

the Editor's Page

PRAISE for our "new look" outweighing criticism by a comfortable margin, we are encouraged to press forward, however modest the pace.

The full story of *Camptotheca acuminata*, outlined in previous Arboretum Notes, is told in this issue by the man responsible for pursuing the camptotheca project, Dr. Robert E. Perdue, Jr., of the USDA Crops Research Division. In a recent letter, Dr. Perdue informs us that clinical trial of camptothecin is planned by the end of this year.

Advertising has come to LASCA LEAVES in a form we believe does credit to its sponsor and to the Arboretum. Southern California Edison has accepted our outline for a series of ads illustrating research projects utilizing electrically operated equipment. Charles Kassler is the photographer for this present ad as he was for the superb color shots of the three hibiscus that graced the cover and inside pages of our last issue.

Speaking of hibiscus, Ross Gast concludes his memoirs of a hybridizer with an account of his visit to the Mascarene Islands, particularly the island of Mauritius, which we must confess we thought was located in an old Marx Brothers movie. Having learned from Ross' article its true site and its significance as the locale of the ancestral species of hibiscus, we have become sufficiently Mauritius-conscious to note two additional facts of interest: the island was the home of the dodo, the flightless extinct bird; and just a short time ago it became an independent nation under a prime minister by the name of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

Donald P. Sinard



Dimond, Donald S. 1968. "The editor's page [Sept. 1968]." *Lasca leaves* 18,

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