I concede that the situation at universities is significantly different from that at a national laboratory. Argonne people do not have tenure in principle or in practice, and we are used to the idea that we have to justify our situation annually. However, that should not be taken to mean that these working retirements at the Argonne physics division have not really been voluntary. Several of the recent retirees are individuals about whom nobody would credit such a suggestion.

It is also true that the costs generated by a working retiree are not completely negligible and that competition for building space, even office space, can be a serious problem. Those disadvantages have to be weighed against the enormous advantages of making room for young people at our universities and laboratories and in our profession.

MURRAY PESHKIN
Argonne, Illinois

An Undersung Hero of Sonoluminescence

I wish to call the reader's attention to an omission that I became aware of only after I saw my recent article on sonoluminescence (September, page 22) in print. It is possible to read the article and interpret the work of Seth Putterman's group at the University of California, Los Angeles, as simply following that of our own (formerly at the University of Mississippi and now at the University of Washington). It was Seth's insatiable curiosity concerning the enormous level of energy concentration for sonoluminescence in general that led to his examination of the unique character of single-bubble SL. Without Seth's insightful recognition of the importance of the SL pulse duration and his group's gallant attempts to measure this quantity, Felipe Gaitan's discovery would most likely have been relegated to the typical obscurity of a specialized PhD dissertation. Seth certainly deserves credit for advancing this field to the state that it's in today. I was negligent, although certainly not intentionally so, in not making that point clearer.

LAWRENCE CRUM
University of Washington, Seattle

What's Wrong with This Punctuation?

Having argued forcefully in these pages (October 1989, page 9) that one should refuse to publish in journals that do not properly punctuate their equations, I was startled to find the periods removed from the published versions of two sentence-ending equations in my June Reference Frame column (page 9). I would like to state for the record that all equations were properly punctuated in the manuscript. When the punctuation disappeared in the first set of proofs I asked that it be restored. PHYSICS TODAY graciously agreed and kindly provided me with a second set of proofs showing properly punctuated equations. What happened next is anybody's guess. Were I paranoid I would suspect malign forces ready to stop at nothing to advance the antipunctuationist agenda. Not being paranoid I view it as an unfortunate accident, like (but happily less momentous than) the famous 18-minute gap in the White House tapes.

I should also like to correct a factor-of-2 error in the probabilities I said were 85% and 44%. I should have said 43% and 22%. Antipunctuationists, real or imaginary, are not to blame—just my own ineptitude.

DAVID MERMIN
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Langmuir Obit Erratum

In the Robert Langmuir obituary (August, page 75), we gave an incorrect date of death. The correct date is 1 May 1993.

CHARLES A. BARNES
ROY W. GOULD
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Physics Today Is Looking for Back Issues

Help! Copies of the following back issues of PHYSICS TODAY are needed at the magazine's editorial offices:

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Persons who have back issues that they would like to donate should first contact managing editor Ken McNaughton at 301-209-3051 or km3@aip.org. Donors will receive a gray coffee mug embossed with an original drawing of Albert Einstein.

Correction

August, page 21—In the caption for the photo of the comet impact with Jupiter, all the infrared wavelengths should be in microns: 3.09 μm (shown as blue), 3.42 μm (green) and 3.99 μm (red). ■

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