

difficult. This has caused major slow-downs in publishing several of the journals, especially *The Physical Review*, where in early June we were short eight people despite strenuous recruitment efforts. A new increase in salary levels on 1 June has helped significantly, and on 1 July we were back to normal staff levels; but new people have to be trained, and this takes time and effort from the more senior people so that improvement in schedules will be somewhat delayed. Our printers have had overload problems, too, with some very large issues such as the 784-page issue of *The Physical Review* for 25 Jan. A recent prolonged strike at one of our printers put extra loads on some of the other printers as well as on our editorial staff. As of 1 July we expect to publish eight issues of *The Physical Review* in July instead of the normal five. This will bring the time lag down from a peak of almost three months to around seven weeks but will still leave us a lot of catching up to do.

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Unreasonable hotel rooms

William W. Havens Jr's justification for the rejection of the Cleveland convention center as a possible meeting site (PHYSICS TODAY, May, page 9) is as interesting for what was omitted as what was said. While it is true that at a convention-center meeting, "No member would have the convenience of having the meeting in the same building where he is lodged," this is true for a large number of members at hotel meetings. The prices for rooms in the hotels in which the meetings are held are usually so high that those of us without unlimited expense accounts are forced to seek accommodations elsewhere. Undoubtedly, the cost of "complimentary space" made available to the society is reflected in the price of the hotel rooms. Hence, any realistic comparison of the relative costs of a Chicago or a Cleveland meeting should include the costs of individual hotel rooms. I for one would be more than willing to pay a higher registration fee if I could obtain a hotel room at more reasonable cost.

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