



# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC

## OFFICERS AND STAFF

*president*  
Halton C. Arp  
*vice president*  
Sidney Wolff  
*secretary/treasurer*  
John G. Phillips  
  
*executive officer*  
Andrew Fraknoi  
*program coordinator*  
Janet Doughty  
*membership secretary*  
Deirdre Wolohan  
*accounting*  
Lawrence Hanby  
*selectory sales*  
Lucile Taber

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Halton C. Arp  
*Mt Wilson and Las Campanas Observatories*  
Thomas Cave  
*Western Amateur Astronomers*  
Clyde C. Chivens  
*Perkin Elmer Corp*  
John A. Eddy  
*High Altitude Observatory*  
Donald A. Goldsmith  
*Interstellar Media*  
Robert Kraft  
*Lick Observatory*  
Frank Miller  
*Western Amateur Astronomers*  
David Morrison  
*University of Hawaii*  
Catherine Pilachowski  
*Kitt Peak Observatory*  
Kingsley Wightman  
*Chabot Observatory*  
Sidney Wolff  
*University of Hawaii*

September 14, 1981

Mr. Charles Mandel  
Science Digest  
888 Seventh Ave.  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Mandel:

Thank you for sending me the packet of nomination materials for the Cutty Sark Science Award.

While I think such an award is an excellent idea, I have chosen not to participate in the process because of your inclusion of Dr. Allen Hynek on your panel of judges. I feel it demeans the entire process of giving science award to have as one of the judges a man who has been one of the loudest and exploitative exponents of pseudo-science in this country.

I think your award deserves better.

If you need an independent minded astronomer who is a contributor to Science Digest, someone like William Kaufmann or Wallace Tucker would be most appropriate.

All of us in the science press have an obligation to work to educate the public on the differences between science and pseudo-science (see the enclosed ad from the publishers of Discover.) In giving Dr. Hynek further platforms from which to obfuscate that difference, I feel you have done your magazine and scientific awards a disservice.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Fraknoi  
Executive Officer

P.S. I want to make clear that the above represents my personal opinion and is not an official position of our Society.

AF/la

Enclosures