

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
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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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