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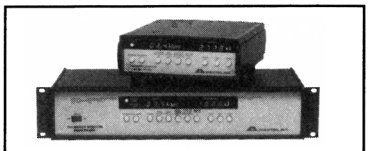

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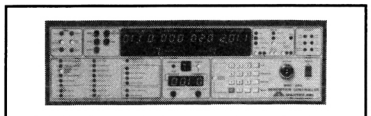

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Anyone who wishes to support this effort or to recommend another scientist for similar recognition should write to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Board, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20260. In addition to honoring the scientist, this is an excellent way of bringing science and technology to the attention of the public.

JERRY L. FIELDS
University of Toledo
Toledo, Ohio

2/91

She Likes the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes

After reading William Sweet's news story about the Soviet physicists joining the new theoretical physics institute in Minneapolis (February 1991, page 83), I felt I must write in support of the city and its location. I went to Minneapolis to interview in January a couple of years ago, and was impressed by its attractiveness, safety, cleanliness and vibrant "university city" atmosphere. It's true that Minnesota often experiences very cold spells in January and February, which personally I would enjoy, although I know many find such weather oppressive. But these brief intervals of discomfort are amply repaid during the rest of the year; in particular the summers are characterized by temperatures and humidities that are neither too high nor too low. Also, Minnesota has large areas of undeveloped hinterland, mainly in the form of lakes and forests, in which a rich population of wildlife flourishes relatively undisturbed. It's easy to find peace and solitude just a short distance from the city.

Although California is undeniably rich in natural beauty, it is also hot, bright, dry, overpopulated and overdeveloped. I'm with the Soviet physicists!

ALISON CAMPBELL
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

2/91

The 'Matthew' Effect: The Gospel Truth

While turning out some old copies of PHYSICS TODAY recently, I came across a letter from Caroline L. Herzenberg (December 1989, page 98) that mentioned the so-called Matthew effect in science, which "consists in the accruing of greater increments of recognition for particular scientific contributions to scientists of considerable repute and the withholding of such recognition from scientists who have not yet made their mark."[1] The effect takes its name from Matthew 13:12—"For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath" (Revised Version; see also Matthew 25:29). It seems that yet again a selective reading of the literature, rather than a scholarly search, has led to injustice to other authors, in this case three others.

Mark (4:25) wrote of the same effect, in almost the same words, around 65 AD—some 20 years before Matthew. So did Luke (8:18 and 19:26), later than Matthew. John's version (15:2) is different and gives a clearer understanding of the effect, which is not quite the simple one that could be ascribed to it from the wording of the other three.

At least in this case the sole attribution to Matthew was presumably not made to flatter someone who could be useful in the future—or if it was, the attributor may be in trouble.

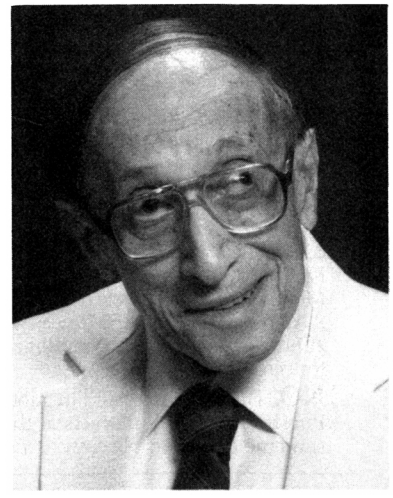
Reference

1. V. Kistiakowsky, PHYSICS TODAY, February 1980, p. 32.

DOUGLAS F. BREWER
University of Sussex
Brighton, England

9/90

Correction



June, page 134—The photograph accompanying the obituary of Eugene Guth is actually a picture of Francis Yost, whose obituary appears on page 133 of the June issue. The photo of Guth that should have been used appears above. ■