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letters

spectral and angular distributions of the "synchrotron radiation" and proved the absence of interferential quenching of one electron by the radiation of other electrons orbiting in a circle. This calculation obviously precedes Blewett's (Phys. Rev. 69, 87, 1946). It should be noted that the work of Arzimovich and Pomeranchuk was well known to many physicists and was cited, for example, in the papers by J. Schwinger (Phys. Rev. 75, 1912, 1949) and F. R. Elder, R. V. Langmuir, H. C. Pollock (Phys. Rev. 74, 52, 1948).

A. P. GRINBERG

A. F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute
Leningrad, USSR

Cat Doggerel

Who killed Schrödinger's cat?
Is this truly where physics is at?
Is all our power and intellectual pride
Hung up upon this catricide?

Why does this heinous felony feline
Cause such confusion to be mine?
Why can't I more clearly see
What each psi function says to me?

Who did this dastard act so shabby
On some poor and cuddly tabby?
Was it a wave or was it a thing
That was behind the lethal sting?

Doesn't there exist a philosopher's
stone
That will clarify and thus atone?
Till then we can only hope and pray
Nobody rats to the ASPCA.

HAROLD J. MOROWITZ
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

A physicist in politics

Your October editorial entitled "The most fundamental problem" called attention to the need for greater dialogue between scientists and political leaders, and for greater participation by scientists in the political process. Few scientists get elected to state or national legislatures, and so their personal presence and insights are not significant factors in the legislative process—certainly not comparable to lawyers' influence, to name another profession.

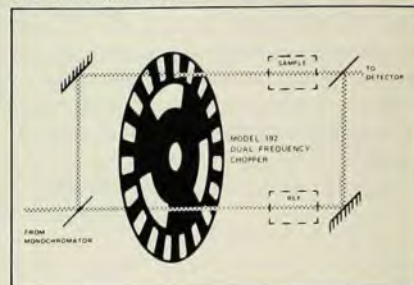
Most scientists are as ignorant of the political process, as politicians are of scientific processes. Many scientists could perform a great public service by becoming educated regarding the political process going on around them—by personal participation in it. Reading about it is similar to reading a book on how to swim. You learn how to be politically effective through participation.

My personal experience suggests that we scientists may play a significant role

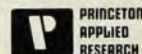
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by facilitating the democratic process—quite apart from the content of the process which focuses upon candidates and issues. Often the content is rotten because the process is cumbersome, unfair, and/or out of date. A systems analysis clearly suggests priority attention to improving the structure of the process. It appears to me that scientifically trained citizens may contribute much in this area.

I hold a PhD degree in physics and am an associate professor of physics in a small liberal-arts college. My political involvement has focused on facilitating the political process. Iowa has a precinct-caucus and convention process for selecting delegates to the National Convention. Through grass-roots participation I became known and trusted as a person. Then I served as parliamentarian and chief teller at county, district and state conventions. Next I served as secretary to county platform committees, a state party-reform committee, State Rules Committee, the 1974 State Convention, the State Central Committee and a special committee to reform the platform development process. In all these capacities I have taken advantage of my training in systematic procedures, structured processes, and accurate descriptions.

I have not participated in politics as a scientist. Many of my political associates do not even know that I am a scientist. I am confident, however, that my judgment now carries more political weight regarding science-policy questions than it would apart from my recent political service in facilitating the overall political process.

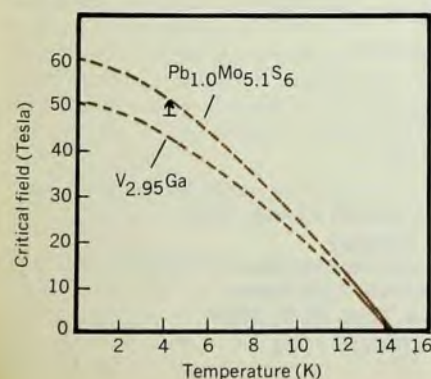
PAUL A. SMITH

Secretary, Iowa Democratic Party
Grand Rapids, Iowa

Corrections

November, page 109—In the New Products item describing the MP-1026A potentiostat, the quantities "1100V" (mentioned three times) and "1500 mA" should read "100V" and "500 mA" respectively.

December, page 11—Figure (see below) referred to in letter entitled "High field superconductor" was omitted.



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