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Want a new opening line for dinner conversation when your spouse asks, “So, honey, how was your day?” Try, “I’m being sued for \$10 million.”

Sound far-fetched? Of course not.

Anyone in the engineering consulting and design business knows that sometimes it doesn’t matter how careful you are. It doesn’t matter how much insurance you carry. Often it’s just the luck of the draw or a matter of time. But there are some things the engineer can do. Check out “Escalating Liability for the Design Professional.”

#### It’s a Broken Main. No, It’s a Whale. No...

It’s famous. It’s been in movies. It’s been on television. It’s been extensively written about. It’s Chicago’s very own Buckingham Fountain. Probably one of the most beautiful fountains to be found anywhere in the United States, Buckingham Fountain is the subject of a feature article in this issue of *Plumbing Systems & Design*. It’s the story of how Buckingham Fountain was gloriously restored, with its state-of-the-art 1920s plumbing technology preserved as a monument to the engineering of another era.

#### A Pretty Potty?

Why is the world fascinated with potties? Of course, they are a necessity and virtually ubiquitous in the world of commercial, industrial, and institutional engineering and design. But it’s often hard to visualize a “pretty potty.” To get the imagination and creative juices flowing check out “Fascinating Public Potties.” Then after visualizing how comfortable(?) using a golden water closet could be, submit your designs or pictures for the *PSD* beautiful potty contest. Rules and an application are on page 44.

#### Go Get ‘Em

Since a major element of the plumbing engineer’s job is to provide or create design details, we expect you have found *PSD*’s “Design Details” useful. In this issue you’ll find an emergency shower/eyewash detail.

Now members of ASPE can download the original CAD drawings used in this column. Check out [www.aspe.org](http://www.aspe.org). Not a member of ASPE? While you’re at the

ASPEnet site, check out all the features of membership, and sign up! Not only can you get the downloads of the drawing details, but you can also access every chapter of the *ASPE Data Books* online!

#### We’re Pleased but a Bit Overwhelmed

We’re glad that ASPE is providing a very useful service in the continuing education (CE) section of this magazine. Here’s a chance to read a technical article specific to the profession (about 1 hour of reading), then fill in a short examination and return it. Miss only one question (after all, the answers are in the article, right there in front of you!) and we’ll send you a letter stating that you’ve earned CE credit.

Nothing could be easier—for you, the reader! For us, the staff, it’s a different matter. We’ve broken open a dam. A lot of readers are taking advantage of the continuing education program—many more than we originally envisioned. So please be patient. We promise that you’ll get the results and the credit, but it is now taking 60 days or more to get all the exam results returned.

#### Speaking of Which...

The CE technical article this issue is “Control of Plumbing Noise in Buildings” by John J. Van Houten. The material covered includes noise from turbulence, cavitation, water splash, wastewater flow, and water hammer. This is just one of 20 plumbing engineering technical subjects covered in *ASPE’s Practical Plumbing Engineering*, edited by Cyril M. Harris.

#### We Are the World

Starting with this issue, “International Digest” is sporting a new look. This installment concentrates on South America, where the profession of plumbing engineering and design continues to grow at an astounding rate. Check out “Evaluating Companies’ Water-Use Management Programs” and get a flavor of the international community.

Starting with the next issue of *PSD*, “International Digest” will expand and include columns covering Eastern and Western Europe, Central and South America, and even Asia.

*continued on page 15*

## DESIGN DETAILS

devices to collect effluent discharge during testing. The catch basin is strapped and marked to allow metering of the water volume discharged against a stopwatch to determine the sufficiency of the flow rate. Then the water is emptied into a floor drain through a valved low-point drain.

The arrangement shown in Figure 1 allows for two plumbing conveniences:

- Water leakage onto the floor indicates a valve problem.
- If there is no floor drain there is no p-trap to dry out, so no sewer gases can outflow from the dry trap. If there is a floor drain, dry-out can be

prevented by filling the trap with vegetable oil instead of water so the trap seal will last longer. ■



*Swiki Anderson is chief engineer in Swiki Anderson and Associates, Inc. (SAAI), a consulting mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation engineering firm in Bryan, TX. He has 40 years' engineering experience and was a professor of mechanical engineering at a major university. Contact him at swiki@saai.com.*

## From the Publisher

*continued from page 4*

### It Wasn't That Funny. Or Was It?

Be sure to look for "On the Lighter Side." The world is just too serious a place, and a little laughter is sometimes just the ticket. Got a funny story or joke? Be sure to submit it for publication.

### A Technical Cornucopia

The technical issues covered in this issue of *PSD* are, as usual, quite varied but all directed to you, the plumbing engineer and design professional. Peruse "Water Treatment Technology for Plumbing Engineers"; "Specification Writing 101," from "Designer's Notebook"; "Cleanout Requirements," in "Code Update"; and "Pump Seals," the "Hydronics for Plumbing Engineers" subject for this issue.

In case that's not enough, get with the program by finding out how to train your computer to do what *you* want it to. "Managing Your Symbols and Blocks" offers another insight in "AutoCAD Action," and "Using the Internet: Part 2," in "Computer Corner" will help you become more proficient, or at least more understanding, of the power awaiting us in this new century. ■

—Stanley Wolfson

## DETAILS! DETAILS! DETAILS!

Can't Wait To Get Your Hands on All of the Mechanical Division 15 CAD Drawings as seen in *Plumbing Systems & Design Magazine*?

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## New Product Press Releases

*PSD recently received press releases announcing new products from the following companies. For more information, please contact the company directly.*

**AERCO** (201/768-2400)

"Lox NOx burner for KC1000 boiler"

**Beacon Medical Products** (800/756-2590)

"Second-generation update to popular medical gas alarm products"

**Leslie Controls, Inc.** (800/439-4485)

"Maintain system accuracy with Leslie's VKP Valve."

**Scientific Plastics** (800/558-2027)

"Improved bottle trap variation of adjustable riser bottle trap"

**Sioux Chief Manufacturing Co., Inc.** (816/779-6104)

"Preformed water service connectors for use with 1" IPS-I.D Polyethylene cold water service pipe, using two S.S. hose clamps"

**Spence Engineering Co.** (800/210-1300)

"New 'Big Block' universal mount trap valve station"