

change its capitalistic system to a socialistic one.

Reference

1. H. Karatsu, Sci. Bull. Office Naval Res. Far East 11(3), 4 (1986).

TAKASHI ICHIE
College Station, Texas

WHAT BECAME OF J. L. DUNHAM?

Whatever happened to J. L. Dunham?

The quantitative analytic theory of the molecular spectroscopy of diatomic molecules owes its origin to J. L. Dunham, who apparently did this important work for his PhD thesis in physics at Harvard University during 1928-32. However, my search of both *Physics Abstracts* and *Chemical Abstracts* failed to discover any further publications after the brilliant papers on the BKW method and its application to diatomic molecules (*Physical Review* 41, 713 and 721, 1932). One can certainly understand that the difficult years of the great depression made many competent physicists disappear from the research frontier to find employment teaching in high schools or even leave science altogether; however, it would be nice to know more about this particular physicist, whose contribution is so enduring.

If any readers of *PHYSICS TODAY* can supply any information, I would be grateful, as I wish to mention something of Dunham's biography in a forthcoming review of his work and modern developments arising therefrom. Please direct any replies to me at the Department of Chemistry, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan 30043.

JOHN F. OGILVIE
National Tsing Hua University
Hsinchu, Taiwan

MEETING REFORM

The February 1987 *APS Bulletin* (page 127) reports the loss of some \$150 000 per year due to non-registration of some APS meeting participants. Taking the average registration fee as \$100, this gives about 1500 cheaters per year. Since only several thousand APS abstracts are submitted annually (and far from all authors show up for the meetings) the above figure amounts, I am afraid, to a much greater percentage of dishonesty among our colleagues than in the general population!

This somewhat sad and shameful conclusion can, however, be relatively

easily dealt with. An announced registration fee (or perhaps a flat rate) should accompany every submitted abstract as a cover charge. This measure would not limit the unrestricted privilege of any APS member to submit abstracts—those of us who are financially disadvantaged (for example, unemployed, on pensions or from poor countries) could be excused from the payment on the submission of a simple declaration stating their reasons. To simplify handling, this declaration could even be included at the bottom of the abstract page. The percentage of such exceptional cases would not be unacceptably high.

Contrary to what the *APS Bulletin* article suggested, admission to APS sessions should be open to anyone interested (that is, the idea of "badge guards" is a bad one).

ALEXANDER A. BEREZIN
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

SEARCH LONGA, VITA BREVIS

It seems that most of the news stories in the Search and Discovery section are getting too long these days. While these articles are definitely valuable to both experts and nonexperts, it takes too much time to finish reading them and may become boring for the majority of readers, the nonexperts. Personally, I think that two pages would be the ideal maximum length for each story. More short ones (of half to one page each, say) could then be added. I am sure that each month, around the world, there are enough searches and discoveries in the various disciplines of physics that are newsworthy and fit to print—in *PHYSICS TODAY*, of course.

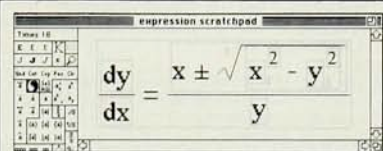
LUI LAM
San Jose State University
San Jose, California

FALSIFYING CREATIONISM

While I found the news story on "creation science" that appeared in your February 1987 issue (page 64) interesting, I must take exception to the statement by the National Academy of Sciences that creationism "requires the direct involvement of a supernatural intelligence and thus cannot be tested by the scientific method."

Creationism proposes that life arose by a series of interferences by a deity with the laws of space-time, while evolutionism proposes that life arose by the normal operation of

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