breaking into a new field is quite common, and it is just this sort of treatment which can be mitigated by procedural changes. These should include, but not be limited to, the institution of reciprocal anonymity.

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Andover, Massachusetts

2/81

Save the ads

Despite the contrary views voiced by J. H. Mauldin in his letter in February (page 110), I believe that for the majority of the Americans the day after election was a happy, not sad, day! This, however, is irrelevant, for PHYSICS TODAY is not a political and sociological forum.

The purpose of my writing this is my one-man campaign against the practice of "stripping" advertising material from scientific journals before binding or storing them. This material has considerable potential use as a ready source of information concerning suppliers of equipment and services, and for identification of inherited apparatus. In the long run, though, there is something of considerably greater importance. Think, for example, how much concerning the state of physics and other sciences could be learned from a study of unstripped issues of a scientific journal of even fifty years ago. For the history of physics this material is of much importance and deserves preservation.

In some libraries it is customary to bind only pages bearing consecutive roman numbers, and this not only results in the loss of advertising material but also valuable cover illustrations. I have always instructed my binder to "bind all," and I would strongly urge others to do the same, so as to provide historians of physics in the future with important and interesting material.

I think that the new format is fine, and I particularly like the new spine with its clear identification of the issue when on the shelf.

E. SCOTT BARR
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

3/81

Mid-career women

In response to Michele Kaufman's letter in February (page 13), her complaint regarding the Kennedy bill's lack of support for mid-career women scientists is without basis. To quote the bill, which is now Public Law 96-516, Section 33, "Women in Science": "The Foundation is authorized to ... make grants, to be known as the National Research Opportunity Grants, to women scientists who (A) have received their doctorates within five years prior to the date of the award