

Letters / Lettres

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I write to object to the inclusion of such a review as Peter Hudec's (of the book *Brines and Evaporites* by P. Sonnenfeld) in *Geoscience Canada* (v. 12, p. 119). I find it difficult to believe that Hudec could have been completely objective in his review, given that he works in the same geological department as the book's author and has co-authored many papers with him upon the subject-matter of the book being reviewed. What is even more important is that, even if Hudec had been totally impartial in this instance, he cannot be shown to have been, given his connection with the author. The old adage is just as true for reviewers: one must not only be innocent; one must be seen to be innocent!

I consider that people who have close working relationships with authors should not be requested to write reviews (because of possible conflicts of interest or loss of objectivity); that such persons should never agree to such requests; and that journals such as *Geoscience Canada* should not publish such potentially questionable reviews. In this specific case I do not believe that the readership has been particularly well served by the book review, *regardless of the content or quality of the review*. I would strongly recommend that some policy statement by *Geoscience Canada* should be issued regarding the eligibility of reviewers.

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In general the Editor agrees that reviews should be impartial and that therefore it is not advisable to have a publication reviewed by the author's close colleagues. This is not always an easy policy to implement because, in a small professional community, nearly everyone knows everyone else. However, it certainly seems that in this case we were in error in accepting this review.

Positions Available

Saint Mary's University Department of Geology Halifax, Nova Scotia

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGIST

The Department of Geology, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia invites applications for a three-year faculty position at the Assistant Professor level commencing September 1986. This position may be converted into a tenure track appointment at a later date. The position is in the field of structural geology. Applicants should have a Ph.D. and the successful candidate will be required to carry on a vigorous research program.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration regulations we are required to direct this advertisement initially to Canadian citizens and permanent residents after which other applicants may be considered.

Send applications, curriculum vitae and names of three referees to:

Chairman
Department of Geology
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3

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Applications are invited for a recently funded NSERC/Petro-Canada Research Chair in marine reflection seismology which provides for an appointment at the Associate or Full Professor level, a research associate and the acquisition of a multichannel reflection system. Also a tenure-track opening exists for a Marine Geophysicist with interests in crustal seismology or a complementary area. The Department of Earth Sciences is the largest single geoscience department in Canada and has particularly strong interdisciplinary research programs in East Coast crustal structure and tectonics. There are excellent opportunities for collaborative research within the Department, with industry and with the Atlantic Geoscience Centre. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada; non-Canadians may apply. Enquiries or applications with names of three referees to: Dr. C.R. Barnes, Head, Centre for Earth Resources Research, Department of Earth Sciences, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1B 3X5. (709) 737-8142.