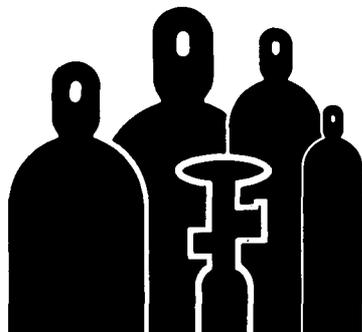


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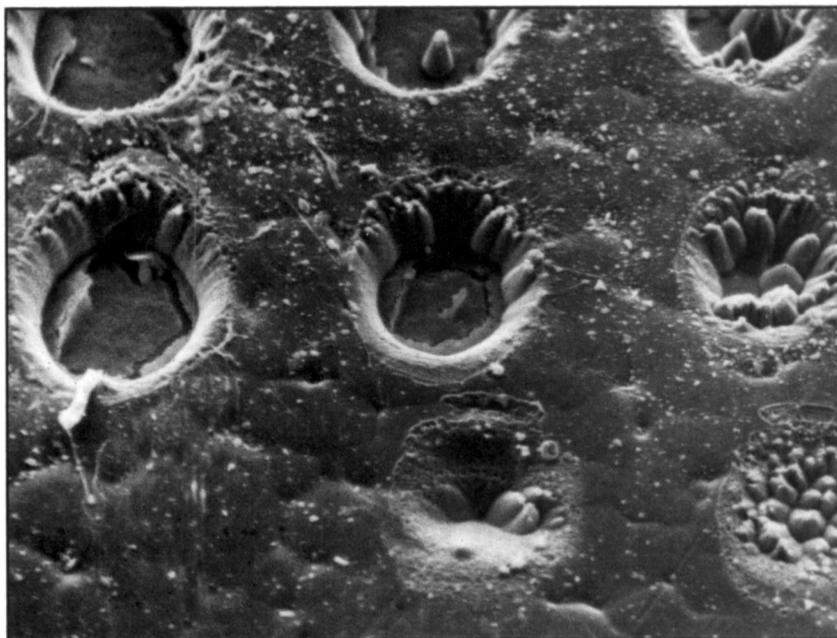
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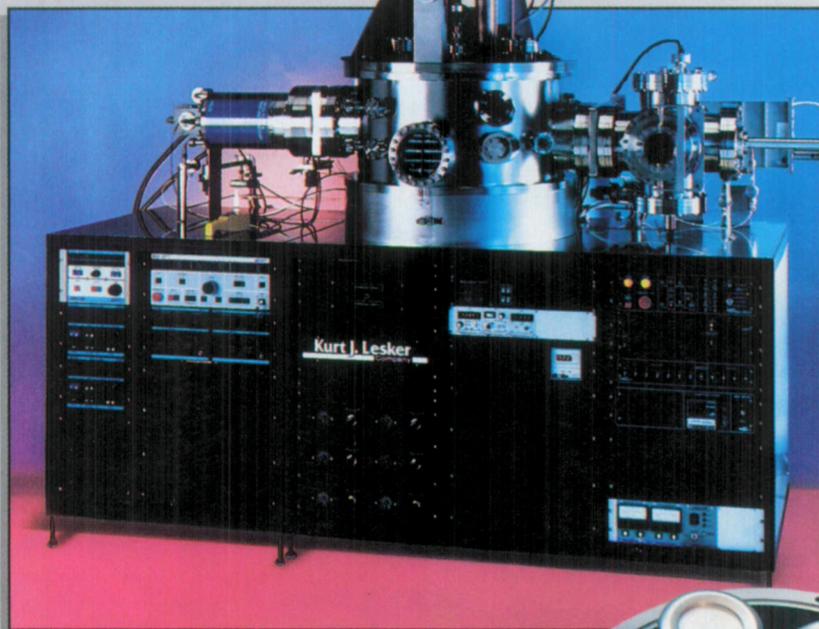
Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



Craters? Perhaps! At least that's what the investigators saw in this scanning electron micrograph that prompted them to send it to EDITOR'S CHOICE. These etch pits were produced on a fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) surface by exposure through a mask to 25 kV electron beam pulses. The pulses were produced in 50 milli-Torr (soft) vacuum by 100 ns duration discharges between the 0.05 mm thick sample film and an aluminum cathode. This particular sample received 100 pulses, each delivering about one micro-Coulomb/cm². The micrograph appears in the proceedings of a SPIE conference on Electron-Beam, X-Ray, and Ion-Beam Technology: Submicrometer Lithographies VIII (Vol. 1089, p. 318-322) in an article by J. Krishnaswamy, G.J. Collins (both of Colorado State University), and H. Hiraoka (IBM/Almaden). R. Lee of Colorado State University contributed to this micrograph as well. EDITOR'S CHOICE sees an alternate interpretation of this picture which is tinged with irony. The spatial non-uniformity of the electron beam left some pits less etched than others. This reminds us of the inadequately greased muffin tin from which muffin remnants could not be rescued intact—a well-known hazard of pre-Teflon® cookery. As a close cousin of Teflon, FEP should not have left us with this impression.

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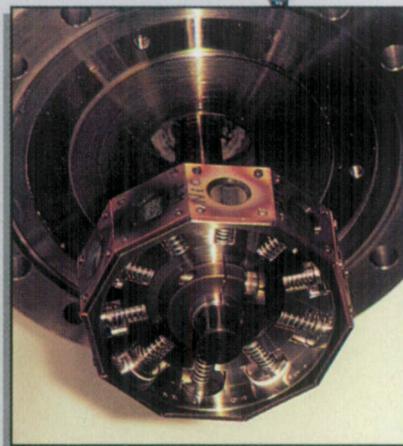
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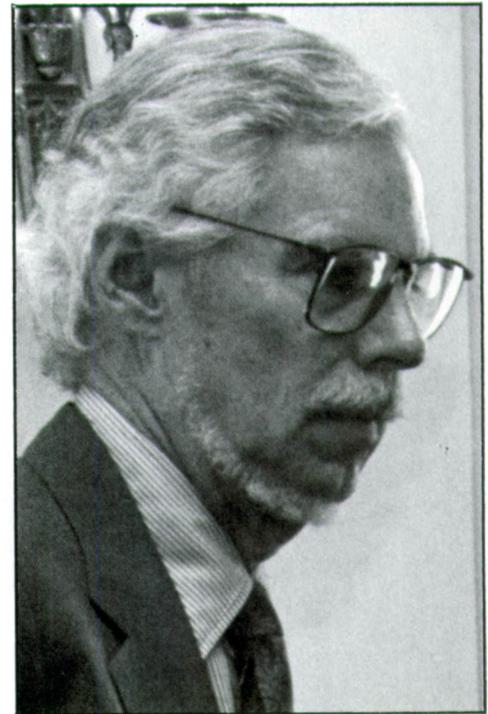
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Glen Cullen (above), president of the Federation of Materials Societies (FMS) was incorrectly identified on p. 16 in the May 1990 *MRS BULLETIN*.

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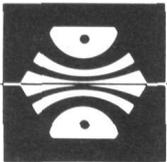
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