EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In addition to the usual book reviews, we have recently published material on cinema and theater in the context of "physics and society", e.g., Michael Frayn's play "Copenhagen", and Sylvia Nasar's biography "A Beautiful Mind. I wonder how many of the readers of this journal have attempted to use theater, cinema, or other popular media to teach or otherwise deal with contemporary problems and opportunities of science and society. I would welcome the opportunity to publish reflections on such attempts in this journal. Perhaps we could even devote an entire issue to the intersection between arts and humanities and science. So this is another call to our membership to submit material - either in the humanistic mode mentioned above, or in the more "traditional" mode of "physics and society" issues- for publication in future issues of "Physics and Society".

Among the more" traditional" interests of the Forum, and this journal, has been the question of nuclear weapons and how to deal with them – are they just another class of weapons, in spite of their major non-Newtonian aspects, or are they somehow "transcendental"? The main thrust of previous American Administrations has been the latter –the use of nuclear weapons is to be contemplated only in situations threatening the continued existence of the nation. There are some indications, in the actions and documents of the present Administration, that they do not share this view. Von Hippel and Cirincione explore this topic in this issue. Also of continuing interest to our readers are the politics and technology of energy and nuclear power, discussed here by Kaarsberg and Ahearne (and in the previous web issue by Chang).

Land mines are definitely "conventional" weapons but their use and disposition is still devastating to many of the world's peoples. As Blagden points out here, they also represent a challenge to the world's physicists. Sen and Woodfin also discussed (this challenge, in our previous web issue.) A more recently recognized challenge for physicists is how to deal with terrorism, discussed in this issue by Fainberg (and in the previous issue by Cobb and Koooonin). Newtonian gravitation is no longer at the forefront of physics research but its application is the basis for another "physics and society" concern – the possibility of war in space. This subject is examined, in this issue, by Sessler and myself. Also of considerable concern to our members should be "who are we" and "how do we get to be physicists", questions which are examined by Pugel and Urry. Finally, Brecher has a look at technology, a subject that can never be far from the mind of the physicist.

I hope you enjoy this "hard copy" issue of P&S, as well as the previous "electronic copy" issue. Have a good summer while you read them. And please remember to participate in the Forum: attend its meetings, participate in its committees, and submit materials to its journal.