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It's interesting to gauge reader interest and observations based on e-mails, faxes, and telephone calls. Recent *Plumbing System & Design* magazines have included a couple of challenges to the reader. The engineered plumbing design contest in the March/April issue asked for pictures, specifications, and plans showing commercial, industrial, or institutional bathrooms like the far-out bathrooms in the "Fascinating Public Potties" article. In May/June, the challenge was to identify a device in the article about the American Sanitary Plumbing Museum.

The nature of the unidentified device will be revealed in the September/October issue. We have received some interesting responses. The intriguing thing about them is that the guesses and suggestions all revolved around possible "modern" uses of the device. The original purpose of the device seems to be unknown. It is something you would have needed to learn from your grandparents.

As for unique commercial type-bathroom installations, we're still waiting for submissions.

Taking Issue with...

The one thing the American Society of Plumbing Engineers would like to avoid is taking sides in a controversy or political issue. However, at a minimum, identifying and discussing controversies and issues are important for the plumbing industry.

Recently, the ASPE Board of Directors found itself in the middle of a controversial issue (see the president's column in "**ASPE Report**"). Whether ASPE should or should not have taken a position on a plumbing code's becoming a ANSI standard, the issue has expanded way beyond what anyone could consider reasonable. Thus, there is a special editorial under "**Speaking Out.**" Please do not view this editorial as taking sides or taking a position. It is meant to be strictly explanatory and, we hope, to put any controversy permanently to bed. It should be clear to every reader that ASPE does not object to, nor is it against, the Uniform Plumbing Code.

Sleepless Nights

Once again this intrepid publisher must have eaten too much hot food and therefore continues to experience bad dreams and dark flashes of fantasiful creativity amid long periods of sleeplessness. This issue features an "**ASPE Fantasy Fixture**" that is surely one for aficionados of weirdness.

And Speaking of Weird

Be sure to check out "**It's a Computer... No, It's a Communications Module...No, It's a John!**" If you think ASPE's "Fantasy Fixtures" are weird, take a gander at the iLoo, which comes from the deep, dark recesses of the mind of Microsoft. The iLoo is some techie's nightmare come true. It ranks right up there with the giant marshmallow man in the first "Ghostbusters" movie. Now, if we could only find one of those proton neuron wave busters, perhaps we could get rid of some of those bad dreams.

Down to Earth

Thank goodness for some solid technical material like this issue's continuing education questions based on "**Fire-Protection Systems,**" an extract from the *ASPE Data Book* Volume 3, *Special Plumbing Systems*. To earn continuing education credit for reading this article, the reader must complete the accompanying test and receive a 90% or better grade. The reader is cautioned that the test is based on the material being published; the correct answers must correspond to the material. Therefore, the reader is urged not to use possibly superior or more current information to respond to the test questions.

Having to Be Critical


Not everything is always sweetness and light. That is, not everything everyone does, and especially not every design produced by a plumbing engineer, will be perfect or beyond criticism. Joe Scott, in his "**Lessons Learned**" column, talks about "Learning from Our Mistakes."

What in the World?

Actually, it's right in our world, or at least on the international front. This issue's

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