

half the world away, to the early US space program.

Intrigued by the Russian satellite *Sputnik I*, we learned of many tracking stations coordinated by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and located in the Western Hemisphere, but practically none in the East. We attempted to fill that gap. Obviously, we needed to report the precise visual position and time of each sighting. In those days, Taiwan was underdeveloped economically and technologically, and we had to improvise.

In addition to several army surplus gun-sight telescopes provided by the Smithsonian, we got hold of a shortwave radio and a tape recorder. At dusk and dawn, we went to the roof of the tallest building (three stories) in downtown Taipei. Because electricity was in limited supply, city lights were not a problem. Having the recorder running and the radio tuned to receive the standard time signals from the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST) radio station WWVH in Hawaii, we scanned the sky. Once we located the satellite, we waited until it passed near a recognizable star and then we shouted loudly.

With the help of a star chart and playback of the WWVH ticking sound and our shouting signals, we

were able to determine each visual position and its corresponding time. We asked the Joint US Military Advisory Group in Taiwan to wire the data to the Smithsonian. The reply came quickly, confirming our results and requesting further input. The work continued for some time, and extended to *Explorer I* and beyond.

All these years, we wondered who had used our data. Now we know.

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William Pickering wrote a comprehensive obituary for Albert Hibbs, but omitted one thing. Many people who were kids interested in science in the 1960s remember Hibbs as the host of *Exploring*, a Saturday morning TV science show that appeared on a national network. He had a wonderful presence for talking science, and that show was an inspiration that led to my own path into meteorology.

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Foundational Work in Fermionic Condensates

The March 2004 issue of *PHYSICS TODAY* (page 21) gave a nice description of the recent results by Cindy Regal, Markus Greiner, and Deborah Jin on the observation of Bose–Einstein condensation of paired fermionic atoms in the interesting strongly interacting regime. Unfortunately, the article failed to mention the seminal theoretical work of Murray Holland and coworkers¹ that inspired the experiment discussed. Holland's work demonstrated that one could get strong coupling in a cold fermionic gas near a Feshbach resonance, and hence BEC at very high temperatures, just as was observed. Eddy Timmermans and coworkers published similar ideas at about the same time.²

Incidentally, Tin-Lun Ho's comment to *Physical Review Letters*, in which he disputed the reported interpretation, was withdrawn.

References

1. M. Holland et al., *Phys Rev. Lett.* **87**, 120406 (2001).
2. E. Timmermans et al., *Phys. Lett. A* **285**, 228 (2001).

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