claimer that our joint article is not intended to have any military application whatsoever!

BORIS AL'TSHULER
Leningrad Institute of Nuclear Physics
Leningrad, USSR
PATRICK A. LEE
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts
7/89

The Disspirit of St. Louis

I am writing to suggest that the APS keep records of the experience of members at our various conference sites, and refer to them when choosing sites in future.

I am motivated by the poor experience of many of my colleagues at the recent March meeting in St. Louis. For my part I noticed inadequate transport, inadequate hotel accommodation and a surly and unhelpful police force. One of our graduate students required 40 stitches in his head after an encounter with two members of the St. Louis Police Department. This occurred as this rather shy, gentle, nondrinking (but longhaired) member of our department was walking to the zoo!

Was our group unique in these experiences?

STUART LINDSAY
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona
4/89

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE APS REPLIES: The American Physical Society keeps excellent records of the history of events in cities in which it holds its meetings.

WILLIAM W. HAVENS JR
American Physical Society
New York, New York
7/89

What Vehicle for Ulysses's Odyssey?

On page 85 of the December 1988 issue it is stated that no shuttle has been designated to carry the Ulysses spacecraft. The Ulysses project offices in the US and at the European Space Agency, and science investigators in many countries, have believed for some time that the Atlantis vehicle would launch Ulysses.

You are no doubt aware that Ulysses has experienced more than its fair share of hiccups over the years and will understand, then, that your report triggered some nervous questions. I believe that the writer of the report was using an old NASA manifest. It might help if you could make clear that Ulysses is firmly established in the NASA manifest, with a flight on Atlantis scheduled for 5 October 1990.

D. EDGAR PAGE
Ulysses Science Coordinator
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, California
1/89

Remember the Third World Reader

It is part of the traditional way of doing science that authors of scientific papers buy reprints to send to colleagues whom they know to be interested and to those who send reprint request cards. It is a tradition of declining importance as photocopiers and computer databases become more widespread and cheaper. However, in some specific cases, it remains of paramount importance. In many third world countries, there are few journals, and resources for photocopying or computer searches are poor or nonexistent. In such cases, the receipt of reprints may be the only lifeline keeping scientists in touch with their fields.

We would like to make an appeal to physicists everywhere, particularly in developed countries. When you receive a reprint request from a developing country, far from discounting it as unlikely to lead to anything positive, please treat it as more significant than those requests that come from major labs. Please make sure you reply quickly, that the reprints go airmail and that you send other, related reprints (even if not requested). You could be saving a life—or at least alleviating some of the frustration of a colleague who is working under difficult conditions.

STIG HAGSTROM
Stanford University
Stanford, California
ALWYN EADES
University of Illnois,
Urbana-Champaign
11/88

Commenting on the column (April 1988, page 9) by David Mermin about irresponsible proliferation of scientific journals, Roger Taylor suggests (November 1988, page 11) that these journals "should be looking to the future and adapting to the electronic age" by storing information on optical disks. This solution, good as it is, would be acceptable only if all the scientific community were working at institutions capable of affording this kind of technology.

Institutions in underdeveloped countries, where making a photocopy is sometimes an odyssey, are surely very far from providing up-to-date services. Let us try to find solutions that take scientists in poor countries into consideration.

FREDY R. ZYPMAN
University of North Carolina,
Charlotte
11/88

The Greenhouse and the White House

Your representation of the state of affairs regarding the greenhouse effect (October 1988, page 66) is misleading. Specifically, the seventh of Irwin Goodwin's questions for the Presidential candidates contains the suggestion that emissions of cars, buses and trucks are the main contributor to global warming. In fact, highway vehicles account for about 10% of the CO_2, for example, generated by fossil fuel combustion worldwide.

While much of what is said in political campaigns may be less than the whole truth (at best), PHYSICS TODAY should be careful not to promote misconception in its discourse with politicians on behalf of the scientific community.

GEORGE W. GRAHAM
Ann Arbor, Michigan
11/88

IRWIN GOODWIN REPLIES: George W. Graham is both right and wrong. The statistic of 10% that he gives for CO_2 emissions from cars, buses and trucks is correct in world terms. But the question posed to the Presidential candidates was clearly directed to what the government might do to limit the CO_2 emissions that scientists currently believe contribute significantly to the "greenhouse effect." In the US, according to the Department of Energy, which keeps tabs on such matters, transportation vehicles are responsible for 32% of the CO_2 produced—roughly the same amount as from electric power generation (35%) and substantially more than from industrial uses (20%) or from heating and cooling (13%). PHYSICS TODAY'S "representation of the state of affairs" was therefore not far off the mark.

PHYSICS TODAY posed the question to the candidates to focus their attention on a real concern with physical implications. The wording obviously was not as careful as it might have been, but I do not believe it promoted a "misconception" in political discourse. ■