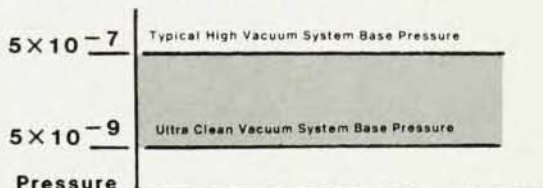


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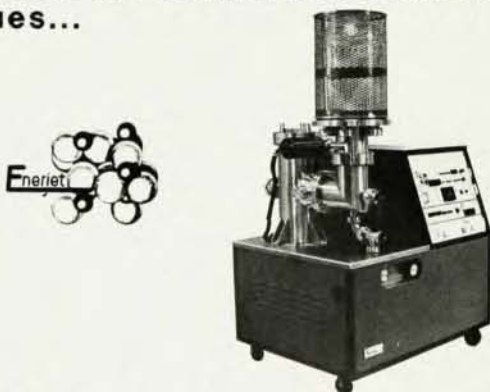


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letters

programs, neither do I. However, I am convinced by personal contacts with many of our alumni, some years after we have had them, that we were a strong, positive influence in their lives. Of course we are only a drop in the bucket, but my colleagues and I feel this to be a most worthwhile drop.

MILTON GOTTLIEB

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

8/83

High-school sabbatical

The June editorial (page 128) suggests that people in academia and industry may contribute, by active participation, to the goal of excellence in science and math education.

I have met my part of this obligation by taking a year sabbatical from teaching high-school physics and joining the corporate R&D staff of Pitney Bowes in Norwalk, Connecticut; I worked as a consultant and participant in the physics and chemistry laboratory there for the past academic year. My earlier experience in industry (25 years ago) was updated by contact with today's technology.

I shall return to the classroom this year with a greater appreciation for the "real world"; I now believe that both my physics and career-counseling skills will have improved.

I hope that more high-school science and math teachers will apply for sabbaticals; I also hope that industry will support this concept in a way that will cover as many disciplines as possible.

NICHOLAS J. GEORGIS

Staples High School

Westport, Connecticut

8/83

Origins of great scientists

With reference to the letter by Tung Tsang (June, page 101), I agree with him that it is not correct to say that before the 20th century "most scientists were independently wealthy gentlemen"—although Robert Boyle, Henry Cavendish, James Prescott Joule and Benjamin Franklin fall in that category. Stephen Gray, who discovered electrical conductivity, was a pensioner with no income; Johannes Kepler was a poorly paid calculator; Nicolaus Copernicus was a bishop's clerical assistant. Many great physicists were professional physicians—Thomas Young, William Wollaston, William Gilbert, Georg Ohm, among others. I would call all of these men amateur scientists, in the sense that their work was done for the love of it, not for a living. On the other hand, I would call a man who makes a success-