

letters

Obviously, these worthy and well informed gentlemen are in possession of a secret list of desperately understaffed liberal-arts and junior colleges. I urge them to declassify it immediately, as these places are difficult to find without the list. Of the 161 colleges in five countries that I have written to so far, none have made me an offer, and 81 liberal-arts and 13 junior colleges have sent letters of rejection.

It is particularly important that this list be made public, as the colleges on it are, apparently, too poor and desperate to fly to either Chicago or Washington—all the college representatives at the APS meetings there seemed to have more applicants than they could interview.

Because I do not know what a "highly complex, technology-oriented organization" is, I cannot say for sure that I have applied to any. I can say that 12 corporations and government agencies, including Westinghouse, RCA, and the Atomic Energy Commission must not be such organizations, for all have sent letters of rejection. Seemingly, the four technical employment agencies I have written to do not know the meaning of this term either. A more concrete definition, at least, would seem in order.

Name withheld

Inaccurate quote

In the report of the International Conference on the Science of Superconductivity (April, page 79) a comment on the invited talk by B. T. Matthias was inadvertently put into quotes in the manuscript sent to PHYSICS TODAY. Unfortunately, the quote did not accurately represent Matthias's views. The difference is substantial; the correct quote of Matthias's comment on the theorists' contributions to superconductivity reads:

"... Today, after 12 years of all these many excellent theoretical treatises one may ask: What are the actual experimental results with regard to the criterion for the occurrence of superconductivity or the increase in the superconducting transition temperature?"

Without exaggeration one must say, in effect, not a single result was achieved. While extremely successful in print, these papers were unable to predict any real superconductivity ever, and at the same time failed to raise any of the existing superconducting transition temperatures. Until this day, it has been impossible to verify a single prediction along these lines and yet we are told again and again that the problem has been solved and is fully understood. We are also told that

it is extremely difficult to predict transition temperatures or even superconductivity."

BRIAN B. SCHWARTZ
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Orear views criticized

I am irked by the attitudes expressed by Jay Orear in his letter (May, page 9). He implies that the universities are degrading themselves when they conduct research projects for DOD and operate ROTC programs.

When we all become so affluent and soft that we are not willing to contribute to the national security, we are finished as a nation. This is exactly what happened to the Roman Empire.

One of the most important aspects of DOD-sponsored research and the ROTC in our universities is the influence the universities can have on the military establishment. If these are eliminated, the military establishment will become a closed society with essentially no contact with the civilian establishment.

I also am tired of such cliches as "the establishment-controlled Council of the American Physical Society." As K. Ross Toole has so aptly stated in his article, "Time To Halt Campus Tyranny," which appeared in the *Billings Montana Gazette* on 8 Feb. 1970, "Establishment is nothing but a euphemism for Society." The "Establishment" that controls the Council of the American Physical Society is the membership of the American Physical Society.

VERNON M. ALBERS
Pennsylvania State University

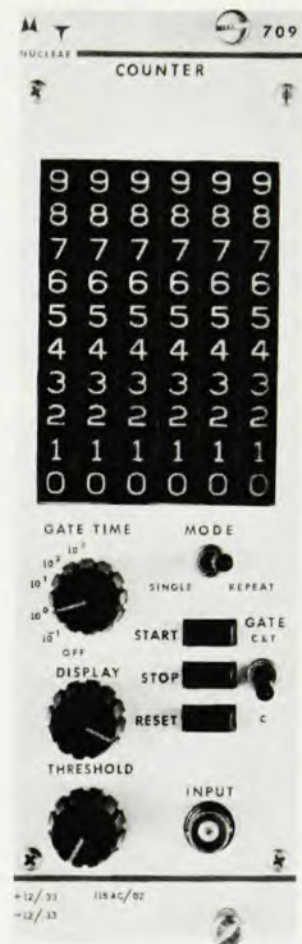
Orear mentions the "illegal" presence of American troops in Vietnam, the "illegal" bombing of North Vietnam, and the massacres at Song My and other places. He does not mention the illegal presence of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

These massacres that have taken place are indeed terrible things. History has shown that the longer any war is prolonged, the tendencies toward hatred and atrocities on either side increase. What Orear fails to mention is that the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Communists have used terror, atrocities and massacres all along as a means of general policy to cow these peoples into submission.

Just as the Nazis and Facists were in World War II, the Russian and Chinese Communists are cruel and brutal groups bent on world imperialism as they so often accuse us. However, the Nazis aimed at the domination of Europe and near Asia and the Japanese aimed at the domination of the Far East. At the present time the prime target of Russia



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letters

and China is the United States.

Unfortunately there is much crookedness and corruption in our government and military. These things should be corrected as much as possible. Nevertheless our government is quite enlightened compared to some other governments.

In spite of their faults, our government and military are the only two things that keep us from domination by Russia or China. If the Russians or the Chinese ever get over here, I am afraid that Orear will find that the students, radical groups, peace groups, and the establishment will all be in the same boat.

It is unfortunate that some groups bear so much hostility to the American military. This seems to me to be the height of folly. It is like a well developed athlete having resentment over his muscles.

R. M. CRANDALL
Charleston, West Virginia

THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: I agree with Albers that universities and scientists should contribute to national security, but in their own way. The universities can protect our society from within by providing a traditional haven for all shades of criticism and by opposing the forces that are tending to destroy us from within. It is not traditional for universities to be controlled by the "military establishment" in any way, or to be designing weapons, or to be training humans how to kill humans.

I just do not see how DOD-sponsored basic research in the university gives the university influence over military policy. It is difficult to control the military from the bottom up (except by mutiny or revolution). This is why our founding fathers intended that the military be controlled by civilians from the top down. Certainly a qualified civilian such as Herb York, Hans Bethe, George Rathjens, W. Panofsky or M. Goldberger as Secretary of Defense along with a qualified man as Commander-in-Chief could control the military.

I agree with Albers that the word "establishment" is overworked. But I do not agree that the membership of the American Physical Society controls the Council, and I would like to illustrate this with an example. A few months after the Democratic Convention the APS Council undercut the efforts of other professional societies by voting unanimously to hold our annual meeting in Chicago. Later, in a referendum of the membership, close to half of those who voted expressed a lack of confidence in the Council's decision. A truly representative Council would have been split over the Chicago decision.

How many of the Council are under 40? How many live and talk with students on a daily basis?

In his letter, Crandall takes exception to three of the dozen objectionable actions by the US military that I had listed. Nowhere did I compare the morality and legality of US actions to those of North or South Vietnam or any other government. Certainly if our country is to remain worth defending, we must not start using the same illegal and immoral tactics of those whom we oppose.

What disturbs me the most about Crandall's letter is the implication that by fighting the "Communists" in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, we are preventing them from "getting over here." A logical conclusion to this kind of reasoning is that it would be more effective to destroy these "cruel and brutal groups bent on world imperialism" at their source (which Crandall tells us is Russia and China). Why then waste our lives and money killing Vietnamese peasants, when we could instead be killing Russians and Chinese?

JAY OREAR
Cornell University

Air pollution at meetings

I recently attended the January and March meetings of the American Physical Society, and at every session I attended I had to change my seat at least once because of someone's smoking a cigar or pipe. I would like to make a small but real contribution to solving the air-pollution problem by asking the local committees that arrange these meetings to set aside special seating areas only for smokers, as in movie theaters.

I have checked with others and find that my irritation is not just a person idiosyncrasy but one felt by a real fraction of the membership.

Given the sometimes crowded conditions at well attended meetings, I believe it to be downright rude for a man to smoke a cigar when he is actually rubbing elbows with two people on either side of him in a lecture room or banquet hall. Here is a small but clear and present pollution problem, and an achievable proposal in environmental control that the APS (and other learned societies) can readily act on.

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