

copy of Trower's letter, we received a communication from Pons to the effect that several thousand copies of the article were widely circulated in March and April; that the article appeared in the *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry* 17 days after the press release; that reprints of the article were widely distributed; that the experimental details, restricted as necessary in a Short Communication, are in the article; and that Pons and Martin Fleischmann have made full, expanded details available to all scientists who have requested them. As of press time, we have not received authorization from Pons to publish his communication.

For China's Students in the US, the Point of No Return

William Sweet's news story (June 1988, page 67) and the more recent anonymous letter (December 1988, page 15) concerning Chinese students in the US have made their situation crystal clear. From these pieces (especially the latter) the reader who is well informed about current political circumstances in China should be able to find a sensible answer to the often-asked question, With hundreds of Chinese students having graduated or currently graduating from US institutions, why are so few going back to China?

To some Chinese students like myself, the answer is simple and straightforward: The political environment in China has not changed in any fundamental way from what existed in the first 30 years of the revolution—intellectuals have been especially mistreated for their independent opinions continuously since 1949. As a result, the consequences of returning to China are grave. For those, both here in the US and back in China, who are outspoken and critical and whose ideology clashes with that which has been relentlessly imposed on the masses in China, real danger awaits upon return. This has happened, for example, to Wei Yang, a former biology student, who was arrested during his 1986 vacation in China and later sentenced to two years in prison. Those who are simply fond of Western culture, values and traditions are likely to be confronted by the next "Cultural Revolution." They too may be forced to make the difficult choice between an unadorned body with a confined mind and an abused one with a free soul. These two groups may well represent

more than 50% of the Chinese students in the US. In both cases, the return of these young scientists to China would involve a similar advent of misfortune. The difference is just a matter of "when": The time scale for the first group might range from one day to several months, while that for the second group could range from one year to a decade.

The point is that the suppression of political and personal freedom is continuing. Who should be asked to face this situation, which has been occurring in China ever since 1949, in which thousands of Chinese scientists have received "brain surgery," many of them never surviving to pursue independent and creative work? Clearly, many of the Chinese students in the US have recognized this potential negation of human spirit and resources that awaits their return. These Chinese students are determined to fight for their future and for their survival. Any mischief planned for them by the government is bound to meet with enormous resistance.

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1/89

Clearing the Slate About Feynman's 'Last Blackboards'

I am submitting this letter to identify the equations and figures on one of Richard Feynman's "last blackboards," shown in the middle of page 88 of the February issue. Except for the blocked-off diagram at the lower left corner and the boxed statements at the top, the blackboard's contents come from the last discussion I held with Feynman, on the afternoon of 14 January 1988. He had kindly allowed me to present to him the new probability model on spin types I have obtained to solve the Bohm spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ case for the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen "paradox" of quantum mechanics.

As Feynman sat in his big chair at the right end of the blackboard, I erased it, except for those portions mentioned above, and started writing from the center, toward the right. This part is exhibited virtually intact in the *PHYSICS TODAY* photo. Within a couple of minutes, as soon as I presented the one-particle integral equation solutions that lead to two new types of spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ particles and to the measuring tool's type-dependent measurement interaction, Feynman became intensely interested. With his

continued on page 99

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