



THE RARA E-RAG

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April 2009

NO. 8

“Old Timers’ Night”

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

Scholarship Deadline: April 15

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Treasurer, RARA

April 3, 2009 will be the date for the ever popular RARA “Old Timers’ Night”. Our club historian Ed Gable, K2MP, will be our host for the evening. There will be the usual greeting of the oldest ham, the longest licensed member as well as recognizing past RARA presidents. We invite and hope to have as many past presidents as possible so that we can have a group photo taken after the meeting. In the spirit of the evening, Ed is going to bring in a functioning 75 year old amateur receiver for folks to view and twiddle the knobs. Sharing the venue for the evening will be the new leadership people at the A.W.A. *Electronic Communication Museum* who will answer, using the newest available photos, the many questions the A.W.A. staff has been receiving about the status of the new museum building and moving plans. Leading this portion of the meeting will be the new museum Curator Bruce Roloson (W2BDR), Assistant Curator Lynn Bisha (W2BSN), and the museum Operations Manager, Ron Roach (W2FUI).



Looking ahead to our May program we are going to see some old equipment that has been brought back to life. It will be “Radio Restorers’ Night”. If you have an old piece of radio or test equipment that you have restored and would like to show it off please bring it to the May meeting. You will not be required to do a formal presentation to the group but you could explain what you did to the equipment during the extended social time. If you have some before and after pictures it would be good to bring them also. We will be setting up many tables around the meeting room. If you are interested and would like more information please contact Duane Fregoe, K2SI

The deadline for submitting applications for the 9th annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2009. The Scholarship is for One Thousand dollars (\$1000.00) and applications may be obtained at any RaRa general meetings, by mail to P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa hotline at (585) 671-2424. Additional information and a downloadable copy of the application is available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at



www.rochesterham.org

All New RaRa Hamfest
75th Anniversary Edition
Saturday May 30, 2009
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds

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SILENT KEYS

Hervey P. Gauvin, N2LTI

January 11, 2009

Lucille Briemer, W2SCI

February 16, 2009

John R. Golden, W2IRG

February 23, 2009

E. Paul Ertsgaard, KE2P

March 3, 2009

Harold J. Kohl, Sr., KB2NFP

March 7, 2009

THE RARA E-RAG

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

April: Ahh... the beginning of warm weather, and "April-Foolishness". With the blink of an eye, we'll be full speed ahead into summer; full of picnics, Hamfests and fun. Starting things off is our friends to the East, the Drumlins ARC, with their 23rd annual Hamfest on April 18th. The action starts at 8am at the Fire hall at 6146 Silver Hill Rd. in Newark. Please visit their website (www.drumlinsarc.org/hamfest.htm) for details including a map and directions.

You should have received your 2009 Directory by now. If you didn't check your membership card, I bet it doesn't say 2009 on it! Drop a note, or stop by the meeting and Dick Goslee will straighten you out, or "rough you up" maybe both if you ask nicely. For those of you trying to get the new Directory to fit in your old binder; give it up. You just can't get two pounds of poo in a one pound bag! Good news for EVERYONE: There are brand new binders available for only \$1.50! They're available at most meetings (unless Dick leaves them home) or by mail for \$6.50 which includes \$5.00 for Priority Mail.

CQ - CQ: Due to a lack of communications (Hams not communicating... who wouldda thunk it?) our new Education Coordinator is trying to identify past RaRa licensing class instructors. If you have participated in the licensing class either as an instructor or special topic presenter, and you're still interested in contributing your expertise, please contact Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY. He's very anxious to talk you into something, um... I mean talk to you!

While we're on the topic of "missing persons", we're collecting past Presidents. Make mine "Benjamins" please! Actually we're collecting past Presidents of RaRa. If you're a past President, or you know one who can still remember his own call sign, drag him down to the April meeting for a group Presidential photo. Don't ask me why, I dunno, it wasn't my idea. In addition, and for a small fee, our club photographer Len Crellin, KC2PCD, will be available to take pictures of your favorite ex-President in any number of compromising poses. You can cherish the images as keep-sakes, or use them for blackmail purposes as you see fit. Arrangements should be made directly with Len, and do notice that they are available only of ex-Presidents! Not current or future ones... that would upset the whole balance of the space-time continuum.



Lastly, we are looking for Elmo's. You know the little red Muppet character with big eyes. We'll take "Tickle Me Elmo's", "Up-up Elmo's" even "Rock and Roll Elmo's". Please send your Elmo's to Duane Fregoe, K2SI.



WAIT: This just in... Duane says he wants ELMERS. Not Elmo's! This is good, because I was starting to wonder what he was going to do with all those dolls... Duane is compiling a list of "Elmers" by geographic location and area of expertise for reference by those who need a little assistance. Please contact Duane, K2SI to be included on his list.

*April's Fool & 73,
- Frank*

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: April, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



The meeting twenty years ago, the same as it is this month, was RaRa's *Old Timer's Night*. The host for the evening was a real favorite of the period, Bruce Kelley, W2ICE. Bruce, the co-founder of the AWA, brought two 16mm Kodachrome movies to show that evening. The first was a 50 year old film showing a RaRa picnic held at the old Westminster Park. The second was a more recent movie, only 35 years old, revealing a RaRa Field Day weekend on Bare Hill overlooking Canandaigua Lake. Proudly shown was the RaRa / GRS communications truck all decked out for the event.

This issue had a very special report on the, yes... wait for it, the Savings and Loan crisis. The then Bush administration came up with a plan to tax ham radio operations. A new FCC bureau, the *Division to Incorporate Monetary Ways to Increase Technology*, or DIMWIT, proposes to implant a microprocessor into each amateur transceiver. They will count the number of transmission made and a tax will be applied according to use. The DIMWIT plan seems to have failed to proceed as nothing was heard of it since. Instead, this reporter was told, the FCC went on to a much more profit making plan, something called *Broadband over Power Line*, or BPL.

A long awaited news release from ARRL Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD (now N3KD), announced the official opening of the new 17 meter band at 18.068 to 18.168 Mhz. The 17 meter band was one of three new bands authorized at the 1979 WARC conference. The other two bands, 30 and 12 meters, had already been authorized earlier.

It was reported that WWV had a new clock! Their previous watch could keep time to within 1 second every three years. Not good enough said the boys at NIST. Their new clock (if we can call it that) won't gain or lose a second in 300,000 years. None-the-less, NIST calls Jim Shipkowski, W2WWV, of Greece, every month to ask him the time, just to make sure the cesium atom is still on time.

The ARRL reported in this issue that the Outgoing QSL bureau, a victim of peak sun spot activity, broke all records of handling Outgoing QSL cards. One ham, W9SU, sent out 35 pounds of QSL alone. With regret it was reported that Edgar Coapman WA2QNS and Art Bohnke KA2BGW were reported as Silent Keys.

Spring License Classes

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Education Coordinator

The spring session of the famous RARA License Classes will begin April 6, 2009 and will continue for 7 sessions. Classes will be offered for Technician with Dick Goslee, KG2I as the instructor and General with Frank Schramm, WB2PYD as the instructor.

The classes will be held at RIT in Building 9 with registration taking place in room-3139 starting at 6:30PM. After registration the group will go to their respective rooms for instruction. The classes will last for approximately 2 hours each night. Additional information will be given in the April issue of The RARA RAG.

If you are interested in attending these classes please e-mail me a message at: (contax2@rochester.rr.com) and let me know which class you are interested in attending. This information will allow us to pre-order the manuals so that they are available on the first night of classes.

Public Service

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

Even though our next event is in June, sign-ups have been coming in for all events on the 2009 calendar. Please select an event that may be of interest to you. It is a great way to meet and work with other ham operators in the community.

Below is the list of events that are being coordinated by local hams. The RARA web site is fully updated for 2009. Go to:

www.rochesterham.org and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you, acknowledging that I have received it.

Tour de Cure – Sun, June 7, 2009

Greece Soccer Tournament – Fri thru Sun, July 10 - 12, 2009

Walnut Hill Driving Competition – Wed thru Sun, August 12 - 16, 2009

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sun, September 13, 2009

Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta – Sun, September 20, 2009

Bike MS 2009 Pedal to the Park – Sat, September 26, 2009

Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm – Sat, September 26, 2009

America's Walk for Diabetes – Sat, October 3, 2009

Jamboree on the Air (BSA) – Sat & Sun, October 17 & 18, 2009

NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol – Fri & Sat, October 30 & 31, 2009

Calendar of Events

- Apr 3** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Apr 8** RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM
The Northside Inn, East Rochester
- Apr 10** RVHFG Monthly Meeting – Spencerport
Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St.,
Spencerport
- Apr 17** RARRA – 8:00PM, Annual Auction
Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room.
- Apr 18** RaRa VE Testing session – 10:00AM RIT,
Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139
- Apr 18** Drumlins Hamfest – 8:00AM – 'Till
Marbletown Firehall, Newark, NY
- Apr 21** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC,
Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd.

May Rag Deadline
April 8, 2009

RVHFG News

By Bill Rogers, K2TER

In celebration of the club's 60th Anniversary, the April 10th RVHFG group meeting will be a "Nostalgia" night. Please join us and present and past members of the club for a night to remember the club's history, we will have a number of speakers, if you would like to contribute contact a board member.

The club meeting is held: Spencerport Wesleyan Church - 2653 Nichols Street (Hwy 31) Check the website for more information:

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

RVHFG / RDXA 2009 Annual Awards Banquet -- RVHFG 60th Anniversary

Location: NapaGino's
2200 Penfield Rd
N.E. corner of Route 250 and 441
(PennFair Plaza)

Date: Sat. April 25, 2009
Time: 6 pm Social Hour
7 pm Dinner
8 pm Awards

CALLING ALL PAST PRESIDENTS

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Past-President, RARA

Since the April Meeting is "Old Timers Night" it would be good to see how many past Presidents we can get to attend. It has been a number of years since we have taken a picture of this group and now is a good time to do it again. Come on out and meet the newer members and get your picture taken. The picture will appear on our web site and be in an upcoming issue of the E-RAG.



Speaking of past presidents, do you know who the oldest living President is? Well in terms of when he was president that honor goes to Fred Halik, K2EU, 1956-57. He is followed by Jack L.R. Williams, K2JFV (also VE6JW) 1958-59, Ernst Sigmund, K2ITM 1960-61, Stan Hazen, K2SSB 1961-62 and Clifford Milner, K2SKO 1964-65. In terms of their age the oldest honor goes to Ernst Siegmund who was born 10-2-1921. He is followed by Fred Halik, 4-1-1923, Jack Williams, 10-25-1923, Clifford Milner, 8-10-1928 and Stan Hazen, 7-29-1929.

Let's see how many of them can make the meeting and see their old friends, and the newer members as well.

**RaRa Memorial Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2009**

VE Session Results

By Ken Hall, W2KRH
VE Team Co-Leader

At the February 21st VE Test Session we had 2 upgrades to Extra and 8 new Technician licenses were issued. Congratulations to:

The following upgraded to Extra:

Max Kelley, KC2SPY
John Adams, KB2OAR

The following received their Technician licenses:

Steve Armstrong, KC2URC
Adam Cornwell, KB1RVZ
Stephen Giannotti, KC2URD
Karl Link, KC2URE
Andrew Krawic, KC2URF
Rodd Riesenberger, KC2URG
Gary Ryerson, KC2URH
Eric Tripp, KC2URI

On March 10th the team met for a requested session for the Rochester Area Flyers, a hang glider club, who wanted to improve their in-flight communication by using Ham Radio. We had twelve take the Technician test with eleven passing. Their names and calls will be included in next month's report. Many thanks to Dave Foster AB2WZ, Bill Gibson KB2CHD and Dick Goslee KG2I for their help on this off schedule test session.

**All New RaRa Hamfest
75th Anniversary Edition
Saturday May 30, 2009
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds**

Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue, Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE
RARA Awards Chairpersons

In conjunction with this month's meeting, we are offering the ARRL's "Vintage Radio" book covering vintage Ham equipment. The second item is a 7-piece Jeweler's screwdriver set. This is a precision set made by Wiha in Germany and contains three Philips and four flat blade drivers. And for all those noisy and intermittent controls, we have a can of Ciag Lab's R5 DeOxIt Contact Cleaner and Rejuvenator. If it doesn't fix the problem, it needs replacement. Tickets are 1 for a \$1, 3 for \$2, and 10 for \$5. Come on out for the fun.

**RaRa Hotline
(585) 671-2424
24 Hours a Day**

AWA Spring Meet, Sale and Auction

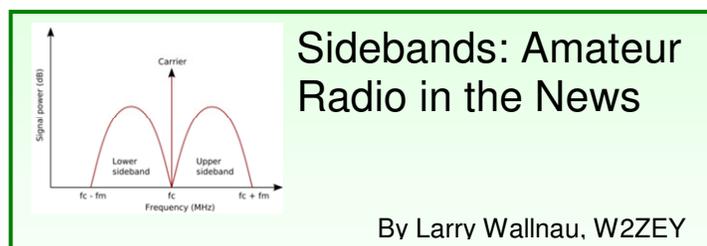
By Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN



Saturday, May 2nd, is the date to save for the 2009 annual Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet. Open to everyone, this popular event features a flea market and this year an expanded auction of both AWA goodies and items brought in to be auctioned by attendees. This event is popular with vintage amateur and audio collectors as well as early radio enthusiasts. The doors open at 7:00 am for vendors and flea market sellers and at 8:00 am for attendees.

The venue is the Bloomfield, NY, Elementary School at 45 Maple Street (Route 444). Admission is \$5.00 at the door and an additional \$7.00 for an indoor table or outdoor flea market space. The indoor site assures a nice event rain or shine. For further information contact the AWA Spring Meet Coordinator, Ron Roach W2FUI, at (585) 526-5487.

Visit the AWA web site at: www.antiquewireless.org



Bomb Squad Detonates Ham Gear Place this story in the stranger-than-fiction department. Omaha police evacuated a house, and removed and detonated a device believed to be a pipe bomb. The "bomb" was later described by KPTM Fox 42 to be ham radio equipment (see <http://tinyurl.com/dmyfnz>). The house, which is owned by Bob Rennolet, W0AEX, had an electrical fire the week before the incident and cleaning crews called the police after finding what appeared to be a bomb. The bomb turned out to be nothing more than an antenna trap. Ironically, W0AEX's house is next to a firehouse. Bob Rennolet obviously was not there when the workers had a panic attack. Perhaps this story is actually a commentary on our times. *I don't think we're in Kansas anymore, Toto.*

New FCC Chairman President Barack Obama has nominated Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman. Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of Obama's from Harvard Law School. Upon Senate confirmation, Genachowski will replace Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps. Copps took over the Commission on January 22, 2009, two days after then-Chairman Kevin Martin resigned. Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups – two groups often at odds – for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues. (*The ARRL Letter*)

Garriott at Dayton Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, will be attending the 2009 ARRL National Convention – hosted by the Dayton Hamvention – as a special guest of the ARRL and AMSAT. Garriott, who took off for the International Space Station (ISS) on October 12, 2008 became the sixth private citizen to fly with the

Russian Federal Space Agency (RKA) for a short-term mission on the ISS (see <http://tinyurl.com/c5gzmp>). Not two hours after he arrived on the ISS on October 14, Garriott was making ham radio contacts, just as his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL – the first ham to make QSOs from space – did in 1983 while aboard the space shuttle Columbia on Mission STS-9. Both Richard and Owen are ARRL members. (*The ARRL Letter*)

Record Breaking Contests The lack of good HF propagation didn't seem to affect participation in the 2008 Sweepstakes or the 2009 RTTY Roundup contests. According to ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, both contests were record-breaking events. "We have received 3298 logs for the November SSB and CW Sweeps combined in 2008," Kutzko said. "That is – at bare minimum – a 5 year high. The 2009 RTTY Roundup in January saw 1564 entries, also a 5 year high." Kutzko said he attributes some of the increase to the hoopla surrounding the 75th running of Sweepstakes: "The excitement over the new Triple Play Award (<http://tinyurl.com/aaqgpa>) was likely a large factor in the RTTY Roundup increase. Interest in contesting in general is on the rise." (*The ARRL Letter*)

New RAC President Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU, announced he was resigning his post, effective immediately, at the RAC Board of Directors teleconference meeting on February 24, citing personal and professional obligations. At the same teleconference meeting, the RAC Board elected Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, as RAC President. Cooke will serve until December 31, 2009, the end of the current term. Cooke has a long history of working with RAC including serving as an Assistant Director, RAC Ontario South Director, and Vice President for Field Services. (*The ARRL Letter*)

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



3rd Saturday of each Month, September – April

**Registration – 10:00AM
Testing – 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9 (Park in Lot J)
Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623**

**Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.**

**Call (585) 703-4003 or e-mail
n2rd@arrl.net**

From the VP of RRRR

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD

If you missed the National Weather Service Skywarn training last month you have another chance. Skywarn spotter training is good for only 3 years and is open to anyone with an interest in reporting and understanding weather.

Skywarn is a national program to report server weather by using trained spotters. This information leads to better forecasting which saves lives and property. Judith Levan, N2TEZ, will present the Skywarn training showing examples and tools used in forecasting. Following the training there will be handouts and registration forms to join Skywarn. The Skywarn training program will be Friday April 17 at the RRRR meeting. Rochester Radio Repeater Association, holds its meetings the third Friday of the month at the Pittsford Town Hall basement starting at 8 pm. The Pittsford Town Hall is located at the intersection of routes 31 and 96.



Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

Making Wire Antennas The University of Hawaii has a very useful website for folks who build their own wire antennas. The site – Wire Antenna Design Lengths – can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/7hh7zw>. There are links at the bottom of the page for specific bands. The data for each band are presented in tabular form.

EH Magic What's about 3 feet tall, looks like a plumbing vent with coils, and will radiate on 160 meters from your apartment balcony? Could it be an EH antenna? The EH antenna, which gets its name from the electric (E) and magnetic (H) fields, has a loyal following and even has a Yahoo group for devotees. Plans for a 6-foot tall 80M antenna and a 2-foot tall 20M antenna can be found at <http://www.wb5cxc.com/>. A wild 160M EH antenna that is a little over 3 feet tall is described at <http://tinyurl.com/agww8x>. The photos show it sitting on the railing of an apartment balcony. You can find a brief description of the background, theory, and tests of the EH at <http://tinyurl.com/ad6nkg>. There is an online EH calculator for those who want to start from scratch and roll their own (see <http://tinyurl.com/boqqgr>). Finally, a thoughtful evaluation of the EH antenna by Steve Katz, WB2WIK, is at: <http://www.eham.net/articles/5002>.

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Radio Club Contacts

Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

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Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

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Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Paul Mackanos, K2DB.....k2db@arrl.net

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHYkb2chy@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

Andy Flowers, K0SMaflowers@frontiernet.net

Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Dave Foster,D1161F@aol.com

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NEDw2ned@frontiernet.net

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RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

All elements needed to
complete a license class.
3rd Saturday of each
month, September – April

Registration – 10:00 a.m.
Testing – 10:15 a.m.

Room 3139, Building 9
(park in Lot J)

Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, New York 14623
Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
to reserve space.

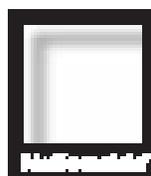
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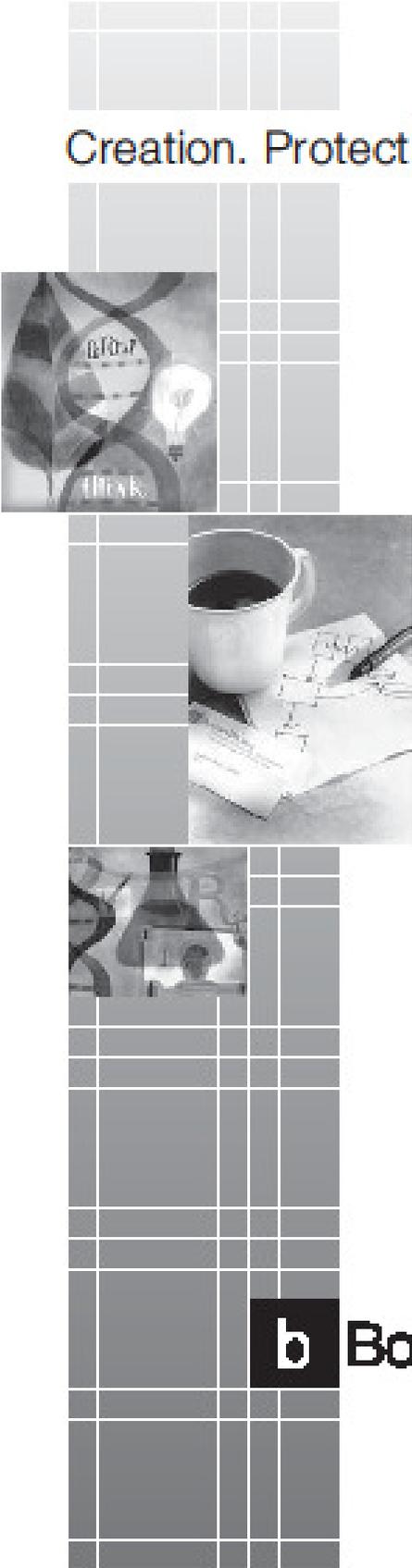
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