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Weber, Freud, Fromm or McLuhan. With the help of a dictionary I can still translate Latin and Greek authors et al, and I am up to date on current events. The foundations and initial momentum for these interests were laid during my school years at an age when these were much easier achieved than is possible at the university level. And I am by no means exceptional as anyone will probably be able to confirm from his own experience with Europeans of similar background. Also, every available evidence indicates that there is absolutely no innate difference between European and North American youth.

It appears to me that for purely historical reasons any serious educational efforts in North America are delayed and relegated to the university with progressively more disastrous results: The present strains—both economic and social strains—under which our universities creak appear to me to result from the dual and nearly incompatible roles forced upon the universities: (1) to train scholars in depth and (2) to provide a broad education for the masses—and to do both in a traditionally fixed number of years. Everything—motivations, interest, breadth and depth—has to be generated and provided for in one institution, and this is compounded by society's insistence on the university degree for almost any job, forcing kids into institutions for which they are not equipped by motivation, talent or ability.

I have a high respect for the competent electronic technician, car mechanic, paper hanger, who never came close to a university. They are usually bright, successful and happy people. The fellow who with many groans and after endless frustrations finally barely manages to get a BSc is a sorry and useless creature. He is more often than not frustrated and hence unhappy and moreover doesn't usually know what to do with himself. Nor does anybody else know what to do with him.

I believe it is high time we seriously questioned the purposes served by our universities at this time. Let our schools provide what they could and should provide: an education. And let us create a multitude of channels by which people, according to their talents, abilities, interests and motivations, can develop successfully to

some competence. Then the university can return to the role for which it is uniquely equipped and be a training ground for scholars and professionals.

Let's face the facts: a BA or BSc for everyone does *not* constitute a passport for success, nor is it a guarantee of becoming an educated person, nor is it the only way to become educated.

K. E. RIECKHOFF
Simon Fraser University

High standards and education

It appears to me that the editorial "D. Phil or D. Phys.?" (PHYSICS TODAY January, page 154) belonged in a sociology journal. If one wishes to study education or sociology, let him do so. However, I find it unconvincing that he then is better prepared to analyze the issues of the day. I believe the two indicated solutions—to put physics education into the hands of educators and to keep standards high—are mutually exclusive. Having corrupted our elementary schools and high schools, shall we now corrupt the universities?

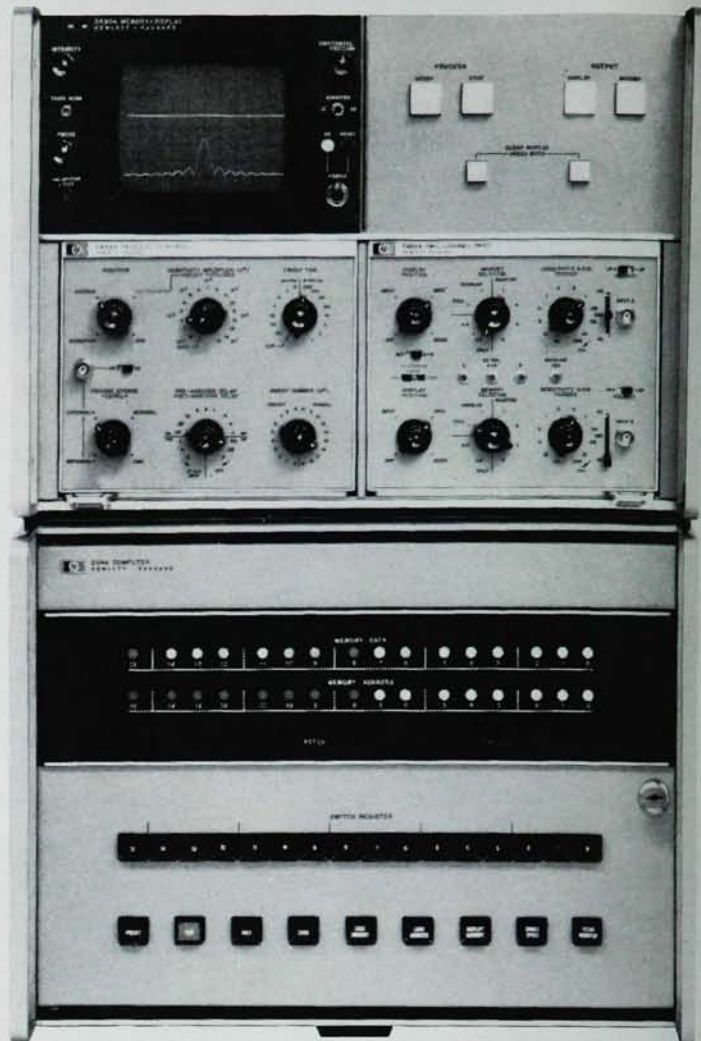
GEORGE ADOMIAN
University of Georgia

Not-so-special rates

I should like to urge strongly that the placement of notices in the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society* advertising "possible flight arrangements at reduced rates" available to APS members traveling to meetings be stopped immediately unless special APS rates are in fact being offered.

Recently in accordance with the instructions of these notices, I wrote to ("contacted") Emily Wolf of the American Institute of Physics inquiring about reduced rates for travel to the coming New York meeting. In response I received a form letter from the Galatti Travel Service, Inc., of New York offering a 25% reduction in air fare between New York and 14 named American cities "based on the 30-Day See America Excursion Fare." Some APS members may not already know that the 30-day excursion fares are offered by any travel agent in the United States on round-trip flights between any two American cities to be made by anybody whose schedule meets the conditions on time of departure and return stated in the Galatti letter. Therefore I suggest that these notices in the *Bulletin*,

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HEWLETT  PACKARD
SIGNAL ANALYZERS

inasmuch as they imply that the rates to be offered will be lower than those normally available to a member from his usual travel office, are highly deceptive and even border on fraud.

To quote further from the form letter, "Please note that cheques (sic) for flight arrangements to and from New York should be made payable to GALATTI TRAVEL SERVICE, INC. and mailed directly to this agency." Despite what I assume are the good intentions of APS, the only one who stands to gain from these arrangements is the Galatti Travel Service, and I do not believe that it is appropriate for our professional society to promote the enrichment of a particular travel agency.

W. BRUCE RICHARDS
Oberlin College

APS REPLIES: The American Physical Society, as well as the American Institute of Physics, receives a constant flow of inquiries from society members about travel arrangements and fares in connection with the society's meetings. In the interests of economy the society maintains a very small staff in its headquarters, and this staff is illequipped to provide answers to these questions from the standpoint of both workload and competency. To be more responsive to member needs, after thorough investigation, APS asked Galatti Travel Service if they would answer this correspondence and be more helpful than the society could be. This was accepted on a trial basis by both Galatti and APS.

As Richards points out, the best nominal all-purpose air fare currently available for continental US travel is the "Discover America" plan — although, in some circumstances when traveling as a large family group, the "Family Plan" might be even better. We find it surprising that many regular air travelers are not fully cognizant of the great assortment of excursion fares open to them. In any case, it should be common knowledge that air rates are set and controlled by government agreement, and no one agency or airline has a monopoly on exclusively low general fares. Contrary to Richards' interpretation of the *Bulletin* announcements, these excursion fares are available to all those who seek *guaranteed* transportation from any recognized travel agency; the announcements should be construed only as generally informative in this respect. What is intended is that APS

commends the Galatti Travel Service to the attention of the members, if they should desire to book reservations through the society. We feel that this is a fair quid-pro-quo in exchange for the nonremunerative advisory service to members that they provide, particularly since it decreases staff overhead and workload.

Recent discussions with Galatti officers have revealed that the volume of administrative work involved in answering APS inquiries is nowhere near compensated by what little sales are generated. This was an experiment for both Galatti and APS, and it is quite possible that Galatti will now withdraw from the arrangement unless some other more equitable arrangement can be developed. We can assure Richards that APS has caused no "enrichment" for Galatti to date — more to the contrary, in fact.

The society is continuing to explore with Galatti and other agencies plans that will provide better travel arrangements and less expensive transportation for APS members without making administrative costs for the APS prohibitive.

WILLIAM W. HAVENS JR.
Executive Secretary, APS

Who found Ξ starred?

The item "New Cascade Particle Completes 5/2- Octet," which appeared in the "Search and Discovery" section of *PHYSICS TODAY* (December, page 55), is incorrect and misleading in several respects. Jean Alitti and his coworkers (*Phys. Rev. Letters* **21**, 1119, 1968) are given credit for discovery of Ξ^* (1930) when in fact evidence for a Ξ^* state at this mass was first obtained by J. Badier and his group (*Phys. Letters* **16**, 171, 1965) several years ago and subsequently by G. A. Smith and J. S. Lindsey (*Proceedings of the Athens Second Topical Conference on Resonant Particles*, Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio, 1965, p. 251). Alitti et al have now confirmed the earlier observations with comparable statistics using a reaction free of overlapping resonance bands.

The interpretation of Ξ^* (1930) as a member of an SU(3) octet with $J^P = 5/2^-$ is a speculation (as acknowledged by Alitti et al) made by several people (see for example *Nucl. Phys.* **B3**, 10, 1967) on the basis of the masses and decay widths of the observed baryons. The J^P of Ξ^* (1930)

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