

## Introduction by John Dunnycliff, Editor

*This is the seventy-first episode of GIN. Three minus three articles this time. To explain—one week before going to press there were three, but the week has brought challenges (and frustrations!). I won't bore you with the details. I'm consoled by the fact that, after many weeks of rain, the sun is finally shining here in the Mother Country.*

### Manual of geotechnical engineering

My review of the excellent “ICE Manual of Geotechnical Engineering” was in June GIN. In my introduction to GIN I included some quotations from the chapter on geotechnical risks, including one attributed to Donald Rumsfeld. I've since received an e-mail from Don Shields, indicating that the correct source is our much-respected geotechnical colleague Elio D'Appolonia (D'App). Here is part of Don's e-mail:

In your introduction to your review of *ICE Manual of Geotechnical Engineering* you repeat a quotation from the Manual attributed to Donald Rumsfeld. To wit:

*“... as we know, there are things that we know we know. We also know that there are known*

*unknowns; that is to say we know there are things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know.”*

I first heard this statement more than 30 years ago (probably in 1979) from a much nicer person than Rumsfeld. The nicer person is Elio D'Appolonia, who appeared at a hearing on the future of uranium mining in British Columbia.

During his testimony, Dr. D'Appolonia made exactly the same statement to the commissioners that is now attributed to Rumsfeld. I remember Elio's statement perfectly because it was one of those moments when one says to oneself: Why didn't I think of that!

Now I ask myself: How do I go about getting D'Appolonia credit for this statement?

Answer to Don—right here!

### The next continuing education course in Florida

This is scheduled for April 7-9, 2013 at Cocoa Beach. Details are now on [www.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/geotech](http://www.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/geotech). Also see the announcement on facing page.

### Closure

Please send contributions to this column, or an abstract of an article for GIN, to me as an e-mail attachment in MSWord, to [john@dunnycliff.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:john@dunnycliff.eclipse.co.uk), or by mail: Little Leat, Whisselwell, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9LA, England. Tel. +44-1626-832919.

Yasas! (Greece)

### Errata

*There is a significant error in the article “Update of the fully-grouted method for piezometer installation” by Contreras et al, published in the June 2012 episode of GIN (page 20). The cement-bentonite grout mix given near the beginning of the section subtitled “Laboratory” should be 2.5:1:0.3, NOT 1:2.5:0.3.*