

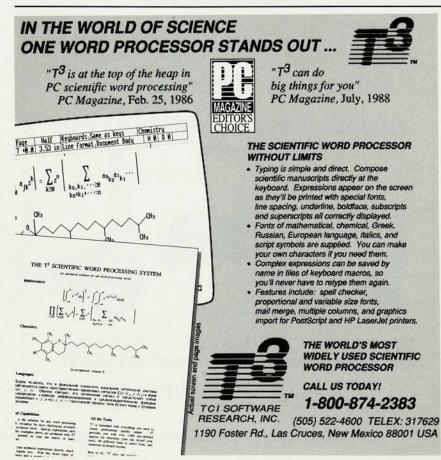
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consider azimuthal-roll modes of convection-to my knowledge she is preceded by I. A. Eltayeb in 1972, David Gough in 1976, Gilman and David Hathaway in 1979 and G. Geiger in 1982, and so I don't see why I should cite her unless I cite them all. Neither Wilson nor I claim to have discovered solar azimuthal convective rolls, nor should Ribes. We hypothesize such rolls as the cause of the torsional oscillation and as the mechanism for the migration and growth of toroidal magnetic fields, but we do not claim our evidence is as yet conclusive enough to constitute "discovery," and most of the solar physics community remains skeptical. The azimuthal rolls Ribes proposes are quite different from ours. She insists on poleward, rather than equatorward, propagation. Although I find her ideas creative, interesting and deserving of investigation, I am skeptical of her analysis and conclusions. Owing to this disagreement, which we have discussed with her on several occasions, neither Wilson nor I have collaborated with her, and our points of view continue to diverge just as our rolls do.

Part of the larger problem is that the dominant language of today's physics research is English. This is indeed the result of the present era of American and British dominance (which may prove to be brief), and it is understandably offputting and isolating to people whose native language is not English. I am well aware that many of the best scientists in every field are European, and have always been so. The international aspect of scientific research is one of the things I like best about it.

HERSCHEL B. SNODGRASS

Lewis and Clark College

Portland Oregon

11/88 Portland, Oregon

MacArthur Grants: Too Many Strings Attached

That four out of the five MacArthur Foundation Fellowship winners in physics in 1987 were string theorists (see Physics today, April 1988, page 111) must say more about the composition of the selection committee than about the ultimate validity of string theory or the acomplishments of those particular individuals. Surely, in the great enterprise that is physics, there must be individuals working in areas other than this narrow subsubfield who are equally deserving of recognition and reward.

ROBERT J. YAES University of Kentucky Lexington, Kentucky

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