

letters

same year than Barash-Schmidt had received in 1969. However, since then the number of citations to Particle Data Group articles in the year of publication has decreased markedly, to about 7 per year from the 1969-70 average of 43. Since *Physics Letters* receives far more citations than RMP generally (a ratio of 2.4 in 1969), I think it unlikely that the former journal's immediacy index was significantly affected by the inclusion of the Particle Data Group's article in 1972.

HERBERT INHABER
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Canada

I was disappointed that the *Journal of the Electrochemical Society* was not listed in Inhaber's study.

I learned about the society's important contributions in my freshman year at East Texas State University, when I was asked to present a paper at a society meeting.

The contributions extensively covered in the journal are in such fields as solid-state technology, including luminescence and semiconductors, corrosion, and electronics.

Surely such a journal would be cited enough to be included in the study, unless many physicists do not know such a society exists. I will admit, the journal is specialized, and does lean toward applied research.

Anyone interested in the Electrochemical Society may write:

Electrochemical Society
P.O. Box 2071
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
GLEN SPIELBAUER
Quincy, Illinois

Status of women

The Committee on the Status of Women of the American Physical Society conducts several programs which we would like to bring to the attention of the physics community.

One of the Committee's principal activities is an employment information clearing house, which is operated by Dr Mary Shoaf, 335 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017. Women physicists seeking employment should register by writing to Shoaf. Prospective employers are urged to send job descriptions to her, allowing sufficient time to circulate the information to potential candidates. A model resume is being prepared to serve as a guide for women who need assistance in presenting their qualifications for the positions they are seeking. Copies will be available from Shoaf at the address given above.

We would also like to remind pro-

spective employers of the "Roster of Women in Physics," which can be ordered from the Placement Service, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017. This document also contains some statistical information; more information is available in the report of the Committee on Women in Physics, the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*, Series 11, 7, No. 6, p. 740, June 1972.

A number of people have proposed that the Committee concern itself actively in legal activities in connection with grievances arising from unfair employment practices. The Committee does not consider that it can effectively provide legal services or advice, but we are prepared to give information about the existing laws, and about organizations that can give specific advice about legal matters.

We hope these activities will be of practical use to women physicists, and that by helping to establish equal opportunity they will also serve the community at large. We welcome any suggestions about ways this committee can be of service.

MILDRED WIDGOFF
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

NSF support for studies

In the "APS News" section of the June issue (page 59) a note appears describing the APS Summer Study on Reactor Safety. The following facts relating to this study should be of interest to the physics community.

The APS study was developed as a result of a meeting called by H. Guyford Stever, Director of the National Science Foundation, with presidents of most of the major scientific societies of the nation. Stever expressed his interest in improving communications between the science societies and the Foundation, and in encouraging the societies to expand their capabilities to provide scientific advice to the government. The APS responded vigorously to this call and developed two proposals; one is the Summer Study on Reactor Safety, held in August of 1974 in Los Alamos, and the other is a study of the physicist's role in energy conservation, held in July 1974 at Princeton.

Both of these studies were extremely policy relevant and are being supported by the NSF Office of Energy R&D Policy, an office established by Stever to fulfill his new responsibilities (as of 1 July 1973) as Science Adviser to the President.

To ensure maximum coordination within the Federal Government, the Office of Energy R&D Policy arranged that both studies be jointly funded with the agency having primary responsibili-

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ty in each area—the AEC in the case of the Reactor Safety Study and the Federal Energy Administration in the case of the Energy Conservation Study.

The Reactor Safety Study is a classic example of the ability of the NSF to provide support for objective policy analysis in a critical and controversial area. We anticipate that the APS study will provide uniquely useful input in the continuing national debate over the conditions necessary if the public is to have assurance that nuclear energy systems have received intensive and independent scrutiny.

The NSF Office of Energy R&D Policy, using the resources of the National Science Foundation, is endeavoring through these grants and through others to develop such independent assessments and analyses in all key areas of energy R&D. Through this process we believe the science advisory function may become increasingly effective in affecting public policy determination.

PAUL P. CRAIG
Acting Director
Office of Energy R&D Policy
National Science Foundation
Washington, D.C.

Crackpots unite?

As evidenced by Samuel Goudsmit's and Jack Sarfatt's remarks (September, page 9 and page 13) there is a serious problem in physics regarding creative, speculative research. The "establishment" institutions and fashions do undoubtedly discourage it. This has always been the case (Galileo, Einstein, and so on), and will always be the case!

The answer does not lie, therefore, in kicking the system, or calling conventions to discuss the problem. What we need is a publication outlet for speculative ideas, so they don't die unrecorded, and honest appraisal by the creative individual of his willingness to pay the price of creativity. The first requirement is currently being served very well by the *Foundations of Physics* and the *International Journal of Theoretical Physics*. Don't even try *Physical Review* or *Physical Review Letters*! You only invite ego destruction. By concentrating the speculative papers, we also make it easier for those interested to keep up with the spectrum of current mental wanderings.

The establishment promises glory and honor (hero worship) to anyone who actually succeeds in finding an important new insight, though it spits on you while you are trying! Maybe this is as it should be. If you dare to break out of the mold and commit yourself to unorthodox, unsafe, likely totally unproductive investigations, then you

must be prepared to make a living away from the establishment inner circle of theoretical physics. You just can't have both unless you get your PhD at age 16 or 18 (recognized smarts, not creativity). This is why creative contributions are rare in science and other fields as well. You must give up a lot and know that most likely you will not come up with anything of lasting value to basic knowledge.

Perhaps Sarfatt's physics *Ecclaeia* (spiritual community) would give such "deviates" a shoulder to cry on, but I doubt that it would increase their success. They would do better to face the brutal realities of their options and plan accordingly.

JAMES D. EDMONDS JR
San Diego State University
San Diego, California

Teaching the deaf

In the October 1973 issue (page 23) there is an interesting article by Arnold Strassenburg, "Preparing Students for Physics Related Jobs." The article effectively makes the point that courses in interdisciplinary areas and more applied research should be included in the academic programs of students of physics.

Prominent in the article was mention of an interdisciplinary program pursued by a student in physics, with an illustration of his work applied to the teaching of deaf children. In the article it is mentioned that at the university where the work was done the interdisciplinary master's degree program has students participate in biology, chemistry, engineering, physiology, and physics.

No mention is made of work being done either in psychology or in the area of communication disorders (to include education of the deaf). It is apparent that if students in physics are to attempt to apply their work to areas of education, psychology, communication disorders and similar fields, a truly interdisciplinary program should include blocks of work in these related areas.

Table 2 of the article indicates that there is enrollment by physics students in areas of education, although to a minor extent in various academic institutions. It is also noticeable in figure 2 of the article that a background in psychology appears to be an area desirable among prospective students by about half of the physics departments.

At my home university, and I believe at others also, there are opportunities for students in physics to pursue studies in other fields. Especially pertinent is work in the behavioral sciences when the physics student wishes to apply his knowledge of physics to educational, communication, or behavioral problems.

The intent of this letter is to call to

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