



THE RARA E-RAG

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NO. 6

ARRL Night in February

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
Vice President, RARA

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) was founded in 1914 and represents all ham radio operators in the United States. The ARRL is there to protect our on air interest and our frequencies when the federal government and FCC may be thinking of other uses for those frequencies. As we have seen in past years the government has been able to generate billions of dollars when frequencies are available and they are put up for auction. Hams are allowed to operate on some pretty expensive real estate and would not want to lose it.

The Atlantic Division Director, **Bill Edgar (N3LLR)**, will be our special guest for the evening. The Division Director is a voting member of the ARRL Board and is our voice to the national organization. Bill is one of us, a ham radio operator who has taken his passion for the hobby from the local club level to the national level. Bill will tell us what the League has done over the past few years and what we can expect in the future. Please bring your questions and comments to the meeting. Having Bill in town should help to add a personal touch to what may seem like just another large national organization.

(Continued on page 6)

David I. Hassett K2SQI 1933 – 2008

by Ed Gable K2MP,
RARA Historian and friend

The greater Rochester amateur radio community recently lost a tireless and dedicated contributor with the passing of David Hassett, K2SQI. During his 55 years as a ham Dave never stopped serving the community in general and his fellow amateurs and ham radio organizations.

He started his life long local employment in electronics following schooling at Edison Technical Institute and at the Great Lakes Naval Training Academy. This gave him a strong background that served him well with employment at Erskine-Healy, Bausch and Lomb, RF Communications and Kodak. Dave was also proud of, and spoke fondly of, his many years on the Genesee River where his side business installed and serviced marine electronics.

It was after his stint in the Navy when Dave fulfilled a long time desire to become a ham. He and some school buddies formed a study group that met in living rooms and basements.

Dave's strong theoretical background made him the obvious theory leader. Some time later came K2SQI. It is possible that this leadership in training was the catalyst for the start of a legacy in training and assisting others in all matters technical.

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



SILENT KEYS



Paul A. Martin, WA1NVP (ex N1WIF)

December 13, 2008

David I. Hassett, K2SQI

December 18, 2008

Paul M. Zielinski, W2CEN

January 3, 2009

Harvey H. Cohen, KB2LB

January 7, 2009

Ivar N. (Les) Hultman, Jr., WB2ABF

January 7, 2009

THE RARA E-RAG

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The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

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How did you become a HAM? Once you got your license, was there someone that helped you through the vast selection of equipment choices? Offered some advice on putting up your first antenna? Or, maybe even introduced you to the Hamfest?

From time to time, the RaRa Hotline gets calls from newly licensed Hams, and Hams that are new to the Rochester area. These people need a helping hand to steer them in the right direction. Anyone remember the "Welcome Wagon"? These people would welcome you to the neighborhood when you moved in. They'd make sure you knew where the grocery store and pharmacy were; give you the name and number of a reliable handyman and all the resources you could need to be comfortable in your new home. Like the US Marines: We're looking for a few good men (and women please) to make themselves available to guide newcomers. We are also going to be assembling a "Welcome / How-to Resource Guide" that will be handed to new licensees at our VE Testing sessions, downloadable from our WWW site, and available at the local Library and our monthly meetings.

Here's where you get to help: Make a list of topics, resources, sources of information, and things you feel should be considered for inclusion in such a package. Aaand... If you have any expertise, or maybe you're just friendly, we would like to add you to our growing list of contact people. When a newcomer comes to our attention, we will ask you to contact them and welcome them. Please make yourself available and/or send your contributions to: rara-rag@axion-ny.com.

There are a good number of people who don't receive the *RaRa RAG*. I know it's hard to believe, but they don't get the definitive source of our club information like you do. So, they take bits and pieces they overhear and fill in the gaps by making stuff up. Now, here's where I expect each and every one of you to help: Make sure everyone knows the **TRUTH** about the Rochester Hamfest: It will be **Saturday May 30**, at the **Barnard Carnival Grounds**, admission is only **\$5.00**, kids under 16 and flea market parking is **FREE!** It's that simple! For more information, tell them to access the RaRa Website at: www.RochesterHam.org **not** that old Hamfest specific website - that's defunct and hasn't been updated since last summer. If they don't believe you, tell them to check the Hamfest listings on the ARRL website that has the correct information too. You may be surprised to learn how many people are still confused about this. If you're just too polite to correct people, at least tell them they're mistaken, and refer them to the RaRa or ARRL website.

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

73 - Frank

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: January, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



The February meeting was probably very good, but details were not available at press time and no announcement was printed. The space normally used for meeting announcements did, indeed, announce an important event, the annual RaRa Winter Funfest to be held at Mendon Ponds Park. In addition to fun outdoor activities, the event was touted far and wide as a good food event with home made soups and chili. Topping that was a dessert contest with prizes and admiration generously awarded.

Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported on the club's first public service event for the year. This was a cross country skiing affair with the lengthy name of the *Mid-Atlantic Bill Koch Cross Country Ski Festival*. The venue was Powder Mill Park and was held for youngsters up to high school sophomores. Ed reported that skiing ability was desirable but unnecessary.

RaRa Code and Theory Class Director, Ed Gable, K2MP, wrote about the recently completed Fall session. Gable reported that this was a record breaking session with 50 students starting the Novice classes being taught by Bob O'Connell, NF2Z and Joe Phillips, W2DHF. Ed, K2MP, taught the Technician and General theory to 25 students with Bud Young, WA2UGE, sending the code practice. Carty Ellis, KA2Y, prepared 12 students for the Extra class challenge. The classes were held at 111 Westfall Road and the K2JD club station was used for on-air demos and to show operating techniques.

Brad Allen, KB2CHY, reporting for the RARRA, told of their next program featuring Tim Stoffell, NS9E. Tim told of the WXXI, channel 21, studio and transmitter facilities. Featured was the new Harris 55,000 watt transmitter using final tubes six feet tall.

From the Want Ads you could buy a Heath SB-301/SB400 combination from Jack, KB2FXD, for \$375.00. Heath/Zenith on Jefferson Road remained a long time advertiser.

Awards Thoughts

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

Need a new shack clock? Come on out to the February RARA meeting and try your luck at winning one. The clock is a La Crosse Atomic version that receives the WWVB time signals. It has large digits and is settable to 12 or 24 hour time including the GMT time zone. Also displays indoor and outdoor temperature using a remote wireless temperature sensor. To keep all your 12VDC equipment connected, we have a set of 25 Anderson PowerPole connectors. These are the standard 30A version with red and black housings, terminals, and roll pins. And to keep track of your Grid Square standings, we have a large ARRL laminated Grid Square Map See you there for the fun.

Public Service

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

The 2009 public service calendar gets another early start this year with the Special Olympic Winter Games making its second appearance in Rochester in 2 years. Last year's event was a great success and we have been asked to return this year. The only change this year is the venue. The skiing event this year will be held at the Bristol Mountain Ski Resort. The change in venue has forced the cancellation of the pizza and wings party after the event at the home of our club president. The group of volunteers can now decide on the new place to gather if desired.

Below is the list of local events that are being coordinated by local hams. The RARA web site should be updated by the end of January. 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.

Special Olympics Winter Games – Sat, February 7, 2009

MS Walk – Geneseo – Sun, May 3, 2009

Tour de Cure – Sun, June 7, 2009

Geneseo Air Show – Sat & Sun, July 11 & 12, 2009

ITU Pan America Cup – Sat, July 18, 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

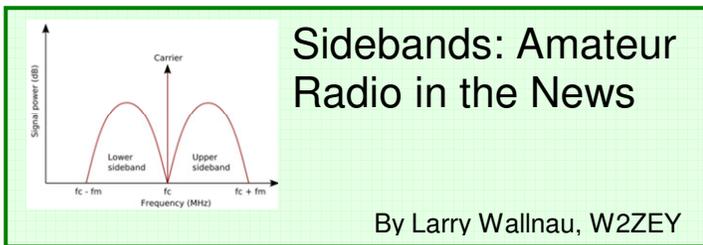
America's Walk for Diabetes – Sat, October 3, 2009

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

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

March Rag Deadline
February 11, 2009

RaRa Memorial Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2009



Patron Saint of Ham Radio. I belong to the Yahoo group "30meterPSKGroup" and most messages are topical. But just before Christmas, one member posted a message for the holiday. His source, he stated, was Wiki. The post read "During the German occupation of Poland, the priest Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans. The Germans believed his amateur radio activities were somehow involved in espionage and he was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941. After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men. On October 10, 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity. He is considered the Patron Saint of Amateur Radio Operators." The group member also referenced <http://www.qrz.com/sp3rn>.

Free Online Amateur Radio Magazine. There is a new amateur radio magazine, HAM-MAG, and it is free. The e-magazine can be downloaded in pdf format from

<http://tinyurl.com/7bp6zd>.

The January issue runs 26 pages and includes three projects among its content.

A 7-Year-Old Ham. School age kids these days are technologically savvy, especially when it comes to playing games on the X-Box-360 and Playstation, or text messaging friends on their cell phones, or surfing the internet and uploading clips to YouTube. WAVY TV-10 reported on a young school age boy, Cameron Hasson, who also has acquired skills with amateur radio. At age 7, Cameron, KJ4EDF is the youngest known ham in the Gastonia, NC area. Details are located at <http://tinyurl.com/8xsfq3>.

And an 89-Year-Old Ham. On the flip side of amateur radio experience is Richard Weaver, W3HXH, who has been a ham for 70 years. His FCC ticket arrived in the mail on Christmas Eve of 1938. To put this in perspective, he was on the air when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. Richard is from the Harrisonburg, VA area. When he was sufficiently prepared he hitched a ride to Washington, D.C. with a goat farmer to take the FCC exam. His first QSO was on Christmas Day 1938 with a fellow in neighboring West Virginia. Among his varied experiences, he has the distinction of handling traffic from the South Pole. The full story is at <http://tinyurl.com/7kuom9>.

Ham Radio on the Big and Small Screen. Have you seen a movie with some amateur radio content? A television show? Actually, there have been quite a few. The website <http://www.arprsd.org/ARD.html> has an interesting list of movies (such as *Contact* with Jodie Foster) and TV series (like *The Twilight Zone*) which have had ham radio scenes. And even cartoons have incorporated our hobby – would you believe an episode of *The Simpsons*? Some of the movies and shows are rather old, but others are fairly recent. The site includes some foreign features as well.

Volunteers Replace Damaged Antenna. When the ice storm that struck the Midwest damaged the Cape Girardeau County Emergency Management antenna, amateur radio volunteers were there to help. Members of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Operators Club helped make the repairs on a 40-foot tower on the roof of a county administration building in Jackson. The story was covered by the *Southeast Missourian* at <http://tinyurl.com/9up349>.

Sable Island DXpedition Postponed. Duane Traver, WV2B, team lead of the CY0 DXpedition posted a message on QRZ.com. He stated that due to the U.S. economic situation, the Sable Island DXpedition planned for 2009 has been postponed for an undetermined time. The team hopes to regroup for 2010. Donations that had been received will be returned so that sponsors can support other DX efforts this year. The [sabledx.com](http://www.sabledx.com) website will continue to be online for the short term.

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing



All Elements needed to complete a license class.

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@arri.net

From the VP of RRRRA

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD
Vice President, RRRRA

I hope you were able to make the RRRRA January meeting. Lou Volino from WHAM-TV put on an interesting presentation and answered questions concerning Digital TV. Remember analog TV is being shut off February 17 and only DTV will be broadcast.

What a better time than Winter to work on antenna projects. On February 20 at 8:00PM at the Pittsford Town Hall there will be a show and tell and discussion on antennas you can build for VHF and UHF. I will be bringing some of my antennas that I designed and built and I hope others will bring their creations to show. Simple low cost antennas such as a coffee can ground plane or a J pole can greatly improve the performance of your HT. See examples of beams and other antennas you can build saving you lots of money. An external antenna allows you to optimize the performance of your radio and gets the RF away from you. Hope you can make it and remember to bring your homebuilt antenna to show the other members.

AWA Plans Popular AM Phone Event

By Ed Gable, K2MP

The Antique Wireless Association, operating a world class radio museum in nearby Bloomfield, NY, has announced its very popular AM QSO Party. This annual event brings out of the closet hundreds of old AM ham transmitters for one weekend a year. This year the party starts Saturday, February 21, at 2300Z and goes to Sunday at 2300Z. The event takes place on 80, 40 and 20 meters near 3837 and 3885 kHz, 7290 kHz and 14280 kHz. Try to work the two flagship stations; W2AN at AWA headquarters and the James Millen memorial station, W1HRX. AM is required. Try your new rice box; they work well on AM when adjusted properly. Select AM mode, adjust the power control for 25 watts output, turn off any compression and have fun.

Happy Birthday!

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
President, RARA

Let's all wish David Melman, KA2UBJ a Happy Birthday! At 101 years young this month, David is our most Senior Member.



Calendar of Events

- Feb 6** RARA meeting – 7:30PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Feb 11** RARA Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30PM RIT Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Feb 13** RVHFG Monthly Meeting – Spencerport Wesleyan Church 2353 Nichols St., Spencerport
- Feb 17** RDXA – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM EOC, Rm 200, 1190 Scottsville Rd.
- Feb 20** RRRRA – 8:00PM, Monthly Meeting at Pittsford Town Hall, downstairs room.
- Feb 21** RARA VE Testing session – 10:00AM RIT, Bldg. 9, Rm. 3139
- Feb 28** ARAST Minifest (See article this page for details)

ARAST Minifest

By Tom English, N2YJY

The Amateur Radio Association Of the Southern Tier would like to thank all who came to the September hamfest in Elmira. Although we could not control the weather we thought we had a very good turn out despite the rain. For all who braved the rain, Thank you!

It is with great fanfare that we would like to announce the coming of our winter festivities. The ARAST winter minifest will be held on Saturday February 28, 2009 at the New York State Armory on Colonial Drive in Horseheads (behind the Arnot Mall). More information and presale tickets (or tables for vendors if you have something you wish to sell) can be found at our web site www.arast.org. We have great prizes lined up and door prizes will be given out during the course of the event. So keep your calendar open for that day and make the trip. You won't be sorry as we're certain that there will be something available for everyone. Tickets available right now at www.arast.org or any ARAST board member.

Remember that tickets are \$5.00 in advance (\$6.00 at the door) and can be purchased at our website and a board member may make the trip to the Rochester area to have tickets available at the February 6, 2009 RARA meeting. We are doing our best to keep Murphy out of the picture so make plans to come on down Saturday Feb. 28, 2009. Doors open at 8:00 and breakfast will be available shortly thereafter. Talk-in on the N3AQ repeater 147.36(+)



Shorts & Sparks

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

Basic Antennas. ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, has written a new book on antennas entitled, **Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design.** (Go to <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9994> for a closer look.)

The topics include antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element arrays, wideband and multiband antennas, monopole antennas, dipole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF and VHF, loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, mobile antennas, antenna measurements, and antenna modeling. The goal of the book is to provide a background for folks to delve into more advanced topics covered in **The ARRL Antenna Book.**

Microphone Know-How. Are you working on a microphone project? Perhaps you want to wire up that restored Astatic D-104 to your new HF rig. The G4WPW website provides a wealth of information about the microphone pin-outs for a large number of popular ham rigs. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/6flksd> for more information.

Antenna Alloys. The other day I was looking at the ZeroFive antenna website. The company provides detailed construction specifications for its products. But aluminum isn't simply aluminum when one considers it comes in different alloys. And the alloys vary from antenna to antenna. For example, what is the difference between the 6061-T6 and 6063-T832, two commonly used alloys? See <http://tinyurl.com/3a8kqg> for a discussion.

Watts New? Steve Katz, WB2WIK, has written an enlightening article, *Watts New? The Power Struggle, and Living with PEP.* The article was well received by readers on eHam, where many articles get trashed. The article is online at <http://www.eham.net/articles/20373>.

Skin Depth and Conductors? A great many topics are covered at the W8JI website, everything from arcing in HF amps to skin depth and conductors to vacuum tubes. Take a look at <http://www.w8ji.com/>.

~ ARRL ~
Continued from page 1

RARA is an ARRL affiliated club and also carries the designation of a Special Service Club. The Special Service Club designation is the result of a lengthy application process that highlights the club's participation in education, public service, emergency communications, technical advancement, operating activities, and other club functions. We also have 3 local hams who have been appointed to Atlantic Division positions. Lloyd Caves (N2PU) and Ed Gable (K2MP) are Assistant Directors. Chris Shalvoy (K2CS) is the DX Advisory Committee representative.

The meeting is **Friday, February 6, 2009** at the Henrietta Fire Hall #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection of Lehigh Station Road.

Meet your friends at RARA. Make new friends at RARA.

~ Dave Hassett, SK ~
Continued from page 1

In 1957/58 RaRa formalized what would become a hallmark of the club, their Amateur Radio training classes. Started by Ray Springet and held at the old Rochester Museum on East Avenue, the roster shows Dave Hassett, K2SQI, as the technical Instructor. Dave jumped into ham radio with both feet. Over time he was a member of RaRa, the Rochester Ten Meter Mobile Club, RRRR, ARES, RACES and the Rochester Amateur Packet Society.

Dave did little personal operating. After his callsign you would not find letters such as WAS, DXCC, VUCC and other "bragging rights." That wasn't his style. Instead he quietly dedicated his life long amateur activities to those of a public service nature and in service to the amateur community. RaRa, with its rich history of public service communications through ARES and RACES partnerships, provided a ready outlet for Dave's contributions. If there was a *walk for water*, a *hike for hope*, a *ride for diabetes*, or you name it, Dave was there with his bright red safety vest and ever ready and reliable radio equipment. He could also be counted upon to be more than a personal contributor but also to be a leader and planner of such activity when required.

In later years RaRa added service to a broader part of the local community with an educational program called *Radio Coaches*. With clients such as Explorer Post 621 and local area schools, this group provided a new and much needed insight and, of course, Dave Hassett was right in the thick of the activity. All this time Dave continued his work with the RaRa code and theory classes that covered decades. He was particularly pleased with a certain class session where his father, daughter and son-in-law all showed up as students.... and all passed and became licensed.

Dave never lost his interest in technology and embraced new challenges. At age 70, he took on digital radio techniques and mastered the higher echelons of Packet Radio and digipeaters. Most recently he employed an advanced method of automatic position reporting (APRS) so that during public service events his mobile position would always be shown on a map at the Net Control Position. Few people knew, even those close to him, how awful his illness was and how quickly it would take him from us. In the many e-mails and outpouring of regret, Donald Dunn, AB2NM, wrote so beautifully "It is a regretful part of the human condition, that we too often praise someone... after they are no longer with us." I fear that this is the case with David I. Hassett. I also know that had some ceremony of thanks and appreciation been conducted earlier, he would have dismissed it as something quite unnecessary. That's the way he was; a true gentleman, unselfish and dedicated to serving others. David I. Hassett, K2SQI, (sk).

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)

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1 Lomb Memorial Drive
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Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD
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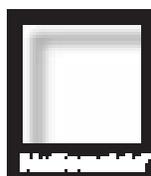
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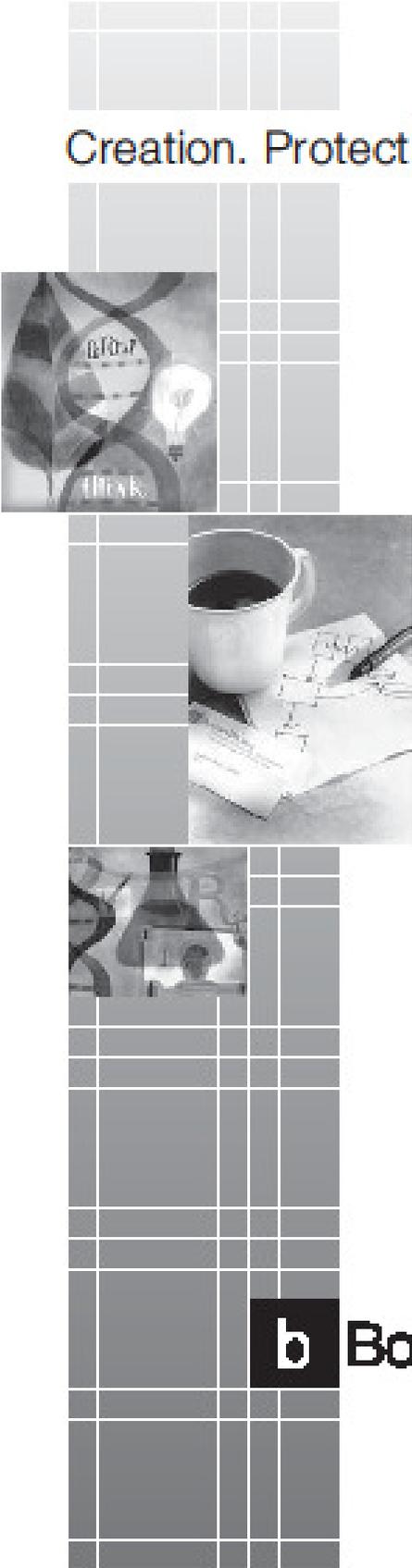
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