

letters

plied Physics within the APS?

2. How can we encourage more participation by industrial physicists in the affairs of the APS, especially at its regional and annual meetings?

3. Should the APS, through a special division, or in other ways, sponsor more meetings, workshops, studies, and so forth, devoted to applied physics?

4. Should we (and, if so, how can we) encourage more effort on those applied-physics problems that cross conventional disciplinary lines?

5. Should APS be more active in sponsoring highly specialized meetings on topics that have heavy physics involvement, such as

- particle accelerators
- magnetism
- biophysical research
- instrumentation for medicine
- communications

6. Should the APS offer to assist federal and state agencies, private industries, and universities to organize and manage studies and workshops aimed at determining and evaluating optional courses of action in the solution of problems closely coupled to physics?

7. What role should APS play in the task of assessing the implications of those technologies that are based on physics, and in encouraging the development of information required to make those assessments?"

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the APS membership to enter into the discussions on above and related questions. We will welcome your ideas and advice. They will be made available to and affect our report to the President and Council of the APS if we hear from you before 1 September of this year.

Please send your communications to Dr James Bradbury, Secretary, APS Ad Hoc Committee on Applied Physics, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544.

LOUIS ROSEN

Chairman, APS Ad Hoc Committee
on Applied Physics

Pauli lectures

As translators of the newly published English edition of the *Pauli Lectures on Physics*, we were, generally, quite pleased with the review appearing on page 53 of the December 1973 issue. However, we feel that your reviewers, by virtually omitting any discussion of the origins of the *Pauli Lectures*, have produced an incomplete review, which may, perhaps, foster a misleading impression regarding these volumes. The review inadequately informs the reader

that the *Pauli Lectures* are based on student notes, and, furthermore, does not even mention that the edition in question has been translated from German.

For the sake of completeness, we would like to point out that the six volumes in question are translations of notes on lectures delivered by Wolfgang Pauli at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich. The notes were prepared by his assistants and collaborators, and were intended to serve as an aid to students who took his courses. The six sets of notes were originally available on a limited scale from the Verlag des Vereins der Mathematiker und Physiker an der E.T.H., Zürich, and no wider distribution was anticipated. Following Pauli's death, it was decided that the notes could serve a useful function to a much larger group of physicists and students. As a result, the original German notes were reprinted, translated into Italian, and now into English.

In preparing the English translation, we attempted to preserve the character and style of the original German notes as nearly as we felt was consistent with an understandable and reasonably fluent use of English. This was often difficult because the German notes are frequently quite informal, reflecting the lecture style for which Pauli was famous. The degree of our success may be determined from your reviewers, who write, "One is rarely made aware of the fact that these are lecture notes—the text is coherent and reads smoothly."

We hope that the English edition of the *Pauli Lectures on Physics* will indeed prove to be a useful addition to the literature.

H. R. LEWIS

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico

S. MARGULIES

University of Illinois at Chicago Circle
Chicago, Illinois

Papers on weapons

In July, 1973, I submitted an article concerned with radiative transfer in the atmosphere to the *Journal of Applied Physics* for publication. This work was supported financially by one of the agencies of the US Department of Defense, and this was acknowledged in the manuscript. I quote, in its entirety, the letter I received from the editor, Gilbert J. Perlow:

"After some editorial consideration it has been decided that your manuscript (our #R6178) is not suitable for publication in the *Journal of Applied Physics*. We have in times past generally not felt it to be within our province to publish results of weapons research, but to recommend in-

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letters

stead that they be submitted to more suitable and specialized publication media. This rejection is not to be construed as a comment on the technical quality of your manuscript, as that is a subject which we shall not now need to examine."

Following receipt of this letter, I submitted the manuscript to another (non-AIP) journal, and it was accepted for publication.

As a dues-paying (and page-charge-paying) member of the APS, I feel the society, and its editors, have no right to accept or reject technical papers because of political or emotional considerations. Any paper should stand or fall on its technical merits. The recommendation by Perlow to seek more "suitable and specialized publication media" is a convenient excuse. I am confident that a large number of the readers of the *Journal of Applied Physics* are engaged in weapons research (check the federal budget in this area).

I fully understand the decision by some of my colleagues in the physics community not to work on defense-related projects. By the same token, they should respect my right to use my physics training to any area of application I choose. I would like to know if any other members of the APS have suffered the same discrimination I have.

G. C. POMRANING
Science Applications, Inc.
La Jolla, California

THE EDITOR COMMENTS: The title of Pomraning's manuscript as submitted was: "Early Time Air Fireball Model for Near Surface Energy Release." The decision not to publish was neither emotional nor political, but exactly for the reason given in my letter quoted above.

A very minor point: the *Journal of Applied Physics* is not a publication of the APS, and I am not one of "its editors."

GILBERT J. PERLOW
Past Editor
Journal of Applied Physics

Books for Africa and Asia

We have received a good response to Abdus Salam's letter of last December 1972 (page 9) requesting that spare physics journals and books be shipped to physics department libraries in developing countries.

Many volumes of journals have been sent either to G. Shaw in the US or to me here at the Centre. These have been forwarded to a number of physics departments in Africa and Asia. May

replies have been received requesting more information. We thank all of you who have expressed an interest or have contributed already to this very useful project.

Because of the substantial number of contributions we feel that it is necessary to simplify the procedure and reduce the shipping costs involved. Thus, please send directly to me a list of the physics journals and books that you want to donate, and I will then send you an address in a developing country to send them to.

Please also keep in mind that we are more interested in complete, or almost complete, sets of journals, not in single copies.

L. FONDA
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics
Trieste, Italy

Encounter with Einstein

Only once in my life did I meet Albert Einstein personally. This was in 1927 in the Physical Colloquium at the University of Berlin. Among those present were Walther Nernst, Fritz Haber, Max von Laue and Max Planck.

The problem of gravitation was under discussion. I asked Einstein, "Why should centrifugal forces at high rotational velocities not be useful for generating strong gravitational fields?" Thereupon, Einstein, almost angrily, answered: "Das ist der Transversale Doppler-Effekt." ("This is the transversal Doppler Effect.")

Hearing this oracle-like statement, which I did not understand, I remained speechless. I felt like Papageno in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, who sings: "Der Mann, der kann von Unglück sagen; denn seine Sprache ist dahin!" (This man can truly speak of misfortune, for he has lost his speech!)

Today I realize what he meant: masses rotating in great or in small circles follow geodesic lines, along which attracting and repelling forces are balanced.

HANS M. CASSEL
Miami Beach, Florida

Corrections

May, pages 69-71: In the letter from Jack Sarfatti, equation 1 should read:

$$m/m^* \geq (m^*/M)^{1/3}$$

and the term on the right-hand-side of equation 2 should be 10^{-13} cm. Also the last three lines of page 69 should read: "... the smallest possible mass for a gravitational bound state of black holes at $t = 0$..." and the fifth line from the end of this letter should refer to "hadron pairs, lepton pairs and photons..." □

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