

Teaching high school in Texas

I would like to bring to the attention of those physicists who are considering careers in secondary education the availability of an accelerated program for obtaining certification to teach in the State of Texas.

Under the provisions of the Texas House Bill, HB 664, commonly known as the "Jamison Bill," the Texas State Board of Education has been directed to develop and publicize a program to facilitate the entry into public-school teaching of certain intelligent, mature, concerned individuals who have possessed a bachelor's degree for a period of three years or longer.

The key feature of this mode of certification is the university president's appointment of faculty evaluation teams, which have the authority to set the certification requirements for an individual based on a review of his credentials, experience and a personal interview.

The evaluation team at The University of Texas at Austin for certification to teach physics will include David Gavenda and Robert N. Little from the physics department. Both men are well known for their contributions in physics, and Little has recently served as president of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

This mode of certification is limited to those who have not had secondary teaching experience, so that applications for certification by this method must have been completed prior to the beginning of a candidate's teaching career. It is therefore suggested that those physicists who are considering teaching in Texas public schools next fall submit applications for certification this spring.

For certification application materials and instructions, individuals should write to:

Dean Lorrin Kennamer,
College of Education,
Re: Jamison Bill Certification in Physics,
The University of Texas at Austin,
Austin, Texas 78712

It is hoped that similar programs will soon be available at other Texas colleges and in other states.

It may also be of interest to those who have not yet heard the announce-



ment that the University of Wyoming will be offering an NSF-supported summer institute for PhD scientists interested in precollege science teaching careers. Information can be obtained by writing to the Physics Department, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

Robert Beck Clark
The University of Texas at Austin

The "universal" scientist

Your March editorial (page 88) asked, "How can we spread the word to the youth culture . . ." The answer: Scientists can become humanists and use their creativity to "make things better."

The sad truth is that a vast number of scientists and technologists behave like machines and apply their abilities to any problem they are asked to solve. Who asks the scientists to solve problems? That part of society which has money and power: the so-called "military-industrial complex." What has science and technology accomplished for humanity?

► Beautiful hospitals where one can be cured of deadly diseases.

► Modern schools and comfortable

dormitories where sometimes the creative inquiry is dulled beyond salvation.

► An ever increasing number of appliances: TV sets that spew forth inane programs; useful washing machines, driers, garbage disposals, and so on.

► Cars for everyone, polluting the atmosphere; more and more highways, always cutting into the greenness of nature.

► Faster and noisier airplanes, ever more disruptive of the ecology.

And industry. Ah, Industry! Chemical plants that kill all the surrounding trees and fill the towns with fumes; hydroelectric plants that require dams which destroy forever the wild beauty of fast-running waters.

And the military. Ah, the Military! What has science done for the children of Vietnam?

Yes—you have heard it all before, you know the endless list better than I do. And I have heard the self-righteous answers to each question. We all know that "the other side" is unscrupulous, and their scientists are building bigger bombs and rockets, therefore "we have no choice . . ." Goodbye humanity!

Youth is beginning to realize the truth of "The Universal Soldier." Each man is responsible for his actions. I will be proud to be called a scientist only when scientists and technicians are human enough to realize that same truth and assume responsibility for their "creative work in the real world."

Daniel E. Harris
*Harvard College Observatory
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Wigner defended

The unfavorable review by Marc Ross of *Survival and the Bomb: Methods of Civil Defense*, the collection of essays edited by Eugene Wigner (November, page 51), presents a better picture of the views of those, like Ross, who seem to be against any defense, civil or otherwise, than of the ideas presented by Wigner and his co-authors.

Is civil defense necessary? Ross dismisses Wigner's concern with Russian aggression as "cold war rhetoric," a comment that will seem strange to