

## letters

the attention of advisors of students of physics that there is an area of technical competence, of academic endeavor and of related research that should be drawn upon to a much greater extent than at present for students of physics. This is especially so if they wish to be engaged in interdisciplinary academic training, and especially if they wish to make effective application of their fundamental knowledge in fields of physics to the solution of human problems, such as problems in the behavioral and communication sciences. It would be unfortunate for students of physics to delve into these other areas without drawing upon the existing knowledge, expertise, research and facilities in the area of communication disorders usually housed in university programs in speech pathology, audiology and deaf education.

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## Impractical engineers

I think P. Tannenbaum brought home the point very nicely about the latent ability of physicists to function as effective problem solvers (March, page 13). I wish to elaborate on his statement: "Armed with this solid foundation and an ability to read and think all physicists can become problem solvers, . . ."

In my opinion there are in this world as many impractical engineers as there are useless (from the point of view of societal needs) physicists. This is especially true in developing countries because of inadequate facilities for training engineers and scientists. In my opinion, in this day and age of energy crisis, environmental pollution, overpopulation and so on, developing countries like India (or for that matter even developed countries) can ill-afford scientists and engineers who are dreamers and non-problem solvers. In the lights of these observations I think that the word "physicists" in Tannenbaum's above-mentioned statement should be replaced by the words "scientists and engineers."

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## Correction

October, cover note, page 5: The first sentence should read: An ultrasonic pressure wave probes a perforated steel plate to form a visible image on a sonosensitive plate. □

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