

tant example during one of the sessions at the International Astronomical Union General Assembly in Baltimore. One participant spoke rapidly; introduced computer jargon with which astronomers, unless they are computer jocks, are unfamiliar; and employed numerous colloquial and slang expressions. The upshot was that few foreign participants had any idea of what he was talking about, as some of them told me afterwards. Even a participant from England was mystified, which isn't as strange as it might seem if we consider how many Americans are likely to understand the Australian regionalisms in the lyrics of "Waltzing Matilda." Would you grasp what "swagman," "billy" or "tuckerbag" mean if you heard them during a talk?

If we assume that the function of international meetings is communication of results, not satisfying the desire to show off one's knowledge of a particular topic (as I suspect is sometimes the case), then a native English speaker has the obligation to speak, if not slowly, at least clearly and with a minimum of jargon. Otherwise he can give the impression of, at the minimum, insensitivity to others and possibly arrogance. ("If you can't understand me, so what? Who cares about your opinions anyhow?") Such an impression, whether intended or not, is frequently irritating to those whose native language is not English.

RICHARD BRANHAM

*Centro Regional de Investigaciones
Científicas y Tecnológicas
Mendoza, Argentina*

8/88

Let's Call a Chemist a Chemist

It was a pleasure to read the account in the November issue (page 52) that described the new job for Frederick M. Bernthal. The writer, Irwin Goodwin, made an error, however, when he neglected to mention that Bernthal received both his bachelor's and PhD degrees in *chemistry* and that he was a faculty member in the chemistry department at Michigan State University, teaching chemistry courses, not nuclear physics! We currently have two nuclear chemists on the faculty at Michigan State University. While some of their best friends (and coworkers) are physicists, they are bona fide and valued members of our department, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in chemistry, as did Fred Bernthal.

JAMES L. DYE

*Department of Chemistry
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan*

12/88

PIRANICAPACITANCEMANOMETERION



Now you can measure the entire vacuum range with one little box.

Inficon introduces the industry's first single unit vacuum gauge controller capable of measuring the whole vacuum range, or any part of it.

Now, one controller gives you the Ion (Bayard-Alpert or cold cathode), Pirani, and capacitance manometer technologies to measure as much or as little of the vacuum range as you want to know about. And it lets you do it with significantly greater speed, accuracy, and cost efficiency than is possible with any other gauge.

To see why this one little box represents the biggest breakthrough in vacuum gauges in years, call 1-800-448-3400 extension 404 today.

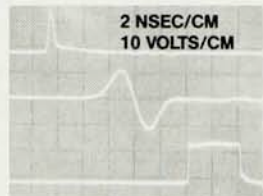


LEYBOLD INFICON

LEYBOLD INFICON INC
6500 Fly Road • East Syracuse, N.Y. 13057
(315) 434-1100 • TWX 710-541-0594 • TFX 315-437-3803
In Canada, call (416) 851-7327

Circle number 82 on Reader Service Card

NEW CATALOG PICOSECOND — NANOSECOND PULSE GENERATORS



Our new free 80 page catalog describes over 150 models of pulse generators, pulse amplifiers, impulse generators, sample and hold amplifiers, delay generators, transformers, power splitters, bias tees and scope probes with specifications covering the following ranges:

- RISE & FALL TIMES TO 40 PSEC
- PW FROM 130 PSEC TO 100 USEC
- PRF FROM 0 TO 300 MHZ
- VOLTAGES FROM 2 TO 500 VOLTS
- PEAK CURRENTS TO 100 AMPS

AVTECH
ELECTROSYSTEMS
LIMITED

P.O. Box 265 Ogdensburg
New York 13669
(315) 472-5270

P.O. Box 5120 Stn "F"
Ottawa, Canada K2C 3H4
(613) 226-5772
Telex: 053-4591
Fax: (613) 226-2802

Germany: MICROSCAN GmbH Hamburg 040/63 20 03-0
UK: LYONS INSTRUMENTS Hoddeson (0992) 467161
France: EQUIPEMENTS SCIENTIFIQUES Sa Garches 741 90 90
Japan: MEISHO ELECTRONICS Tokyo (03) 816 6581 2

Circle number 83 on Reader Service Card