

The Meeting as seen from afar

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It now is Summer '95,
And traveling is in full swing.
The acoustician jet set crowd
Is in the midst of their wild fling.

The plans are drafted months ahead.
The issue's plain: With meager coffer,
To choose from conference shopping lists
The one that has the most to offer.

The choice is based on science merit
(That's what you make yourself believe).
It's clear that when the venue fits
The science will its best achieve.

The water-air environment,
With shallow channels, sloping beach,
Is of great interest. Can you find
Such natural lab in easy reach?

The choice is hard. There are several sites,
But most are prone to fog, wind, rain.
Your science needs clear atmosphere.
You choose Hawaii after much pain.

You now have solved the hardest part.
The choice of topic, that comes next.
If there's a lack of new results,
Crank out a few and change old text.

You write it up, make color slide,
And send your abstract to Ding Lee.
You wait, and when approval comes,
You plan your beachfront strategy.

The final program vindicates
Your meeting choice. You can discern
Good topics. But the biggest plus:
Good people there, from whom to learn.

Waikiki beach and shallow sea,
The site's a perfect natural lab.
You conduct imaging outside
Whenever inside talks get drab.

The beach provides environment
For low observable resolution.
Bikinis are hard to detect
In rippling body distribution.

Binoculars superresolve
What bare eyes only faintly see.
You conduct many sample tests
For your inversion strategy.

Another target comes in view.
Decision making is the key.
The new bikini: Is it "clean",
Or "strange" to fool the imagery?

You scan your ripple wavelet file
To see which wavelet fit is best.
A ripple filter is applied.
Imagination does the rest.

The tests exhaust you. You proceed
To store the data in your mind.
You then compare them with your friend's
So that you won't be left behind.

For me, alas, all that's a dream.
I'm sorry that I won't be there.
I'm green with envy while you tan.
Whoever said that Life is Fair?

I'm sure the meeting has gone well.
The organizers saw to that.
Apart from science, sun, good food,
Meeting old friends is where it's at.

Enjoy it all, indoors and out.
I hope there were some Waves inside
Good controversy usually serves
To help us measure our stride.

Aloha

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