

PHIMSY

I talk with Gloria Lubkin

It isn't easy to talk with our woman editor. When she's at home, she's looking after two children, a new house and a husband who's a consulting electronic engineer (specialties: electronic warfare, systems design and unsolvable problems). When she's here at the office she's always calling up a physicist, pasting up an article dummy, reading proof or writing a story for her department. But when the boss stepped out the other day, I dropped the paste pot I was filling and told Gloria I was going to interview her.

"How do you know you can, Phimsy?" she asked me. "Have you ever done it before?"

I had to admit I hadn't, but unlike the boss, she's always kind and agreeable. So instead of sending me away she told me about herself.

She's a Philadelphia girl who got her AB at Temple and her MRS at graduation by marrying the boy who had been her first date in high school. When the AB was completed, she and Jay were off to Boston, she to fill a fellowship at Boston University while he was occupying another at MIT. After a year and before she could finish the master's degree, Jay was called to two years of active military duty at Chambersburg, Penna. Gloria made computations for six months on a flight-performance handbook; then the base commanding officer changed; the new one didn't believe in the nepotism rule, and officers' wives could work at the base. Not one to take second best, Gloria became a computer programmer. And who was in charge of the computer? Right: Jay.

Well, even active duty doesn't last forever, and she was next a nuclear physicist with what is now TRG, Inc. To complete the MA she exposed some plates at Princeton, scanned them evenings at home and under Fay



LUBKIN

Ajzenberg-Selove's direction determined the ground state of P^{28} . "I found an excited state, too, but it disappeared," she says. Resolution was too broad, and further statistics killed a good thing.

Son David came along in 1958; Gloria left TRG and retired until he was three. Then she was off to teach at Sarah Lawrence, where she was acting head of a department of one. Then after one more year of retirement, she came to PHYSICS TODAY in the fall of 1963. Except for time out to let daughter Sharon arrive in 1964, she's been here ever since.

Her job, she says, is to pick up all the hot technical stuff for "Search and Discovery" and now and then to put punctuation and pictures into an article. The best stories, she told me, turn up at cocktail parties, but some of them are too good to stay true when the tellers think them over. "I've had to kill a lot of stories," she said. But you can see for yourself that a lot of good ones are left.

Thermodynamics in song

"And the reciprocal of pi to your good wife," says Michael Flanders in the show "At the Drop of Another Hat" that left US shores recently. He is explaining that scientists don't talk to others because others don't understand science and scientists don't understand anything else. Right on the heels of this show, Bertolt Brecht's play "Galileo" opened in New York. So the New York theatre has been giving physics a fair break recently.

I'm always interested when non-scientists use science to make their fiction, song, poetry and comedy. A good laugh occurs only when both the artist and his audience have an understanding of the serious matter on which the humorous performance is based. Congratulations to both sides.

One of the editors thought that the physics dished up by Flanders and his partner Donald Swann was pretty good—as well as amusing. They have some clever remarks about Fred Hoyle's current theories and a very se-

Maximized Value... Our Reason For Being.



In accordance
AEC TID-20893

For Instance:

- Model 700 6 decade Microcircuit scaler, 10 MHz, discriminator.....\$575.00
- Model 750 5 decade Microcircuit timer....\$550.00

There are others.
More Information..?

CALL COLLECT



AREA CODE 312

344-2212

MECH-TRONICS NUCLEAR CORP.
1723 North 25th Avenue
Melrose Park, Illinois 60160

TENNELEC

designed a new precision pulser.
It's so stable, we use it to
calibrate our own instruments.

TC 800 precision mercury relay pulse generator.



For high-resolution nuclear spectrometers. Setup, calibration, proof-of-performance, trouble-shooting. Off-the-shelf delivery. Write or phone for complete technical details.

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Tennelec, Box D, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830, USA
Telephone (615) 483-8404. Cable TENNELEC.

PHIMSY

rious song on the amount of nuclear explosive available to blow us all up. (Flanders told me that *Twenty Tons of TNT* is published in New York by Edwin H. Morris Co.) Sir Edward Boyle's law, they say, is, "The greater the external pressure, the greater the volume of hot air." Physics or politics?

But the most useful part of the show, our editor thought, was their rendering of thermodynamic laws to a boogie beat:

Heat won't pass from a cooler to a hotter.

You can try it if you like, but you'd far better not—ter.

'Cause the cold in the cooler will get hotter as a rule—er

And that's a physical law.

The record is available, and maybe some of you teachers out there will find it makes thermodynamics go down easier.

The editorial evaluators

The serious nature of the article on page 53 of this issue seemed to make the usual author footnote on the page inappropriate. So the editor in charge

of the story asked me to tell you about the authors.



FRECHETTE

Van Derck Fréchette teaches ceramic science at the College of Ceramics, State University of New York, Alfred. He has a BS from Alfred and a PhD from Illinois. Before joining the Alfred faculty he spent a couple of years with the Corning Glass Works, and more recently

he was a Fulbright professor for a year at Göttingen.



CONDIT

Ralph H. Condit is a chemist at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Livermore. His PhD is from Princeton, and before taking his present job he was a research administrator with the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. □