

obituaries

ics. He recognized the desirability of combining this with education in nuclear engineering. The project was therefore transferred in 1958 to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where it is today. Recognizing that the scope of nuclear engineering is wider than that of neutron and reactor physics alone, Gaerttner encouraged the development of a department that included other fields of both basic and applied research.

A large research facility, several hundred publications (over 70 by Gaerttner himself) and research reports and, in particular, over 100 graduate nuclear engineers in industry, academia and government service, attest to the wisdom of that move.

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William Ross

William H. Ross, professor of physics at the University of Massachusetts, died on 24 February at the age of 65. He had been a faculty member at that university for nearly 42 years.

Ross earned his doctorate from Yale University in 1934. For four years during the 1950's he taught all the astronomy classes at the University of Massachusetts, and eventually recruited others to teach astronomy in the combined physics and astronomy department. Generally regarded as enthusiastic and committed to his students, he was named University of Massachusetts Distinguished Teacher of the Year in 1962.

Hubert Heffner

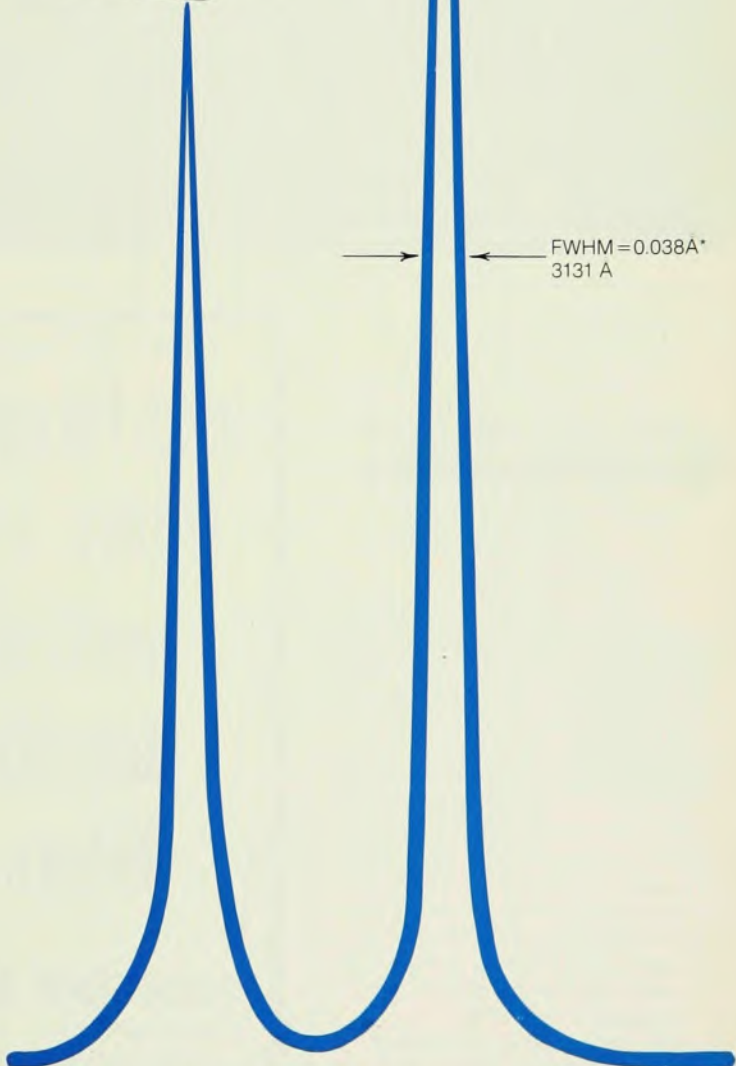
Hubert Heffner, member of the National Science Board and chairman of the applied physics department at Stanford University, died on 1 April. He was 50 years old.

Heffner specialized in electron beam focusing, noise theory, parametric amplifiers and quantum electronics. During 1969-71 he served as deputy director of the Office of Science and Technology, and in 1972 President Nixon appointed him to a six-year term on the National Science Board. A member of the Stanford faculty since 1954, Heffner was a consultant to the State Department, a member of the general advisory committee of the Atomic Energy Commission and a member of the Science Policy Working Group of the US-USSR Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. □

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