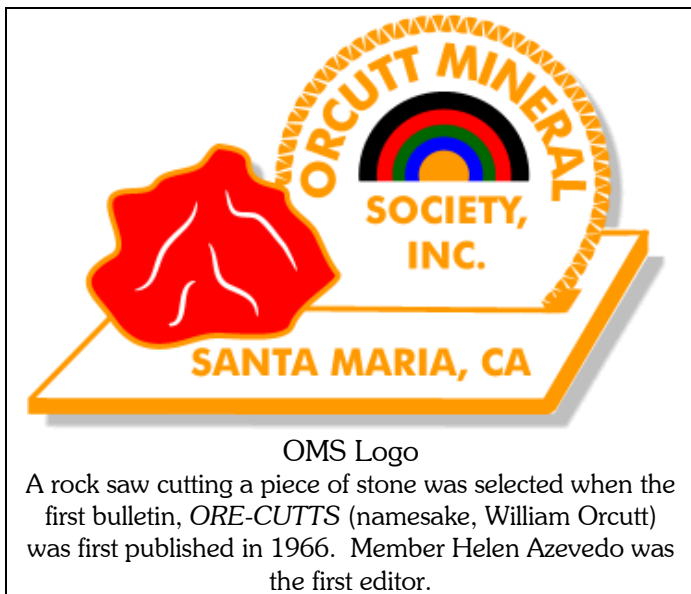
<http://www.amfed.org/>

Official Stuff

OMS Purpose

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth

activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the society's endeavors. Operating rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
SANTA MARIA, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
SANTA MARIA, CA

2005 OMS Officers

President	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-9525
President Elect	Sharon Duncan	(805) 929-2209
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2005 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
DeeDee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Marshall Reeves	(805) 588-8932

Orcutt Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

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May 2005 Calendar

Tuesday May 3, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Orcutt Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday May 10, 2005 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Orcutt General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Avila Rock" by DeeDee Magri • Display: Bring your favorite rock or mineral • Refreshment: Cakes and cupcakes
Saturday May 14, 2005 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Big Sandy -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Enjoy a warm Spring day collecting in Salty and Kelly Tapper's back yard near the San Andreas Fault. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and a good eye for jaspers and fossils. Easy access to an excellent collecting area. Call Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday May 21, 2005 8:00 - 10:00 AM	Orcutt Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166. After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at the "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Contact Marshall Reeves at 588-8932 for details.
Saturday May 28, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	Orcutt Monthly Breakfast - "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

June 2005 Calendar

Saturday June 4, 2005 8:00AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Brea Creek -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Explore the northern edge of the San Rafael Wilderness area. Plan to get your shoes wet in the creek, fill your gas tank (no services in the canyon), and bring plenty of bottled water and a lunch. Adventure Pass required. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Tuesday June 7, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Orcutt Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday June 11, 2005 10:00AM - 3:00 PM	Orcutt Annual Picnic -- Pioneer Park, Santa Maria. Meat, bread, and sodas are provided. Bring your own plates and silverware a side dish to share. We also suggest bringing a lawn chair for comfort. Bring rocks for the silent auction!

Saturday June 25, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast – “Francisco’s Country Kitchen” in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.
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Reserve the dates

Roseville Gem and Mineral Blast

The CFMS show this year is called the Roseville Gem and Mineral Blast and takes place from June 10-12 at the Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds.

July 2005 Calendar	
Tuesday July 5, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday July 9, 2005 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Vandenberg Beaches -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Bring a valid government issued picture ID (i.e., CA driver’s license) and proof of auto insurance for each vehicle. Also bring plenty of water and a lunch. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details..

Tuesday July 12, 2005 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program:: CFMS Video on "Amazing Caves of New Zealand and Australia" • Display: Best 1 foot X 1 foot display • Refreshment: Pies.
Saturday July 16, 2005 8:00 - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at the “Francisco’s Country Kitchen” in Santa Maria. Contact Marshall Reeves at 588-8932 for details.
Saturday April 23, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast – “Francisco’s Country Kitchen” in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

Check our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org>
or send email to info@omsinc.org.

Orcutt Mineral Society
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED