

The Guys in the Da Nang patrol



Now the time is near. Men in the
chopper are counting the seconds.
17 of them. Dressed in green
dungarees, soaked black in sweat.
No wisecracks.
No horseplay.
They're the guys in the
Da Nang patrol.

★ ★ ★

Ten thousand miles around
the world, there are people
who call them sucker.
People who hope they'll
give up. Quit. Go AWOL.
But they won't.
They care. Enough so 9 out of
10 men in the outfit put cash
into U.S. Savings Bonds.
To help pay the bill.
They're the guys in the
Da Nang patrol.

★ ★ ★

The next time they hit the landing
zone, will you be with them?
Make no mistake.
These guys in the
Da Nang patrol will
hit the landing zone
anyway.
Maybe you'll stand a little
straighter, walk a bit taller
— knowing you're with them
all the way.

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LETTERS

from editors is of lack of originality. Encouraged by being told that what I had intended, at least partially, as a review article was really "original research" I took courage and submitted the same paper, in identical form, to *The Physical Review*. The editor's reply was to the effect that in view of his referee's report he could not publish the paper: "It is the considered opinion of this referee that the above paper contains virtually no new material and that it should not under any circumstances be accepted for publication in *The Physical Review* . . . This paper . . . contains virtually no new information and is clearly inappropriate for *The Physical Review*. The material contained therein appears to be essentially correct, such that it might serve as a good review. . ."

As I see it a referee is required to do two things: (1) to advise the editor whether a submitted paper is on topics in line with the declared editorial policy of the journal in question and (2) to advise the editor in certain detailed technical matters such as originality or correctness of a paper. The first is clearly a matter that is partially subjective, and one accepts editors' decisions in this matter, but the second seems to me rather a matter of fact or objectivity. How is it, I wonder as a puzzled foreigner from Britain, that the referees of two such distinguished and closely related journals as *The Physical Review* and *Reviews of Modern Physics* can come to such diametrically opposed views as to whether a certain piece of work is "original research" or a "review"?

In bewilderment and disillusionment about the objectivity of American refereeing I have now submitted the same paper to a third journal, this time a British one.

ARTHUR P. CRACKNELL
University of Essex

Unrelated articles

In the June 1967 issue of *PHYSICS TODAY* there appear two seemingly unrelated articles. One is the interesting article by Alvin Weinberg and the other is the hilarious report by Van Derck Fréchette and Ralph H. Condit.

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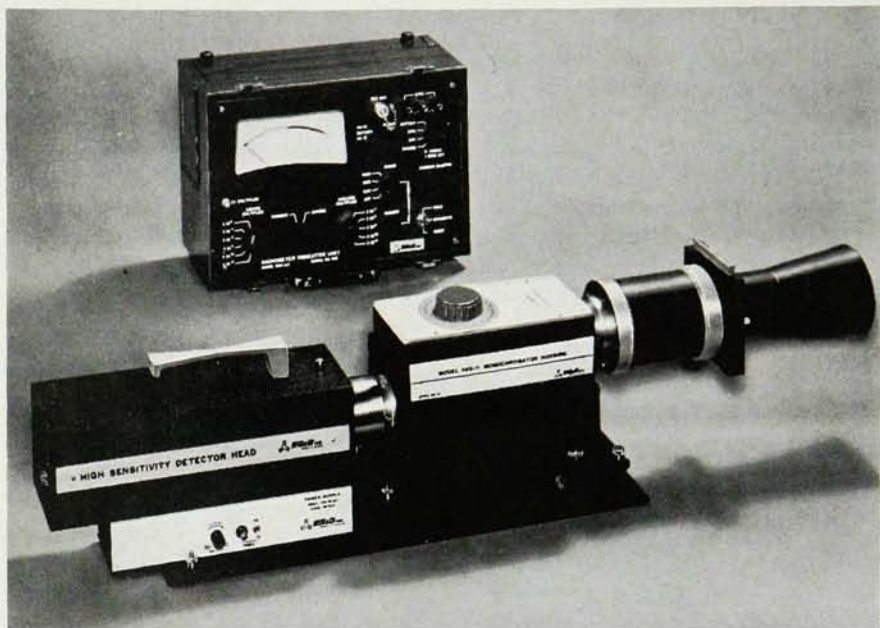
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LETTERS

to know that, by one of those strange coincidences, there is a rather tenuous relation. At the June 1967 commencement at Alfred University Weinberg was awarded an honorary doctor's degree and the man who presented him for the degree was Fréchet.

ROBERT R. MEIJER
Parsons College

Credit for gravity apparatus

In his article on "Geophysics Instrumentation" in the July issue of *PHYSICS TODAY*, John N. Howard of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories refers to an "absolute gravity apparatus developed jointly by AFCRL and NBS [which] uses a freely falling rotation-insensitive corner cube as one element of an optical interferometer." This project was initiated by James E. Faller while he was a NAS-NRC research associate at NBS and was a direct outgrowth of earlier absolute gravity measurements that he had made at Princeton University (*J. Geophys. Res.* **70**, 4035, 1965). Work on the new apparatus is now being carried out at Wesleyan University by Faller and James A. Hammond. It should be pointed out that contributions by AFCRL and by NBS to this work have consisted only of financial support.

P. L. BENDER
L. M. BRANSCOMB
National Bureau of Standards

ERRATUM: Michael Polanyi tells me that the photograph printed with my review of the book *Science as a Cultural Force* (*PHYSICS TODAY*, April, page 76) is not of him but of a relative, Thomas G. Polanyi.

G. C. AMSTUTZ
University of Heidelberg

ERRATA: In our July article, "Wire Spark Chambers," figures were incorrectly numbered. If the confused reader will increase each figure number by one from the value that appears in the caption, he will find that the references to them in the text are correct. The editors apologize. □



Photo courtesy Allied Research Associates, Inc., Concord, Mass.

An inside look at stress

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