## LETTERS

#### **Modern Optics, Lasers and Laser Applications: Laser Spectroscopy**

Proceedings Workshop Indian Inst. of Technology, Kanpur, India, Jan. 19-29, 1987. Edited by G.N. Rao. 2 volumes, 1987, appr. 900 p., repr. from the journal Hyperfine Interactions, vols. 37-38, 1987. 2 vols. set \$ 420.00 incl. post.

The proceedings contain review articles written by acknowledged authorities in their respective areas of specialization.

From the contents: Wave Particle Duality for Single Photons -A. Aspect & P. Grangier. Non Classical Properties of Quantum Amplifiers -S. Stenholm. Quantum Optics with Very Intense Lasers - J.H. Eberly. Competition between Four-Wave Mixing and Amplified Spontaneous Emission - M.S. Malcuit, D.J. Gautheir & R. Boyd. Ultrashort Pulse Generation and Measurement Techniques E.P. Ippen. Construction and Operation of High Power Lasers - W.J. Witteman. Coherent Optical Fiber Transmission -T. Kimura. Resonance Ionization Mass Spectroscopy for Nuclear Resonance and Trace Analysis - H.J. Kluge. Inverse Hook Method for Measuring Oscillator Strengths for Transitions between Atomic Excited States -W.A. Wijngaarden, K.D. Bonin & W. Happer. Doppler Free Multiphoton Spectroscopy in Hydrogen Applications to

J.C. BALTZER AG, SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING COMPANY Wettsteinplatz 10, CH-4058 Basel, Switzerland

Resolution Laser Spectroscopy of Ba Rydberg

Atoms - H. Rinneberg et al. Laser Probes of

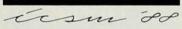
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The ICSM '88 second announcement will be mailed November 15, 1987, to those who have requested more information.

those laws. Thus creationism and evolution are mutally exclusive hypotheses. (Note that creationism, in this sense, need not be synonymous with the concept of Creation, since a God who created space-time might have created life simply by instating the laws that cause evolution to occur.)

If it can be shown that the origins of life can be adequately explained by the normal functioning of space-time, then creationism will have been falsified. Of course, creationists might propose that God interfered with the laws of space-time in such a way as to cover His tracks and make it appear as though life arose by evolution, but I have vet to encounter any creationists who actually claim this, and I doubt that most evolutionists would object seriously if they did.

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## MORE ON REFEREEING

I would like to express my strong support of the letter by Alwyn Eades (October 1986, page 156) concerning the refereeing process. I have seen it happen more than once that I or friends pointed out a basic flaw in a paper and suggested how to treat the problem, only to see the paper published with the referee's ideas forming the substance of the work.

Another problem concerns the scope of Physical Review Letters. I would expect that the editors of a journal aimed at publishing letters of 'general interest" should take that aim into account by also employing referees outside the immediate field of a letter. However, my impression is that US editors are significantly more reluctant than European editors to assume an active role in shaping the scope or publishing policy of a journal. For example, I know of a couple of papers that were judged good by referees, with only minor suggestions made, but which have never been resubmitted by the authors (for whatever reasons). I would expect that an editor would be interested in publishing good papers and therefore would contact these authors again after a while. Again, this would be fair to the referees, taking their work into account.

Anton Zeilinger Atominstitut der Österreichischen Universitäten 11/86 Vienna, Austria

# MARTIAN MISTAKE

We are writing to call attention to an error in our book On Mars. On pages

235 and 236, we state incorrectly that Norman Horowitz, Roy E. Cameron and Jerry S. Hubbard (Science, 21 April 1972, page 242) failed to detect microorganisms in the soil of the dry valleys of Antarctica, despite five years of effort. Actually, they detected bacteria in 86% of the soil samples tested; just 14% were found to be sterile. No one, to our knowledge, ever claimed that the dry valleys were sterile, contrary to what our book says. We apologize to Horowitz, Cameron and Hubbard for misstating their findings.

> EDWARD C. EZELL LINDA N. EZELL Woodbridge, Virginia

6/86

#### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Acr of 12 August 1970: Section 3685. Title 39, USC)

- Tirle of publication: PHYSICS TODAY
- 1A. Publication no.: 0031-9228
- 2 Date of Filing: 1 October 1987 3 Frequency of issue: Monthly (12)
- 3A Annual subscription price \$70.00
- 4 Location of known office of publication: 500. Sunnyside Blvd., Woodbury, NY 11797.
- Location of the headquarters or general business office of the publisher 335 East 45th St., New York
- Names and address of publisher, editor and managing editor: Publisher: American Institute of Physics, 335 East
  - 45th St., New York, NY 10017

    Editor. Gloria B. Lubkin, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017

    Managing editor. Thomas von Foerster, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017 10017
- Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stared and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stock holders awning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual, must be given): American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017.
- Known bondholders, morrgagees and other secu-rity holders awring or holding one percent or more at total amount of bonds, morrgages or other securities: Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (mortgagee), 201 Park Ave. New York, NY 10003.
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  - B. Paid circulation
    - 1. Sales through dealers and carriers street vendors and counter sales Average\* none Aug none August\*\* none
    - 2. Moil subscriptions Average\* 99 899 August\*\* 104 513
  - C Total paid circulation Average\* 99 899 August\*\* 104 513
  - D Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means. samples, complinentary and other free copies Average\* 2 403 August\*\* 1783 E Toral distribution (sum of C and D) Average\* 102 302 August\*\* 106 296

  - F. Copies not distributed
    - 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing Average\* 3 001 August\*\* 4 505
  - Returns from news agents
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  - run shown in A)
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