

**PUBLISHER AND
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Kristine Chin
(212) 591-7662
krisc@aiche.org

MANAGING EDITOR

Cynthia F. Mascone
(212) 591-7343
cynfm@aiche.org

SENIOR EDITOR

Rita L. D'Aquino
(212) 591-7317
ritad@aiche.org

**PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR**

Karen Simpson
(212) 591-7337
kares@aiche.org

ILLUSTRATORS

Jesse Gunzel
Sean Dagony-Clark

**REGULATORY
EDITOR**

William A. Shirley
(888) 674-2529
envtlaw@earthlink.net

**PATENT LAW
EDITORS**

M. Henry Heines
(415) 576-0200
mhh@townsend.com
Frank C. Eymard
(504) 585-0449
eymardfc@arlaw.com

**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISING
AND REPRINTS**

Denise Deluca-Mallon
(212) 591-7170
denid@aiche.org

AIChE

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

THREE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY
10016-5991
www.aiche.org

AIChE

General Inquiries
1-800-AICHEM
(1-800-242-4363)
Education Services
(212) 591-7770
Career Services
(212) 591-7524
Meetings/Expositions
(212) 591-7324
Member Activities &
Services
(212) 591-7329

AIChExtra

Editor
Sarah Fewster
(212) 591-7257
sara1@aiche.org

**EDITORIAL
ADVISORY BOARD**

William W. Doerr
*Factory Mutual
Research Corp.*
Stevin H. Gehrke
Kansas State University
Dennis C. Hendershot
Rohm and Haas Co.
Robert F. Hoch
Consultant
Laura A. Hofman
*H&R Technical
Associates*
Kenneth Kamholz
Consultant
Stephen P. Lombardo
The Coca-Cola Co.
Jerry L. Robertson
Consultant
Bruce Vaughen
DuPont TeijinFilms

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

John Sofranko
johns@aiche.org

GROUP PUBLISHER

Stephen R. Smith
steps@aiche.org



Editorial

Ethical Dilemmas



Joseph Darby, Jr., Sherron Watkins and Mordechai Vanunu — what do they all have in common? They made the tough decision of blowing the whistle to put a halt to wrongdoing — the Iraqi prison abuse, Enron and the Israeli nuclear bomb program, respectively. Are they heroes or troublemakers? And in blowing the whistle, what has since happened to them? For Darby, Jr., the repercussions have yet to be reported. But for Watkins and Vanunu, the results couldn't be more different. These days, Watkins is on the speaking circuit and is the author of "Power Failure: the Inside Story of the Collapse of Enron." Vanunu, on the other hand, was released from an Israeli prison in April after serving nearly 18 years, and is not allowed to leave Israel or have communications with any foreigners.

Somewhat lower profile, yet similarly challenging, are the moral dilemmas faced by chemical engineers where they have to decide whether or not to blow the whistle. Deciding what to do isn't always black and white. In fact, it is more often a fuzzy shade of gray. A multitude of factors come into play when making a decision, of which the biggest one is probably, "How is this going to affect me?"

In this month's cover story, "Whistleblowing: Is it Always Obligatory?" (pp. 23–27), Edmund G. Seebauer, professor of chemical engineering at the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and author of "Fundamentals of Ethics for Scientists and Engineers," writes, "Studies confirm the intuitive perception that whistleblowers tend to face hostility within their organizations and commonly leave their jobs, either voluntarily or otherwise." Additionally, the potential outcome of whistleblowing can be "...[losing] seniority and retirement benefits, and [potentially moving] to another city." Furthermore, "the needs of family members must be considered," he continues. Despite all of the possible negative outcomes, "keeping quiet does not fix the original problem and sometimes stings the conscience continually."

The cover story offers guidance on how to systematically evaluate a situation so that one can be prepared for the results of his/her action or inaction. Seebauer divides the consequences into two categories — interior and exterior. Interior consequences are those that affect a person's character (*e.g.*, habitual disposition), while exterior ones are those that take place outside of the person (*e.g.*, denied promotion, salary cut, etc.). Once you've finished reading the cover story, we invite you to take the engineering ethics survey on p. 28. With the help of some of our safety experts, we've crafted a complex scenario to which there is no simple answer. We'll run an analysis of the results in a future issue of *CEP*.

Kristine Chin
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
krisc@aiche.org