funds to support the publication, you may request support from [. . . name of journal or journal-supporting organization]. If your request is approved, it is understood that an appropriate acknowledgement will be included within the published paper."

In AIP and APS journals formal acknowledgement of publication support would supplement, but not alter, the recently announced new policies.

It is my opinion that the simple expedient of formal acknowledgement of publication support can accomplish several things. On the one hand authors with federal project grants capable of supporting costs of publication and departments with institutional grants for such things would prefer to use these funds for that purpose rather than formally admit in the published paper that they "pleaded poverty." (At present only one's editor knows for sure.) On the other hand the author and department that really can not pay the publication costs would be delighted, I believe, formally to acknowledge support of publication costs.

Perhaps if a substantial fraction of our scientific journals were to require inclusion of formal acknowledgement of publication support in those papers subsidized by the journals, an additional source of publication funds might develop. There is an attractive possibility, for example, that private foundations, industries and even federal agencies that do not have funds or inclination to support the massive costs of academic research might be willing or even eager to support publication of finished pieces of work that interest them.

I believe that support of publication costs (and acknowledgement of that support) could and should be viewed as independent of the support of the research itself. Were it to become more generally viewed in this way, additional funds and sources of funds might develop to strengthen generally the publication of science in the US.

KENNETH E. COLLINS
Williamsville, N. Y.

I wish to express my strong disapproval of the recent decision by the American Institute of Physics and the American Physical Society to delay publication of articles in *The Physical Review* and other physics journals if the authors can not pay the publication charges.

A scholarly scientific journal is, by definition, I believe, one in which all decisions concerning publication are based strictly on the merit of the article subject to reasonable limitations on length. A journal that treats articles differently depending on the affluence of the writer or his backers can no longer be considered an independent scholarly journal but rather some kind of advertising medium. In particular this decision implies that the journal is designed to serve the author or his backers rather than the readers.

I know of no other scholarly journals that have a policy of the type now adopted by the Amercian Physical Society. Can it be that we have become so accustomed to our recent prosperity that at the first sign of financial difficulty we are willing to abandon our principles as scholars?

LINCOLN WOLFENSTEIN
Carnegie-Mellon University

Excellence, truth and beauty

May I comment on your April editorial titled "The Practical Need for Beauty"?

Dirac and Einstein have always held that the search for beauty and the search for truth go hand in hand. Ugly theories are not likely to contain much valuable truth. Obviously this is a debatable point of view, but an editor (and the writer of an editorial) is certainly entitled to express his own point of view; if he has illustrious allies, so much the better.

I feel that to convey a sense of beauty, and of excitement, to all our students—ranging from physics majors to those nonscience students who are coming for a "look-see"—is one of the most important tasks facing us. To raise our standards of excellence or, as the editorial expresses it, to "encourage a few to achieve excellence" requires, first of all, that we attract to our field those who are intellectually curious and who are looking in college for something more than training for a career that promises a living. These students will be attracted to a field that is presented as high adventure for the human mind and that is relevant to the future of mankind as well. But these are precisely the same messages that I, for one, should like to convey to all my students, in-

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cluding those who will never elect physics as their professional field. To achieve these objectives, the teacher will have to apply high standards of excellence to his own presentation.

I concur with you that to treat physics as a "beautiful" subject should be foremost in our minds. I merely question that there is a dilemma between education addressed to the many and to the few. Rather I am inclined to see a dilemma between what is expected of us, the teachers of physics, and what we, frail humans that we are, can actually achieve.

PETER G. BERGMANN
Syracuse University

Dex in addition to brigg

I would like to make an addendum to the article by Calvin S. McCamy, "Units for Logarithmic Scales" (PHYSICS TODAY, April, page 42). In that paper the name "brigg" was proposed for the unit of one order to base 10. The name "decade" was discarded as confusing.

There is another term that is frequently used in astronomical literature: the name "dex." Thus a difference of 3.4 in the base-10 logarithm would be written "3.4 dex." I do not know whether or not this terminology is widely used in other fields, but it is sufficiently used in astronomy to merit definition in C. W. Allen's *Astrophysical Quantities*, 2nd ed., London (1955).

R. ERIK ZIMMERMANN
Michigan State University

Register and Registry

For several years I have participated in the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel—Physics and Astronomy, which is handled by the American Institute of Physics for the National Science Foundation.

Recently I found myself on the mailing list of an organization that calls itself "The National Registry" located in New York City. This is a profit-making employment agency that has chosen a name so similar to the National Register that it may be confused with that listing maintained under NSF auspices.

People should not be misled into sending information intended for the National Register to the employment agency.

G. TRUMAN HUNTER
Greenwich, Connecticut □