

in addition be an adequate means for scientific exchange.

Furthermore, Esperanto is a very flexible language. It has more words than Latin (even more than English) and allows adaptation to very fine differences in meaning, with the added advantage that every Esperantist will understand these differences (that is, achieved by an ingenious system of prefixes and affixes). Esperanto can easily create new words, at least as easy as any other language—including names for scientific objects.

The amount of reading material available now in Esperanto may approach or even surpass that in Latin. This includes much high-quality material, because many of the masterworks of international literature have long ago been translated into Esperanto. Excellent teaching material, using a variety of methods, is in existence; some of its uses no other language than Esperanto itself, other books are based on all leading modern languages (including Japanese and Chinese).

Referring to Barr's suggestion: Experience shows that by first learning Esperanto, the interest in other languages is often increased, and access to them facilitated—Latin included.

HANS DOLEZALEK
Alexandria, Virginia

More on physics spirit

In his letter (August, page 62) Julius Sumner Miller stated that there was once-upon-a-time in his own younger years another atmosphere where the spirit of physics prevailed. He thinks it is now all gone. The position-open ads make him laugh! I disagree.

"PhD required..." I have.

"Good lecturing ability..." I have. student evaluation to prove it.

"Strong commitment to teach undergraduate courses..." exactly what I am doing right now.

"Commitment to research..." I have been doing it. Several publications can attest to that.

"The candidate will be measured by his ability to teach at all levels—lower and upper, undergraduate and graduate—while carrying on effective research..." If given an opportunity, I am confident that is attainable.

The problem is not that no one is qualified, it is entirely opposite! Too many people are qualified but yet the number of openings is only one among 100 applicants. For a young PhD, the competition is extremely keen. I am teaching in a small college on the East Coast and enjoy doing research with the help of two to three students in the laser spectroscopy and microelectronics area. The undergraduates told me they really like my courses and the

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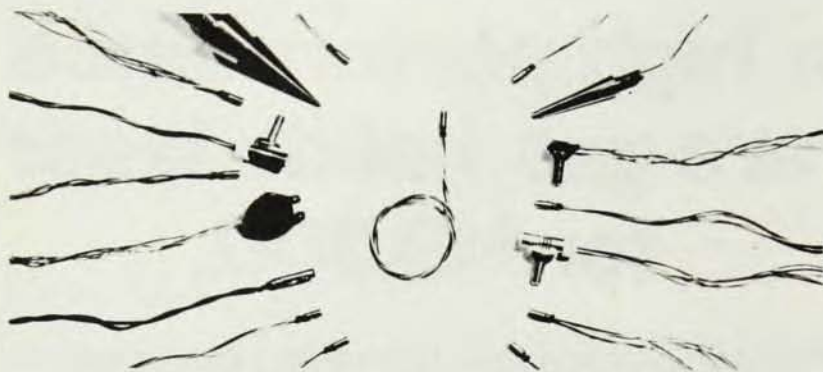
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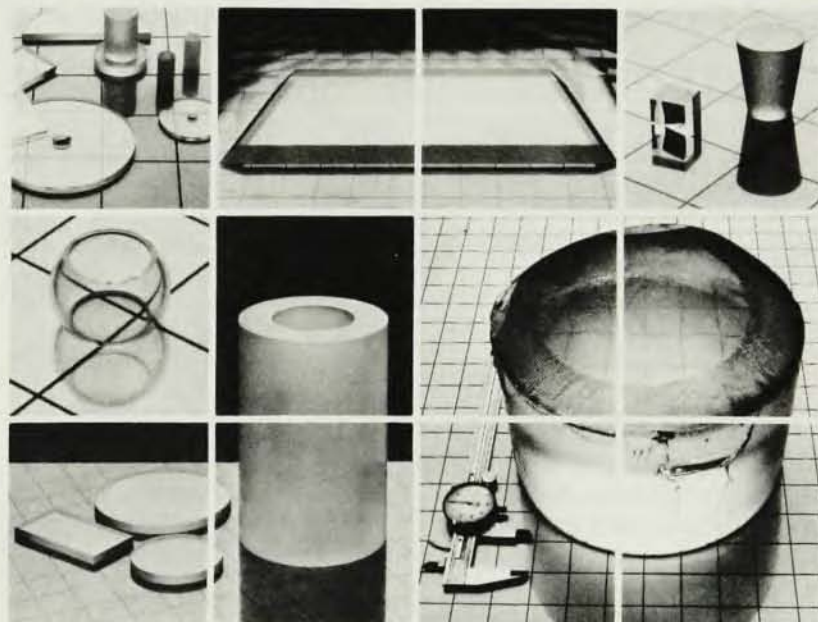
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letters

spirit of physics here. I do not believe the sole criterion for doing research is at a big school with a lot of money. You can do both teaching and research in a small college if you try hard enough. May all the young assistant professors survive!

DONALD K. HSU
Leonia, New Jersey

9/8/80

Inventive company

John Gilman's Guest Comment ("Inventions and Corporate Size," October, page 9) is informative. Gilman's Table 2 shows Stauffer Chemical to be one of the leaders in "inventivity" (number of patents per sales dollar). It is noteworthy that of the 15 highest inventivity companies listed in Table 2, Stauffer ranks third in patents per research \$.

Of those fifteen companies, all but two (Robertshaw Controls and Illinois Tool Works) are among the Fortune 500. It is interesting that these two have the highest patents per research dollar (109 and 123, respectively). Stauffer Chemical leads among the Fortune 500 companies with 36 patents per research dollar, while the median among the 15 Inventivity Leaders is Motorola at 20.

Perhaps because Stauffer Chemical has shown this performance, it is worth emphasizing that the name shown throughout the article is incorrect: not *Stouffer* but *Stauffer*.

LESLIE G. POLGAR
Stauffer Chemical Company
Westport, Connecticut

10/31/80

Reaction to new format

On this sad day following the election it may surprise you that anyone would bother to write a letter taking exception to the new PHYSICS TODAY format and structure as exemplified by the October issue. But I have a one-person campaign to persuade periodical publishers to serve the needs of readers.

Now that the white space around the name on the cover is gone, there is nowhere to write notes regarding the contents.

The glued binding instead of leaves makes it impossible for me to tear out extraneous material so that I may store thinner magazines with less weight and bulk. Having recently moved I am well aware how heavy ten years of just four of my favorite science journals weighs—about 500 pounds, and this is with thousands of extraneous advertising and dated pages removed. Instead of making it harder to trim your journal, I would have liked you to make it easier—get all the advertising onto full