



# CORRESPONDENCE

## Dear Editor:

Ms. Schwartz's letter in the April issue unfairly put you in hot water with respect to the photo you ran in the "Notes from the Editor" of the preceding issue. The photo captured my attention also, even though I consider myself a "New Age" guy. The image of a comely woman engrossed by an old AISC manual (it appears to be the 5th edition) suggests that the coexistence of beauty and brains should not be unusual. I see nothing wrong with attempting to add a little pizzazz to the public perception of our profession. It might even help encourage more bright students to consider engineering by counteracting the "Dilbert" image. (Like it or not, image is very important, if not everything, to even the highest achieving high school students). Maybe you could help Ms. Schwartz lighten up a little by featuring a similar photo with a Chippendale dancer. You have my assurance that I will not be the least bit offended!

**Edward Bach**  
Paducah, KY

## Dear Editor:

After some thought about your June 2001 editorial on salaries, I offer the following for consideration.

I wonder if those individuals whose salaries are high actually practice engineering?

Where I used to work I observed that some of the senior staff (who might be considered engineers) had high-end salaries, although these individuals rarely performed any engineering designs.

They may have completed salary surveys that skewed the results to the high side, yet I would not consider these true engineering salaries. The work these people performed was more like business administration or business management.

In fact it has been my perception some engineers feel they "have arrived" or become an engineering success when they do little engineering but only manage and direct the engineers that actually perform the work.

Take a look at the following website for an interest perspective on salaries:

[www.technotimes.org/010321A.pdf](http://www.technotimes.org/010321A.pdf)

Finally as to the use of foreign labor you might want to check the following web site:

[www.zazona.com/ShameH1B/Skunks.htm](http://www.zazona.com/ShameH1B/Skunks.htm)

**Bob Johnson**  
via email

## Dear Editor:

I enjoyed and appreciated your editorial in Modern Steel Construction for June 2001. People play fast and free with statistics with little understanding how the data was obtained. I heard an interview on PBS last week on statistics. I don't remember who the person was, but he said (I'm sure tongue in cheek), "63% of all statistics are made up on the spot!" Keep up the good work.

**Don Milks**  
via email

Modern Steel Construction welcomes letters to editor. Email your comments to Scott Melnick, Editor, at [melnick@blacksquirrel.net](mailto:melnick@blacksquirrel.net), or fax them to 312/670-0341.