

letters

tion biographies for the last five years, I have found several people now identified as members of the Jason group of Pentagon consultants. None of these men mentioned Jason in their list of credits, and only one of them (M. L. Goldberger) acknowledged any involvement at all with the Department of Defense. By way of contrast, three did choose to list their consultancies with the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (F. J. Dyson, W. K. H. Panofsky, S. Weinberg).

In a letter to me, explaining why my 1969 proposal was rejected by the APS Executive Committee, then President L. W. Alvarez wrote: "I do not see how one can find a proper cutoff point for information if one does not restrict it to information concerning one's ability to serve the Physical Society. I think that if I happened to be a member of the Board of Deacons of the local Presbyterian Church, it would be none of the Physical Society's business. I feel the same way about my directorship on the board of the Hewlett-Packard Company, which is known to most of my friends and associates."

The APS's new ventures into the national political mill make it imperative that we recognize the difference between the physics interests of a local church and those of a 500-million-dollar-per-year electronics corporation. And it is high time we broke down those barriers of secrecy surrounding the leaders of the physics establishment, whereby their own "friends and associates" know of their manifold connections but the rest of us are kept in ignorance.

CHARLES SCHWARTZ
University of California
Berkeley

Selling yourself

I think we can get an idea of the present state of our profession from the instructions sent to applicants by the APS Doctoral Employment information Service, which contained examples of what were likely to be "effective" and ineffective resumé. The "good" resumé, besides being a bit more specific, contained phrases like: "I enjoy teaching and have a flair for it," "I have developed a successful new approach" which "heightened student interest" and was "well received by both students and faculty," "The challenge was...", etc. These seem to be examples of a technique, well known in the advertising industry¹, of using words and phrases that convey no information, or, at best convey the applicant's opinion of himself or his opinion about others' opinion of him, but which nevertheless will elicit a positive emotional response. What

they seem to be telling us is that if we are going to survive in today's catastrophic job market, we've got to sell ourselves as if we were selling vacuum cleaners door to door. Since this statement is almost certainly true, I can find no fault with the Doctoral Employment Information Service for telling us so, except perhaps to note that since job hunting is a zero-sum game, any advice or advantage given to all competitors really leaves each one exactly where he was before with respect to the others. What is saddest, however, for the future of our profession is the fact that the best vacuum-cleaner salesmen do not necessarily make the best physicist or physics teachers, and even worse, the best physicists do not necessarily make good vacuum-cleaner salesmen.

Reference

1. C. P. Wrighter, *I Can Sell You Anything*, Ballantine Books, New York (1973).

ROBERT J. YAES
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's

Biographical addendum

In the July issue (page 51) Milton Burton reviews my recent book, *Radiation of Chemistry of Monomers, Polymers, and Plastics* (Marcel Dekker, 1974). In the last paragraph of his review he seems to doubt that I actually worked at the Metallurgical Laboratory of the University of Chicago.

The old Metallurgical Laboratory was the forerunner of what is now the Argonne National Laboratory. The fact of my employment could readily be checked by writing or calling the personnel department of the latter.

Burton also seems to question the fact that I worked with Farrington Daniels at the Metallurgical Laboratory. Daniels is not alive to speak to this point, but I can affirm that he and I did have a warm and cordial relationship at the laboratory. That was a happy time in the early part of our marriage for my wife and myself, and our first child, Virginia, was born at the Lying-In Hospital of the University of Chicago.

JOSEPH E. WILSON
Bishop College
Dallas, Texas

Coming in April—

Special issue on

SURFACE PHYSICS

a little A-300 goes a long way.



In high frequency transmission. RF power generation for industrial and research processes. RFI/EMI and general laboratory applications, too.

The Model A-300 is a totally solid state power amplifier, covering the frequency range of 0.3 to 35MHz with a gain of 55dB. Capable of delivering 300 watts of linear Class A power and up to 500 watts in the CW and pulse mode, the A-300 is the ultimate in reliability.

Although the unit is perfectly matched to a 50 ohm load, it will deliver its full output power to any load (from an open to a short circuit) without oscillation or damage.

Complete with power supply, RF output meter and rack mount, the A-300 weighs a mere 89 pounds and operates from ordinary single phase power.

High power portability goes a long way for \$5350.

For further information or a demonstration, contact ENI, 3000 Winton Road South, Rochester, New York 14623. Call 716-473-6900 or TELEX 97-8283 ENI ROC

ENI

The World's Leader
in Solid State
Power Amplifiers