

sian scientific literature. His translations were found to have a meticulous precision, which earned him a reputation with editors as "the man to get" for the important works, particularly those in plasma and high-energy physics. Perhaps his most famous contribution is the six-volume series, "Reviews of Plasma Physics," edited by M. A. Leontovich and translated from the Russian by Lashinsky. The classic early Russian papers in this field were made available to the English-speaking scientific community through his work long before the subject achieved its modern popularity.

Less well-known was the fact that he had played piano in the Army dance bands and in the big bands at the end of his Army career. Here he crossed paths with, and became the friend of, Charlie Mingus, who was later to become an important figure on the progressive jazz scene. Lashinsky was immensely proud of this friendship; to Mingus he was the "Professor."

Lashinsky was preparing a book on nonlinear periodic phenomena from a graduate physics course he gave at Maryland at the time of his death. His Institute colleagues hope to see to the eventual publication of this work.

L. C. KRISHER
T. J. ROSENBERG
University of Maryland

V. Robert Stull

V. Robert Stull was tragically killed by a truck while jogging in Santa Barbara last December. He was 49 years old.

Stull's distinguished career in physics and optics began with his graduation from the University of Scranton in 1953. He received his PhD in 1958 from the University of Pittsburgh and then joined the technical staff of the Aeronutronic Division of the Ford Motor Company. During these years at Ford he made significant contributions in the field of radiation transfer and infrared physics. He formulated one of the earliest models for the emission and scattering by solid particulates in flames and rocket exhausts. To this day, his work remains the standard reference in this area, as well as in the absorption of infrared radiation by Earth's atmosphere. He joined Defense Research Corporation (Flow General) in 1961 where he remained until 1970. Stull worked extensively on various government-funded programs, primarily relating to infrared and atmospheric physics. He later joined Science Spectrum as vice-president for advanced technology, where he directed a major effort in biophysics. This latter work laid the foundation for a new and rapid means for determining

suitable antibiotics for the treatment of critically ill patients. During the past six years Stull worked for the TEMPO Division of General Electric.

Stull was truly a Renaissance man of industrial physics. He was able to move rapidly into new areas of science and make significant contributions in relatively short periods of time. He was a hard task master for his staff, but always had their respect and admiration by the example of hard work that he set. I shall always remember Stull's repeated allusion to the fact that the nice things people say about us make us feel glad, but usually it is the disagreeable things they say that make us think. All of us who worked with him were enriched by his presence. Bob will be greatly missed by all of us.

Philip J. Wyatt
*Science Spectrum
Santa Barbara, Cal.*

John W. Preiss

John Preiss died suddenly on 20 March 1980 at the age of 57. A pioneer in radiation biophysics, he was a physicist of the old tradition. He was first appointed to the physics department of the University of Delaware in 1962 and became a full professor in 1971. During that time he discovered the unique effect of the phenomenal increase of turbidity of RNA solutions to which basic globular proteins, structurally modified by heat or radiation, had been added. Out of this came the discovery that basic proteins interact with polyribonucleotides to form enormous light-scattering centers. For homopolymers, at a critical ratio to protein, the scattering power is especially high. Preiss saw in this a way to observe the action of temperature in effecting the change from a stacked-base structure to random coils; all this with simple and inexpensive equipment. Preiss clearly believed that the laws and beauty of nature are not hidden inside expensive instruments.

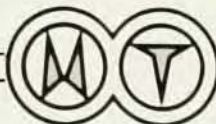
Immediately after World War II he entered Yale University on the GI Bill. As an undergraduate, he attracted the attention of his mathematics and physics professors with very original observations, put in characteristically refreshing language, on the subject under discussion. He went on to do graduate work at Yale under R. B. Setlow and obtained his PhD degree for studies in the vacuum ultraviolet.

A first-rate scientist, Preiss habitually approached a problem by first appraising the over-all situation and second, by carefully considering seemingly peripheral details that could easily be overlooked. Such an approach frequently yielded a rich har-

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