



# LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## **Wisconsin engineer. Volume 82, No. 2 November 1977**

Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Engineering Journal Association,  
[s.d.]

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/7P3DBZ6M5SIJV8I>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

# visconsin engineer

## UW Fusion Technology

new hope for the future

## Summer Engineering Jobs

learn and earn

## Bicycle Research

improving on daVinci



# It pays to enroll in AFROTC

The Air Force needs commissioned officers in the science and engineering areas. Many will enter active duty through Air Force ROTC.

And you don't have to wait for graduation to receive financial help. You can be paid as you earn your college degree.

Check the list of college majors. If yours is on the list, you could qualify for either a 2 or 3-year AFROTC scholarship that includes full tuition, books, all lab fees and \$100 a month, tax free. Even without the scholarship you can get excellent Air Force ROTC training and the \$100 a month tax-free allowance during the last two years of college.

Upon graduation, you will be commissioned as an Air Force Reserve Officer and may be selected for extended active duty. As an active duty officer you will have the opportunity for a challenging, technical, responsible job. There is also a chance for advanced education in your chosen field. And the pay and related benefits are excellent. You'll start with good pay and allowances; academic and technical training opportunities; 30 days of paid vacation each year; free

medical and dental care; recreational facilities; low cost insurance; commissary and exchange privileges; and more advantages.

In return for the AFROTC scholarship or training, you are expected to maintain a high level of scholastic excellence and agree to remain on active duty with the Air Force for a minimum of four years.

A limited active-duty opportunity is also there for highly qualified non-Air Force ROTC graduates. Graduates whose degree appears on the list may apply for officer training. Successful applicants will attend a 12-week Officer Training School located in San Antonio, Texas. Graduates of the school receive an Air Force commission and are on the way to challenging jobs as Air Force officers.

Check the list again and for more information visit your campus Air Force ROTC representative or your nearest Air Force recruiter. For more information or the name of an ROTC representative or Air Force recruiter send in the coupon or call toll free: 800-447-4700 (in Illinois: 800-322-4400). When calling please specify your interest either in Air Force ROTC or Officer Training School.

**Full Tuition  
Lab Fees  
\$100 a month**

**If your major is listed here, it could be worth a lot to you.**

Aeronautical Engineering  
Aerospace Engineering  
Architecture  
Architectural Engineering  
Astronautical Engineering  
Chemical Engineering  
Chemistry  
Civil Engineering  
Computer Technology/Science  
Electrical Engineering  
General Engineering  
Industrial Engineering  
Mathematics  
Mechanical Engineering  
Meteorology  
Nuclear Engineering  
Physics  
Space Physics Engineering

AIR FORCE OPPORTUNITIES CENTER  
P.O. BOX AF  
PEORIA, IL 61614

2-EC-117

I would like more information on opportunities for Science and Engineering students and graduates. I am interested in (check one) Air Force ROTC\_\_\_\_. Air Force Officer Training School\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F  
(Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

(Furnish college or high school information.)

College \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation date \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation date \_\_\_\_\_

**Air Force ROTC—Gateway to a great way of life** 

# "At Du Pont you don't get lost in a big company atmosphere. It's very personal."

—George D. Peterson BS, Chemical Engineering



"Du Pont is a big company but it's broken down into satellites. So you don't get lost in a big-company atmosphere. It's very personal, and I think the people are top-notch.

"I started in technical here at the Belle Plant in West Virginia. Now I'm a production supervisor. Production is solving problems on a day-to-day basis. I like working under that kind of pressure. When things

work out, it's very rewarding. So is working with people. I'm responsible for helping 22 people do their jobs."

George was recruited by Du Pont from the Michigan Technological University campus in 1973. He interviewed about 25 companies.

George's story is typical of many Chemical, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers who've chosen careers at Du Pont.

We place no limits on the progress our engineers can make. And we place no limits on the contribution they can make—to themselves, the Company or to society.

If this sounds like your kind of company, do what George Peterson did. Talk to the Du Pont representative who visits your campus. Or write: Du Pont Company, Room 35972, Wilmington, DE 19898.

At Du Pont...there's a world of things YOU can do something about.



REG. U.S. PAT. & TM. OFF.  
An Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F



# From the Desk of the Editor

*The Capitol Concourse recently opened with much fanfare and hoop-la. Madison, it is said, has made a firm commitment to revitalizing its downtown area—to make it “a place for people.” This project was completed only after much deliberation and at a great expense to Madison taxpayers.*

*After surveying the reopened Square, the question needs to be asked: what was really accomplished here? Very little, apparently.*

*Car traffic is still the dominant feature of the area, with a fifty-foot wide strip of pavement encircling the Capitol. The Square now has a newer, neater appearance; but basically it remains the same.*

*Plans are supposedly being made to limit traffic on the Capital Concourse. Their effectiveness remains to be seen.*

*The Capitol Concourse was a great idea, it's too bad it was meekly executed. There is still hope for the*

*State Street Mall if Madison planners will only be persistent in their resolution to make a place for people and not cars.*

*The Wisconsin Engineer is still in desperate need of staff people. My office hours are on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3 in room 276 Mechanical Engineering. Please stop up with your comments and ideas.*

---

## Be It Resolved

*The WSA Senate is in the process of rewriting its constitution and by-laws to reduce ambiguity and conflict and to make student government more representative. As a member of the rules committee, I am directly involved in this discussion and would like to inform you of certain proposals currently under consideration.*

*A number of motions have been presented which shift the emphasis of Senate authority from the traditional district representative to a mass assembly basis. The crux of these various motions all involve extending voting privileges to any student, currently enrolled, who attends a “senate” meeting. This is in response to the criticism that WSA is unrepresentative*

*of the student body. It is hoped that this would increase student representation by allowing every student equal access into government affairs, if they showed up at the meetings.*

*As a senator from a low-profile, conservative college, I am deeply concerned that a system may evolve which demands a large student population from each district to become actively involved in student government if their interests are to be heard. I contend that these amendments would further remove the students on the western part of campus and increase the already disproportionate influence of those interests who can afford to spend more time in student government.*

*The engineering students are not on campus to administer student affairs but to obtain an education. My concern with a mass assembly system is that students with a political interest would be more active in this type of government. The mass assembly system is a serious threat to the student who, realizing their time and educational constraints, delegates their interest to a specific representative in the belief that their views will receive equal consideration. In rewriting the constitution and by-laws, WSA must reaffirm that each student will be equitably represented, not that each student become a representative. My office hours are Thursday afternoons, 1 to 3, in the program office, Union South. Discussion of these and any related topics is encouraged.*

# wisconsin engineer

PUBLISHED BY THE ENGINEERING STUDENTS of the UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Sue Brunkow  
Brian Higgins

*Editors*

Dik Eierman

*Business Manager*

Lauren Schlicht

*Graphics Editor*

Bob Brasch

Scott Brunkow

Karen Bruss

Pat Carrick

Dave McCartney

Irene Piatek

John Soucha

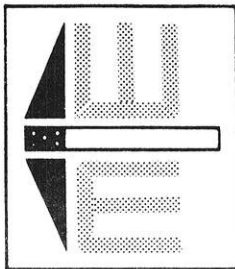
Mike Verdin

*Editorial Staff*

Brian Ferris

Mike Jens

*Business Staff*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. George R. Sell  
Prof. Howard J. Schwebke  
Prof. Wayne K. Neill  
Prof. C. A. Ranous  
Prof. Charles G. Salmon  
Assoc. Prof. Richard Moll  
Asst. Prof. Raymond B. Esser  
Asst. Dean Richard Hosman

*Cover design by Lauren Schlicht*

## Wisconsin's Fusion

Technology Program . . . 4

Tokamaks and Laser Fusion

Pedal Power . . . . . 7

Building a Better Bike

University Ave. to Close . . . . . 9

The System Revealed . . . . . 10

Learn and Earn . . . . . 12

Summer Engineering Jobs

You Bet Your Life . . . . . 14

Letter to the Editor . . . . . 15

Charter Member of Engineering College Magazines Associated

Chairman: D. C. WILLIAMS, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

Publishers Representatives: LITTEL-MURRAY-BARNHILL, INC., 60 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017 and 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago IL 60601.

\* \* \* \* \*

Second Class Postage Paid at Madison, Wisconsin, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at a special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Oct. 21, 1918.

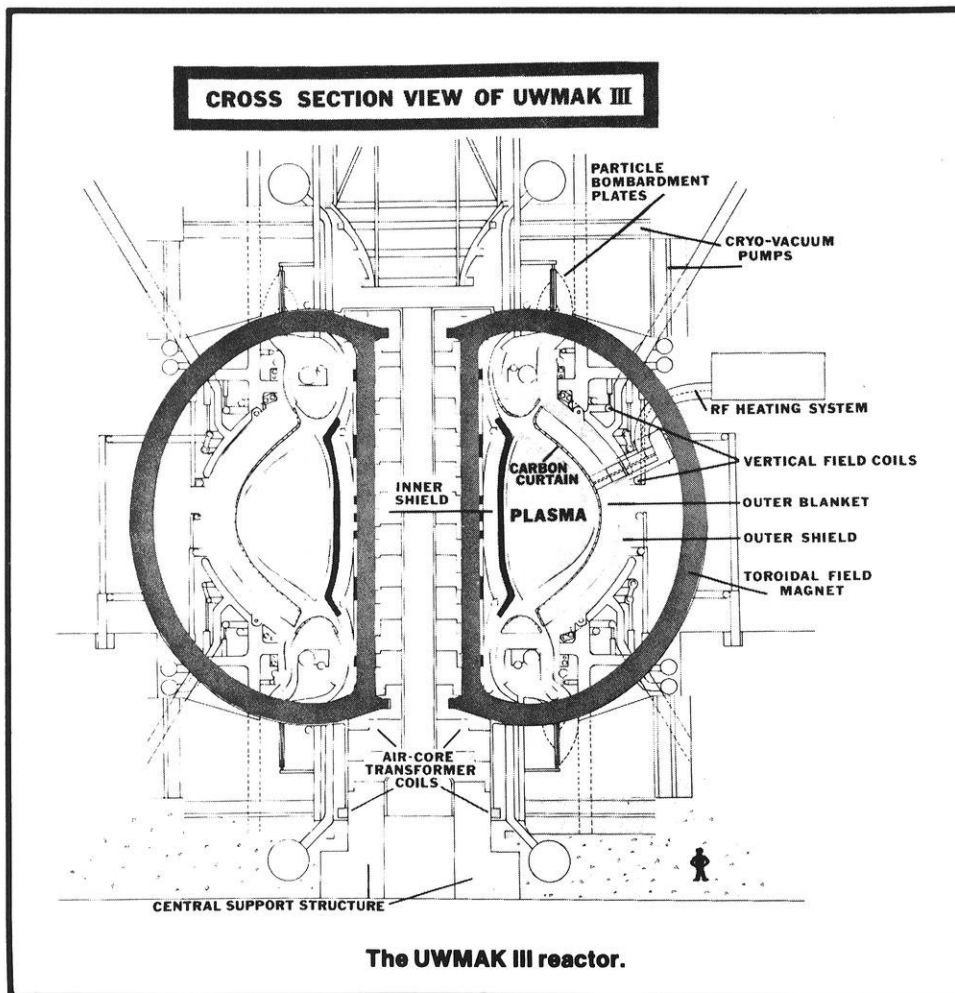
Published seven times a year, Oct., Nov., (Dec.-Jan.), Feb., Mar., Apr., Summer Issue by the Wisconsin Engineering Journal Assn. Subscriptions: one year-\$3.00. Single copies are 50 cents per copy. 276 Mechanical Engineering Bldg., Madison, WI 53706. Office Phone (608) 262-3494.

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited. Copyright applied for 1977.

# Wisconsin's Fusion Technology Program

Robert Eblsch

*Reprinted with permission of the  
UIR/Research Newsletter.*



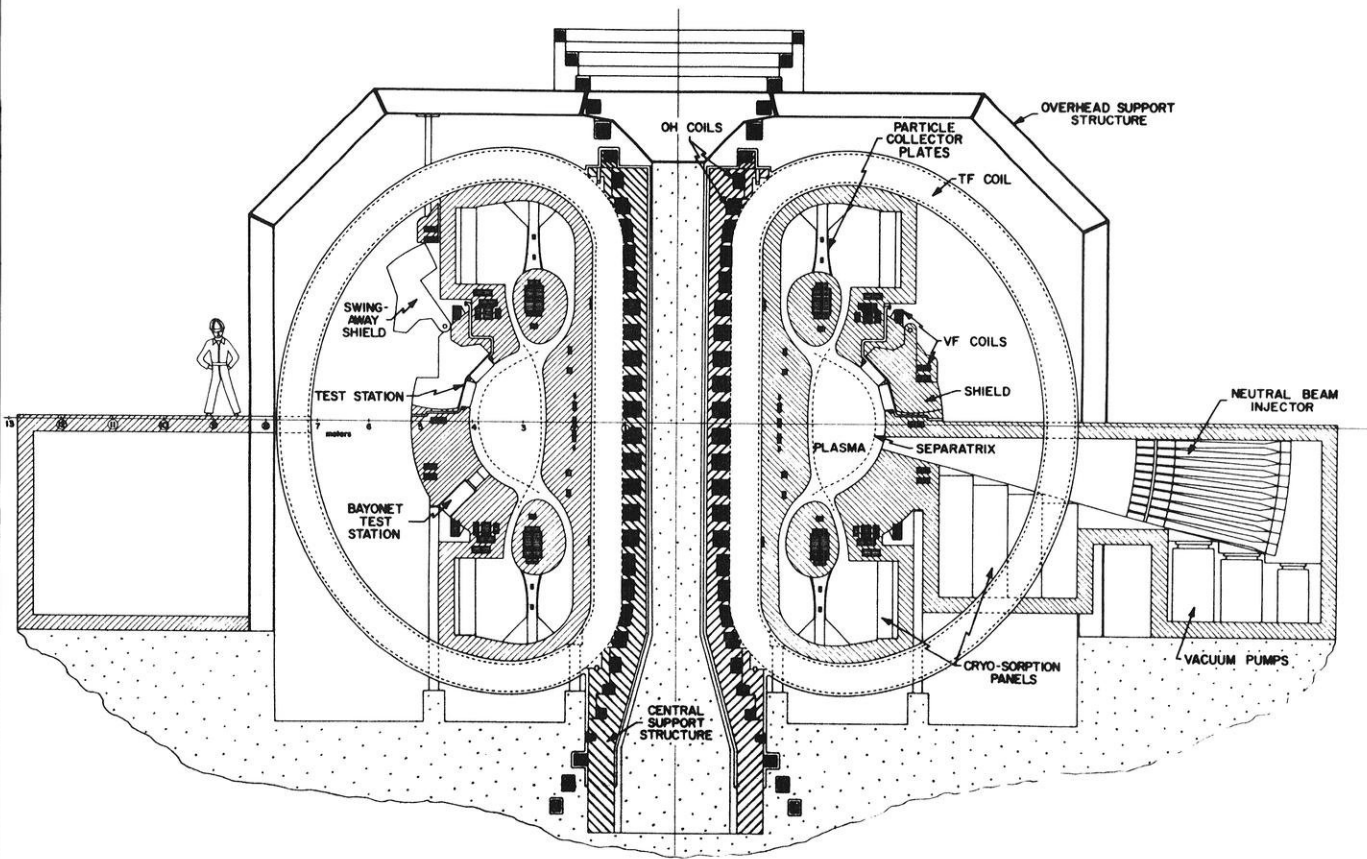
*THE FUSION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is widely recognized as the foremost program of its kind in the country. Started in 1971, it has an annual budget of \$1 million, about 50 percent of which is provided by the U. S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), 40 percent by the Electric Power Research Institute, and the remaining 10 percent by the Wisconsin Electric Utilities Research Foundation.*

Thermonuclear fusion, the energy source of the sun, is one of the bright lights on the energy horizon.

If man-made stars can be ignited and controlled on earth and if the technical problems of fusion reactor design can be solved, the world will have an endless supply of energy.

Fusion reactions take place when certain light nuclei collide and fuse. The reaction releases much more energy than was required to drive the nuclei together.

## CROSS SECTION VIEW OF TETR



**Cross-sectional view of the Tokamak Engineering Test Reactor (TETR), designed as a test facility for experimental study of reactor problems.**

For appreciable amounts of power to emerge from fusion, the fuel—deuterium gas, for example—must be heated until the thermal motion of the atoms becomes so violent that colliding nuclei fuse.

Long before fusion begins, the gas ceases to be a gas. At about 10,000 degrees C the atoms collide so energetically that they are stripped of electrons. The resulting cloud of electrons and nuclei is known as a plasma. Called a fourth state of matter, plasmas are much more difficult to handle than gases. They are wildly energetic and the separation of positive nuclei and negative electrons creates complicated forces still not well understood.

Today, reactors are being designed to burn a mixture of deuterium and tritium, hydrogen isotopes that have one and two additional neutrons respectively.

The thermonuclear fusion of deuterium and tritium can be produced more easily and at lower temperatures than other fusion reactions, and consequently it probably will be the first fusion reaction to be used.

Tritium, virtually nonexistent in nature, must be manufactured from lithium. Lithium reserves offer an energy potential equal to that of the world's total fossil fuel reserves, enough to keep things running for several centuries.

Yet once the deuterium-tritium (D-T) reaction is tamed, researchers believe, it will be only a matter of time until the deuterium-deuterium (D-D) reaction falls under human control. The (D-D) reaction is essentially an infinite source of power because deuterium is abundant in sea water. The potential fusion energy in one cubic meter of ocean equals the energy content

of 2,000 barrels of crude oil. Deuterium extraction is not difficult. Considering the volume of water in the oceans, deuterium fusion offers one billion times as much energy as all the coal and oil and natural gas on earth. If one percent of the deuterium supply were burned at only 10 percent efficiency, it would satisfy world energy needs for three million years.

Pursuit of economical power from fusion has become one of the most awesome scientific undertakings of all time. The United States, Russia, Europe, and Japan have all spent millions of dollars to set up large-scale programs designed to create demonstration power reactors before the end of the century.

The United States is supporting one-third of the world effort, measured in man-years of work. Collaboration among all nations exists and during the past five



years a particularly close working relationship has developed between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. The U.S. is working toward development of a Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor, Russia is developing the Tokamak-20, Europe the Joint European Tokamak, and Japan the Tokamak-60.

So complicated are the problems of making fusion economically and environmentally acceptable, that in the U.S. the research is proceeding along a number of avenues each with special advantages and difficulties.

The four most promising fusion schemes are:

—*the tokamak*, in which a plasma is squeezed by powerful magnetic fields inside a toroidal (doughnut-shaped) vacuum chamber; the word "tokamak" comes from the Russian words for toroidal magnetic chamber.

—*laser fusion*, in which high-energy laser beams are slammed into a tiny pellet of D-T fuel from all sides, imploding its core to such high temperature and density that fusion occurs.

—*the magnetic mirror*, where the reaction chamber is a straight tube with open ends; the magnetic field is given enormous strength at the ends, and plasma particles that seek to escape are reflected back to the middle of the tube.

—*the theta pinch*, in which a gigantic electrical charge is fired around a cylinder full of plasma, inducing a strong current in the plasma; the current produces its own magnetic field which, in turn, interacts with the fast-moving particles of the plasma and forces them inward, pinching them together in a dense, hot filament along the tube's axis.

### Wisconsin Program

Tokamaks and laser fusion devices are being studied at the University of Wisconsin. Accord-

ing to nuclear engineer Robert Conn, director of Wisconsin's Fusion Technology Program, the tokamak is currently the most promising approach.

"Tokamak engineers are closest to achieving a demonstration reactor for commercial application," Conn explains. "The major world-wide effort is devoted to tokamaks. In 1975 it was estimated that 60 percent of the U.S. fusion effort went to tokamak research."

Over the last five years Wisconsin researchers have put together detailed blueprints for three separate tokamak power stations. UWMAK-I, UWMAK-II and UWMAK-III. Created by Conn and Gerald Kulcinski, nuclear engineer and associate director of the program, and their colleagues, the designs are an attempt to understand how fusion reactors can be built using presently available technology.

In the reaction chamber of UWMAK-III, a thermonuclear D-T plasma burns at 100 million degrees. It is suspended in a magnetic cage to prevent disintegration of the chamber wall. Outside the wall, flowing liquid lithium and liquid helium slow neutrons emerging from the reaction, extract heat, and breed new tritium fuel from neutron-lithium collisions. A shield of boron carbide and lead stops most neutrons passing through the blanket, protecting the magnets surrounding the toroid. The whole assemblage is shielded by steel and concrete.

"Research on fusion technology began seriously five or six years ago," Conn says. "We recognized a need to identify the problems demanding most attention. We don't want unpleasant surprises 10 or 20 years down the road."

### UWMAK-III

One unique feature of UWMAK-III is the noncircular shape of the plasma, permitting an especially high ratio of plasma

pressure to magnetic field pressure. Plasma exerts an outward pressure on its container, the magnetic field. The magnetic field exerts an inward pressure on the plasma. The higher ratio in UWMAK-III means greater power generation with no increase in magnetic field strength.

Size reduction is another important feature. The plasma volume of UWMAK-III is one-third that of UWMAK-I, yet it puts out the same power. This is made possible by the increased power density of UWMAK-III's plasma.

The high power density has, however, increased the flow of neutrons into the plasma chamber wall. Ordinarily this would hasten wall disintegration. But Conn and Kulcinski have covered the wall with a blanket of graphite to slow the neutrons and decrease damage.

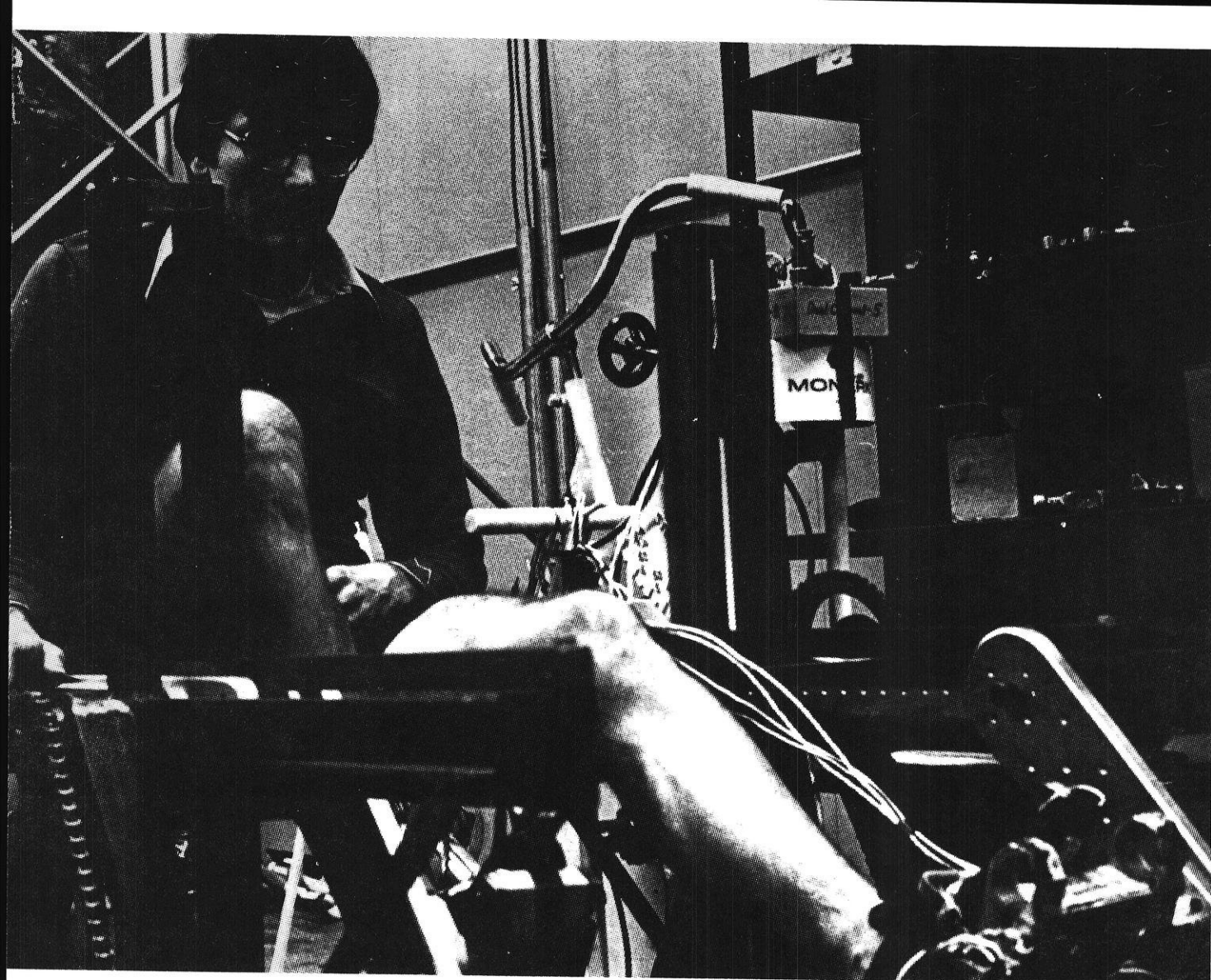
UWMAK-III is also distinguished from other reactors in that the structural material is TZM, a molybdenum-based alloy, instead of stainless steel. TZM can withstand higher temperatures, allowing the reactor to operate at higher efficiency. TZM is resistant to strain, metal fatigue, and neutron damage. It is cheap and the United States has unthreatened access to a good supply.

The UWMAK-III power system is a closed-cycle helium gas turbine. Helium coolant carries heat from the reactor directly to helium turbines. The helium turbine system would give a thermal efficiency of 44 percent, as compared with 32 percent for fission reactors. Water would not be required for cooling and there would be no problem of thermal pollution.

### Experimental Reactor

Fusion designs will continue to evolve. At some point, however, a tokamak will have to be built to learn if design

—Cont. on p. 16



# Pedal Power

*by Sue Tyunaitis*

The bicycle of the future is currently being developed by Professor Ali Seireg and graduate student Craig Cornelius in the UW Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The two are using a mechanism designed to move bicycle pedals through non-circular paths to examine the forces and velocities the lower leg muscles can produce. They hope to come up with data that will allow them to redesign the bicycle for the most effective use of human "muscle power."

Both long-term, endurance cycling and short-term, speed cycling are being investigated.

The engineers are experimenting with various types of crankshaft paths and their effect on the constant rhythmic leg movement which squeezes the blood vessels and pumps blood to the heart. The most favorable crankshaft path for an endurance cyclist, for example, would allow the cyclist to operate with a maximum amount of power while using the least amount of energy. The speed cyclist, how-

ever, would be concerned with producing the maximum amount of power in a given moment.

"There is a particular force and velocity of muscle contraction that provides maximum power," explains Cornelius. "We will test suitable motion cycles and loads to determine the optimum."

For the long or short-term cyclist, there's more to pedaling than mere muscle. Breathing rate and oxygen consumption as well as rate of change of muscle length will also be monitored during the experimentation.

"The body has different limiting factors," says Cornelius, "and the muscles have a certain amount of energy stored."

"Our ultimate objective is to let the muscles work their hardest at that part of the motion cycle which is most appropriate," Seireg adds.

Don't expect to see Seireg or Cornelius pedaling around the streets of Madison, however. For the purposes of their experiment, the engineers are using a stationary bicycle ergometer. "This type of apparatus," explains Cornelius, "allows us to measure the amount of work done by a group of muscles under controlled conditions."

The device consists of two X-frames which the operator sits between, instead of straddling. A flywheel applies variable loads to the crankshaft. An instrumented pedal, which consists of a force transducer, measures forces perpendicular and horizontal to the sole of the foot.

Cornelius is experimenting with various types of crankshaft curves. They vary from a straight line, to an ellipse, to a teardrop curve. The curves will determine how the muscle contracts in different positions, while stimulating the motion cycle and measuring the maximum amount of power. In addition, link lengths, link orientation and velocity fluctuation are other variables associated with the curves.

The current project is an offshoot of previous work done by Seireg and Norm Miller, now an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois. Seireg and Miller used a Monarch 850 bicycle ergometer with the right pedal replaced with a force transducer to examine muscle action in the lower leg regions. A hybrid computer was used for data acquisition and analysis. Their instruments allowed for variation of load, speed, muscle load, crank angle and pedal angle. The engineers were then able to examine

muscle length and force patterns in relation to these variables with assistance of electromyographic signals.

An electromyogram (EMG), which measures the electrical current produced by muscle fibers, is taken with two electrodes mounted over the muscle of interest. The data signals are then amplified and plotted against the variable conditions. This data yields information about the static and dynamic behavior of the muscles of the lower leg. Motion patterns were produced under varying loads and speeds.

By examining what was occurring among the 29 muscles in the lower leg, Seireg and Miller were able to quantify bicycling in terms of muscle behavior.

In their current experiments, Seireg and Cornelius hope to use this data on the development of power in the human muscle to improve the efficiency of the bicycle.

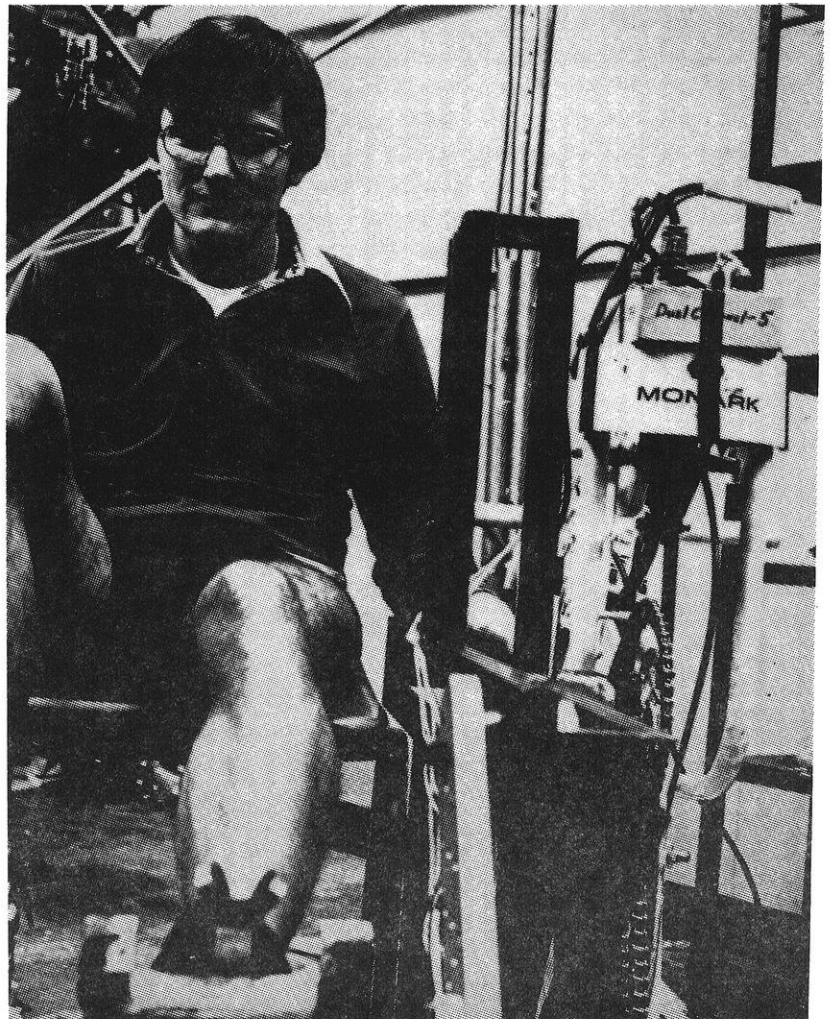
Why the bicycle?

"It's been a good study device," says Cornelius. "You receive useful information about mechanical energy from a bicycle."

Whether or not the team will succeed in improving upon present bicycle design remains to be seen.

"We may find," says Seireg, "that the bicycle, as Da Vinci originally developed it, is still the best."

*—Sue Tyunaitis, junior in engineering mechanics from Kenosha.*





# University Avenue to Close

*by John Montgomery*

Five years ago, when Paul Soglin first took office as Mayor of Madison, people were complaining about the poor quality of roadways within city limits. Well, people are still complaining but this time around it's because roads are closed due to construction. Every year, the city Department of Transportation undertakes about 25 work projects throughout Madison, including road repair. This article is about one of those projects slated for completion in the future, i.e. the closing of University Avenue on the UW campus.

Early this month I conducted a telephone interview with Mr. Tom Walsh, an engineer with the city Department of Transportation and sometime television personality (I would have driven down and interviewed him in person but the roads surrounding the capitol square were blocked off to traffic due to construction). Mr. Walsh was recently a

guest lecturer in Professor Kuhn's CEE 200 class. His comments were extremely helpful in the preparation of this article.

The reconstruction of University Avenue will extend from the intersection of Bassett Street by (IHOP) to the east, and Babcock Drive to the west. While the exact working dates have not yet been set, according to Mr. Walsh it will "definitely happen" within the next two years but probably later than this coming summer. Possible detour routes will probably follow West Johnson and West Dayton Streets, plus, certain sections of University Avenue itself may remain open while construction is underway.

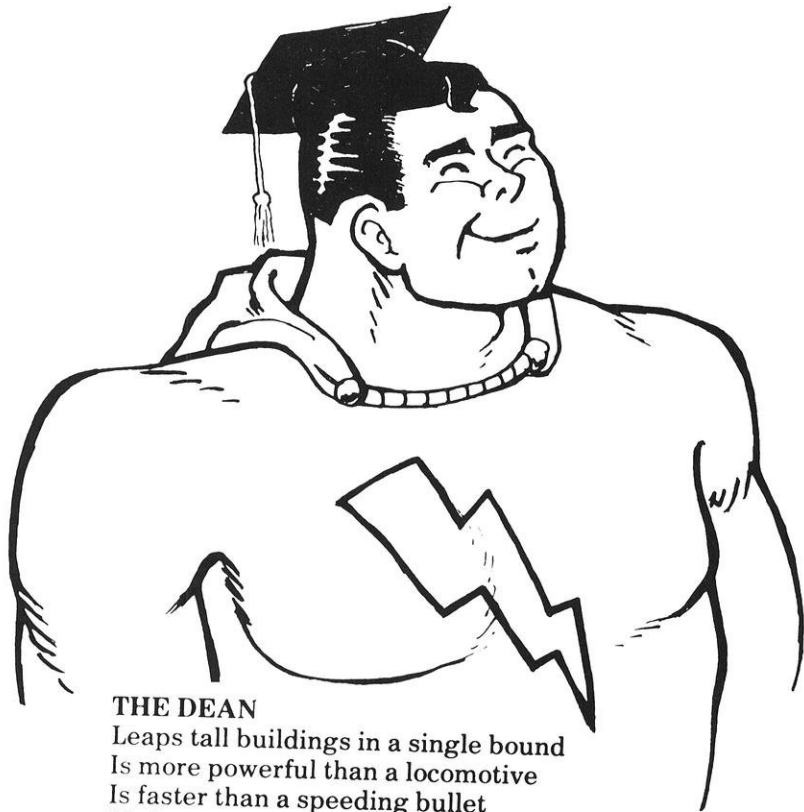
About three years of active planning have already gone into this project by the Madison transportation staff. They've even submitted an investigative report to the federal government, which was approved last January.

This was necessary since federal funding will be used to pay for part of the costs involved.

Knowing that a certain amount of inconvenience will occur to all modes of transportation—buses, cars, bicycles and pedestrian, the Transportation Department has already held three public hearings to acquaint citizens with the upcoming changes. Even so, none of the usually informed people who I talked to, who aren't directly associated with the planning, knew anything about it. But for those people who haven't wanted to attend, or who haven't been able to attend those meetings, further information can be obtained by calling the Transportation Department in its offices at the City County building. Also, a handy little pickup for people who don't give up easily is "The Madison Bikeway System" available at the Transportation office.







**THE DEAN**

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound  
Is more powerful than a locomotive  
Is faster than a speeding bullet  
Walks on water  
Gives policy to God



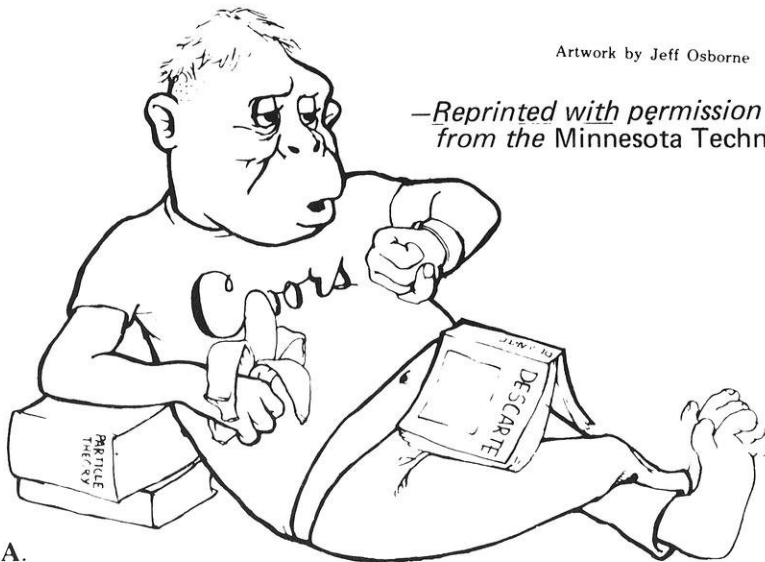
**PROFESSOR**

Leaps short buildings in a single bound  
Is more powerful than a switch engine  
Is just as fast as a speeding bullet  
Walks on water if the sea is calm  
Talks with God

# THE SYSTEM REVEALED

Artwork by Jeff Osborne

*—Reprinted with permission  
from the Minnesota Technolog.*



**T.A.**

Runs into buildings  
Recognizes locomotives two out of three times  
Has trouble deciding which end of a gun is dangerous  
Can stay afloat with a life jacket  
Thinks he is God



**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter buildings  
Says "look at the choo-choo"  
Wets himself with a water pistol  
Plays in mud puddles  
Mumbles to himself



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds  
 Is almost as powerful as a switch engine  
 Is faster than a speeding BB  
 Walks on water in an indoor swimming pool  
 Talks with God if special request is approved

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

Barely clears a quonset hut  
 Loses tug of war with a locomotive  
 Can fire a speeding bullet  
 Swims well  
 Is occasionally addressed by God

**COMPUTER PROGRAMMER**

Does not recognize buildings  
 Trips on tracks, then is run over by locomotive  
 Gets a kick out of hearing a cap pistol shot  
 Recognizes "water" as a real variable  
 Prays to God in Fortran

**GRADUATE STUDENT**

Makes high stains on walls when trying to leap tall buildings  
 Is run over by locomotives  
 Can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury  
 Can usually keep his head above the water  
 Hears strange voices in the night



**DEPARTMENT SECRETARY**

Lifts buildings and walks under them  
 Kicks locomotives off the tracks  
 Catches speeding bullets in her teeth and eats them  
 Freezes water with a single glance  
 She is God

# Learn

# and

# Earn

*by Dave McCartney*

How does a student become an engineer?

Naturally, a planned four- or five-year schedule of engineering classes at an accredited university... which leads to a degree... which can lead to an engineering career. Right?

Generally, that's true for most prospective engineers. But for some U.W. engineering undergraduates, the education has extended beyond the Madison campus.

Those other campuses can be in the form of Johnson Wax in Racine or the Hewlett-Packard company in Palo Alto, California.

Johnson Wax and Hewlett-Packard are among the many firms that offer actual work experience to engineering students while they're still in school. The company-sponsored internships are often summer jobs or co-op programs.

While job market observers acknowledge that work experience for engineering graduates isn't as necessary as it is for graduates in other fields, they agree that experience can reinforce a degree when job-hunting time starts.

For Keith Larson, IE-4, of Austin, Minnesota, his work at Johnson Wax was very rewarding. He along with 14 other interns from various engineering fields worked on special projects at Johnson Wax's Racine plant last summer.

"The minute we arrived we were treated as permanent professionals," Larson said. "The people (at Johnson Wax) seemed to go out of their way to make sure the students were socially comfortable. They held special picnics, tours and other social encounters just for the summer interns."

Larson said the working environment was even more beneficial.

"I shared an office with another industrial engineer and was assigned five projects. There was always something to do and some new areas to get involved in," he said.

The projects were quite varied, including material flow, plant layout and warehouse utilization, Larson said. The interns' projects were defined by the company and "the rest was up to the intern," he added.

"The (Johnson Wax) engineers were there to answer questions and offer help if you needed it, but the project design was basically up to the summer intern."

A New Berlin student, Connie Vandermause, ME-4, experienced the same degree of independence while employed as an intern during the summer by Husco, a firm that manufactures hydraulic valves.

"My project for the summer was to develop and design a new test rack for Husco's valves. Their present system was fine until they got a contract in which they would have to ship out many more valves a day than they were capable of doing with their present test rack," she said.

"The engineers and I followed many dead end paths before we found something to work, but (at the end of the summer) we had a small scale model working."

Vandermause said many refinements have to be made on the project yet, but the venture was a self-satisfying one.

The New Berlin senior said her shaft seal design was her best achievement, though.

"For the past few years Husco was trying to design a seal, but they always leaked. I was very proud when after one million cycles my seal had not leaked," she said. The experiment was so successful Husco has applied for a patent on Vandermause's shaft seal design.

Sue Blockstein, ECE-3 of Madison and John Socha, ECE-3 of Marshall, both worked as summer interns for the Hewlett-Packard company, though they worked in different areas at different locations.

Blockstein was employed in the H.P. calculator products division's research and development lab in Loveland, Colorado, "a nice place to spend a summer."

"I gained the 'hands-on' experience I wanted. I saw how industry works. I had contact with engineers and saw what they did day-to-day," she said.

Blockstein worked on two test fixtures for a large scale integrated circuit at H.P.

"One test fixture holds the packaged part onto a computer-controlled chip tester and makes the necessary connections," she said. "The other fixture is for a high temperature reverse bias test. This test causes chips that would fail early to do so before they are installed in calculators.

"This is important for good reliability."

John Socha has completed two summers of work at H.P.'s Stanford Park division in Palo Alto, California. Instead of calculators, the firm's Palo Alto site produces signal generators.

Since Socha was a freshman during his first internship, much of his time was devoted to an introduction of the division's major products.

"Usually I worked with one of the production technicians for the signal generator of interest. Their task is to align the instrument and assure that the specifications are met. If not, then it is their job to correct the problem," he said.

Socha learned of test procedures and observed many of the typical problems lab technicians encounter.

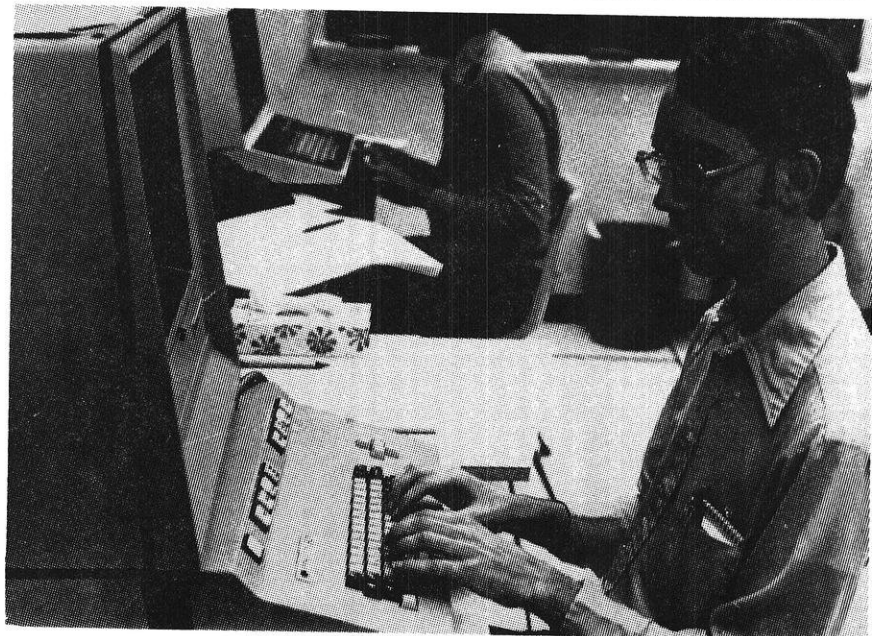
During the second summer the Marshall junior was assigned a design project in H.P.'s research and development lab. The task, Socha said, entailed every phase of designing a product up to and including the building of the prototype.

"The real advantage of working on a co-op program is the practical experience to back up the theory," he said. "Experience is also a good way of determining where your interests lie before obtaining a degree so a course of study can be chosen."

Hydraulics, calculators, signal generators and plant management may have little in common. But for students who work as interns in such diverse fields, one clear, common characteristic appears: they'll have a better idea what decision to make when the job-hunting begins.



*—Dave McCartney is a junior in journalism from Charles City, Iowa.*





# You Bet Your Life

Telephone calls from insurance salesmen have become as much a part of the final year in engineering as senior slump and interviews. All three are faced with a certain amount of dread and disdain, due mostly to a lack of knowledge.

This series of articles will provide you with some fundamental background information to help you deal with insurance salesmen. The conclusion will be published next month.

Basically there are two types of life insurance: cash-value and term. Practically all other policies are some form or combination of these two.

Cash-value life insurance (such as whole, or straight, life and endowment policies) is actually a combination of life insurance protection with a savings plan. A uniform premium is usually paid throughout the life of a cash-value policy. Although the face value remains constant, the insurance protection decreases as the cash value of the policy builds up. The insurance protection is the difference between the face value and the cash value. If the policyholder survives until his policy matures, in most cases in twenty years or at age sixty-five, he will receive the full face value of the policy since the cash value is then equal to the face value and there is no insurance protection left.

Term insurance is pure life

insurance protection, therefore it has much lower premiums than does cash-value insurance for the same amount of protection.

There are many different varieties of term insurance, two of the most important ones are level renewable term and decreasing term. Level renewable term features a constant face value with a premium which increases at each renewal; usually at one-, five-, or ten-year intervals. A decreasing term policy has a face value that decreases while a fixed premium is paid.

There are many arguments for and against both major types of life insurance. The "forced savings" aspect of cash-value insurance is attractive to many people even though a person with some discipline can do as good or better by saving and investing on their own. Increasing coverage at a future date is usually easier with cash-value than with term. Term, however, allows a person with limited finances to obtain more adequate coverage.

Insurance salesmen almost always try to sell cash-value insurance first—it pays a much larger commission than does term. You should consider whether you can afford to start a savings program at the expense of having sufficient coverage. A combination of term and cash-value insurance is probably advisable in most cases.

Another important aspect of life insurance policies are the

"riders," or options available at additional cost.

Almost all policies include an accidental death rider which pays from two to five times the face value of the policy should the policyholder die under particular circumstances. Although the additional premium is small, this rider makes little sense. A policyholder's dependents would stand to lose more financially if he were to die after an extended illness than suddenly. It is probably wiser to spend the additional money on more coverage than on this option.

The "waiver of premium" option is available on nearly every policy. This provides for the payment of premiums by the insurance company should the policyholder become disabled for more than six months. This rider is well worth the extra cost, however, the price does vary greatly from company to company and this should be looked into when comparing prices.

A third important rider is that of guaranteed insurability. Guaranteed insurability allows a policyholder to purchase additional insurance at a later date without having to prove that he is a good risk. This is implicit in a renewable term policy. Since future responsibilities cannot always be predicted, this rider permits flexibility in insurance coverage.

*More next month.*

DISCOVER  
THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
CREDIT UNION . . .  
WE'RE UNIQUE!



AND . . .  
WE'RE DOING MORE FOR YOU.

## WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CREDIT UNION?

Have you ever asked yourself, "With all the other financial institutions ready to serve my money needs, why should I do business with the University of Wisconsin Credit Union?"

The answer is, as a U.W. credit union member you have a say. The credit union is not owned by a few select persons or stockholders or the board of directors, but by all the people who own at least one share (\$5.00). Every member has a vote at the annual meeting, whether he has \$5.00 or \$2,500.00 in his share savings account. Because the credit union is a member-owned, nonprofit, cooperative organization, it is able to offer loans at competitively low rates.

So in case you haven't noticed, U.W. credit union is not like other financial institutions. It does a lot more for you than just offer you a safe, convenient place to save and borrow. Your credit union offers a host of other financial services. Take the time to discover your credit union!



University of Wisconsin Credit Union  
1423 Monroe Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53711

(608) 262-2228

—Fusion Program

engineering holds up under real conditions, then a demonstration reactor could be built with assurance of success.

Scientists at Princeton have developed the basic idea for a breakeven reactor and the Wisconsin team has studied requirements of a Tokamak Engineering Test Reactor (TETR) designed to study radiation damage to materials, blanket design for power conversion and tritium breeding, remote maintenance and handling of radioactive substances, tritium leakage control, and magnet design.

TETR is designed to give a high-energy neutron flux against the inner wall comparable to that expected in a power reactor.

The test reactor should achieve these goals, yet be small, flexible, and as inexpensive as possible, Conn says.

—Robert Ebisch is on the faculty of the University Extension Engineering Department.



To the Editors:

There have been many changes both outer and inner taking place this season. From the eyes of an engineering student the view is stunning. Engineers are masters of change—on the *physical* and *technological* level but are also flesh and blood people who feel and interact and question. In our

scholastic experience we are taught to question HOW? But the times are changing and more of us are turning to the question of WHY?

The stresses and strains of the routine seem to take over as our primary motivational factor. The deadlines are met, but with enthusiasm? We are not animals who live by instinct. We are not machines (programmable) that compute or feedback data. Learning is a means to an end. There is a challenge to find that end and in doing so find yourself.

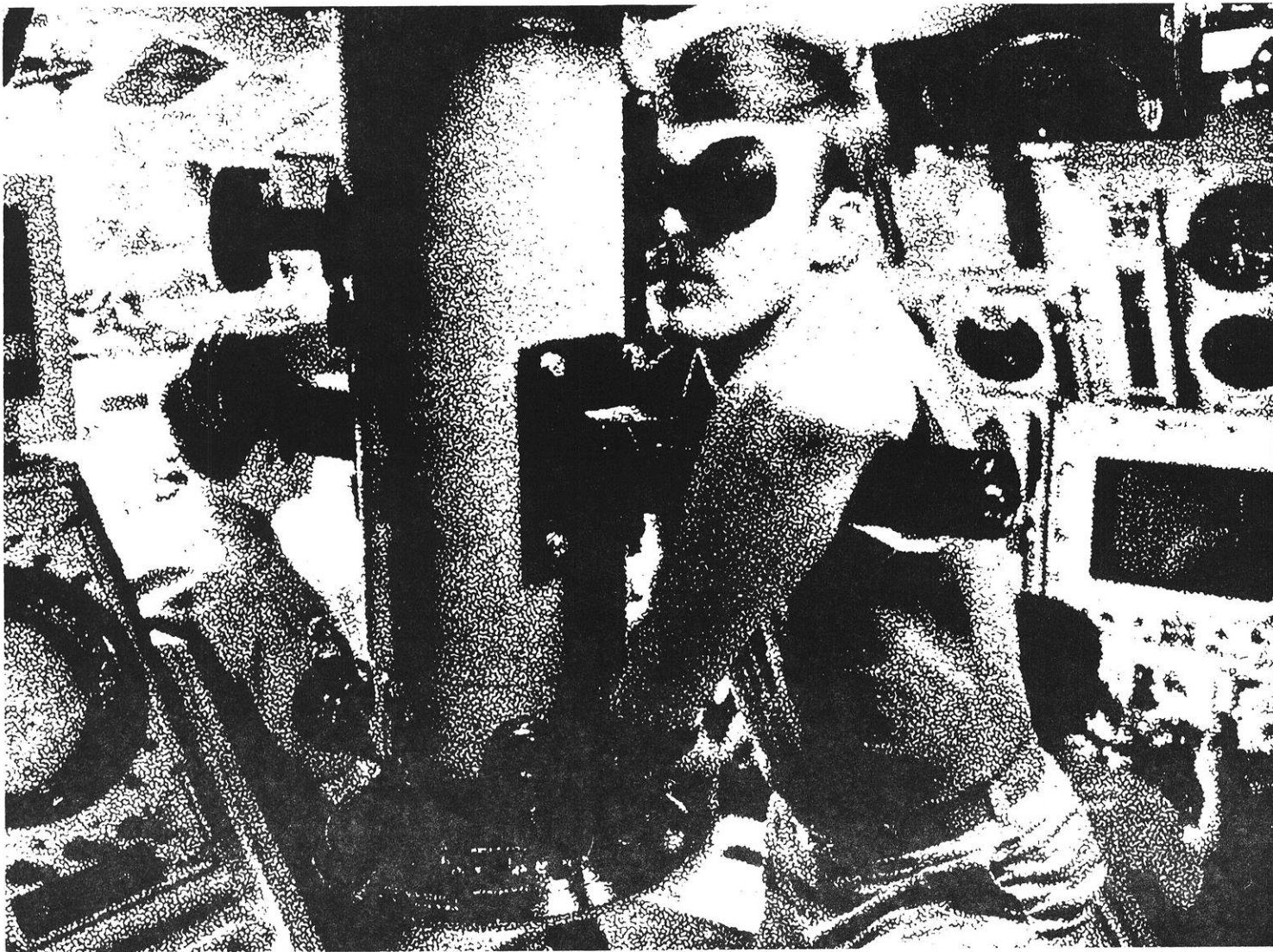
Many will never appreciate the beauty of our work. All of the efforts, the concentration, the creation of each piece (master-piece) of engineering science is like a dynamic channeling of rapid flowing waters, yet it rushes by leaving heads unturned and thoughts undisturbed. Can anyone see the magnificence in that box of tubes (circuits) which stares us in the face during

prime time?

Engineering has come a long way in such a short time and has passed so many by intellectually that we as engineers have a duty to keep up with our monster, tame it, train it, LOVE it and in doing so love ourselves. We must realize what is behind and what is to come, noting the tremendous amount of progress we can achieve if energies are directed instead of scattered and diffused. Imagine the difference in our world if our thoughts could all be harnessed—Can we be that clearheaded?

All of us are playing a small part in the total production so as the changes are taking place inside of you, the effects will float to the surface producing a unique outcome. It is impossible to separate ourselves from our work so take pride in it and do it well. Since science is infinite our work will never be done.

—Jo Ann Chang



**"I already have a job when I graduate!"**

**BECOMING AN OFFICER IS NO SMALL TASK.**

No one is a born leader. No classroom or graduation certificate confers leadership. It evolves in the crucible of necessity, formed from the basic elements of observation, experience and motivation. You've got to prove what it takes and that you want it bad enough to work for it.

If this sounds like what you want, contact your professor of Naval Science.

The Navy is accepting applications for two and four year scholarships for men and women now. These scholarships provide: full tuition, all costs for fees, books and uniforms, plus \$100 a month, a job upon graduation, and career opportunities around the world.

**NROTC UNIT  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
1610 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706**

**(608) 262-3794**



# Sue Dahlberg sheds light on semiconductors...

gaining new knowledge to help improve the nationwide telecommunications network.

Sue is studying how crystal and thin-film semiconductors interact with light. Using special high-vacuum equipment and an electron gun built to her specifications, she has been bombarding such materials as gallium phosphide and gallium arsenide with electrons. Then she examines the change in electrical current as the surface reacts to light. Data from these experiments are used to analyze the behavior of semiconductors under development at several Bell Labs and Western Electric facilities.

Sue's research today may yield important practical benefits tomorrow, such as cheaper, more efficient solar cells, or improved light-emitting diodes, lasers and detectors for lightwave communications — a new technology in which phone calls and other information can be carried as pulses of light over hair-thin glass fibers.

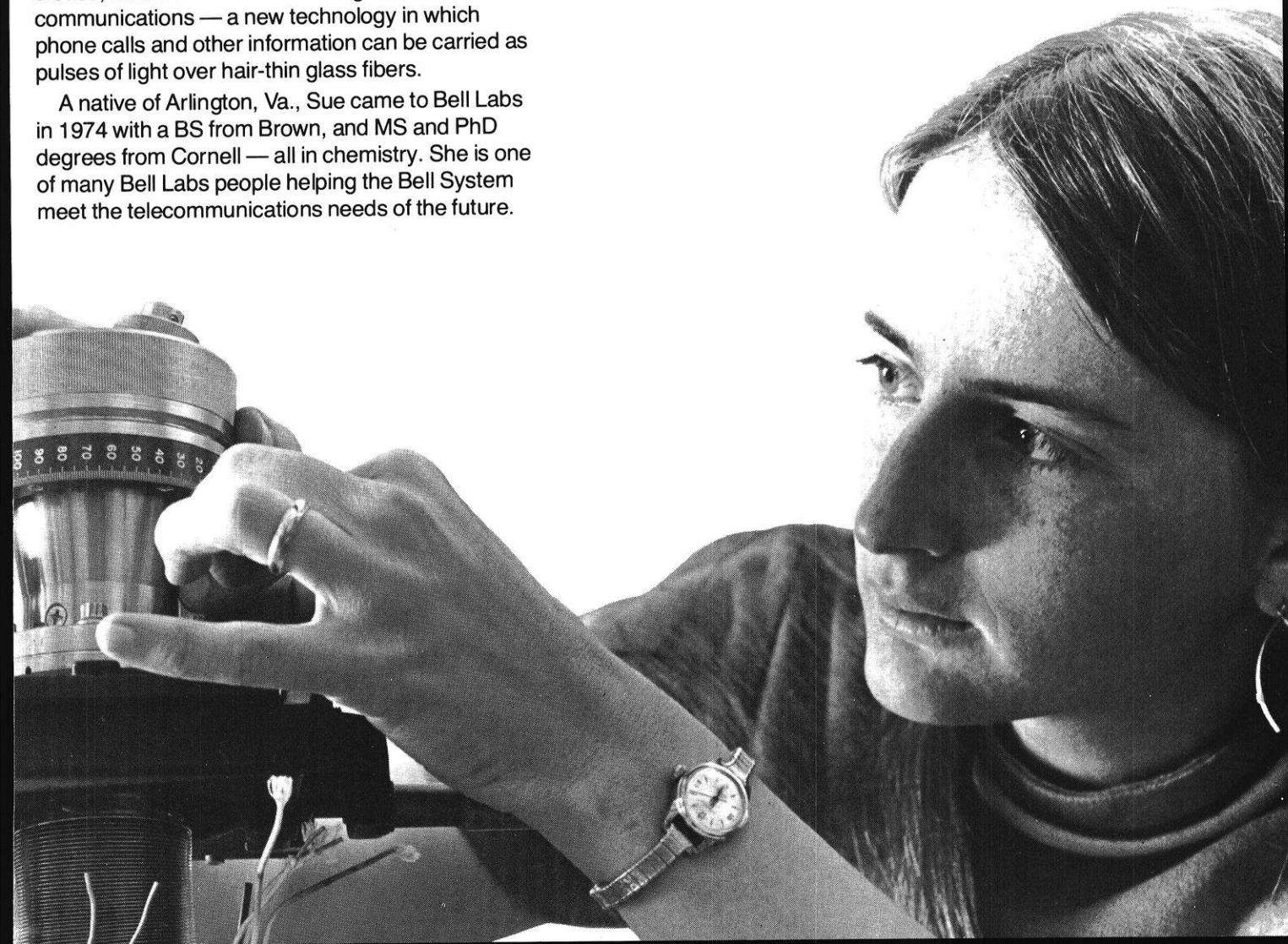
A native of Arlington, Va., Sue came to Bell Labs in 1974 with a BS from Brown, and MS and PhD degrees from Cornell — all in chemistry. She is one of many Bell Labs people helping the Bell System meet the telecommunications needs of the future.

For information about employment opportunities at Bell Labs, contact your Placement Office, or write to:

Director of Technical Employment  
Center 831 EM  
Bell Laboratories  
600 Mountain Ave.  
Murray Hill, N.J. 07974



## Bell Labs





# We're looking for engineers who were born to lead.

Are you the kind of engineer who has what it takes to move into management someday? If you are, you already know it.

Now what you need to know is which companies can offer you the best opportunities. We think you'll find General Electric is one.

We're a high technology company. And that means we have to have managers who understand technology – women and men – to run the place.

Today, over 60% of the top managers at General Electric hold technical degrees. In fact, over 65% of the college graduates we hired last year held technical degrees.

Of course, just leadership ability and a technical degree won't get you into management. First, you're going to need solid engineering experience and a broad understanding of business.

And we have a lot of ways to help you get it.

One is our Manufacturing Management Program. A two-year program of rotating assignments that gives you broad experience with different products and manufacturing processes.

Another is our Engineering Program. For engineers with an interest in product and systems design and development. There's also a Field Engineering Program, a Technical Marketing Program, plus a number of programs sponsored by product operations.

And all with just one aim. To give you all the responsibility and all the perspective you need to move into management. As fast as you can manage it.

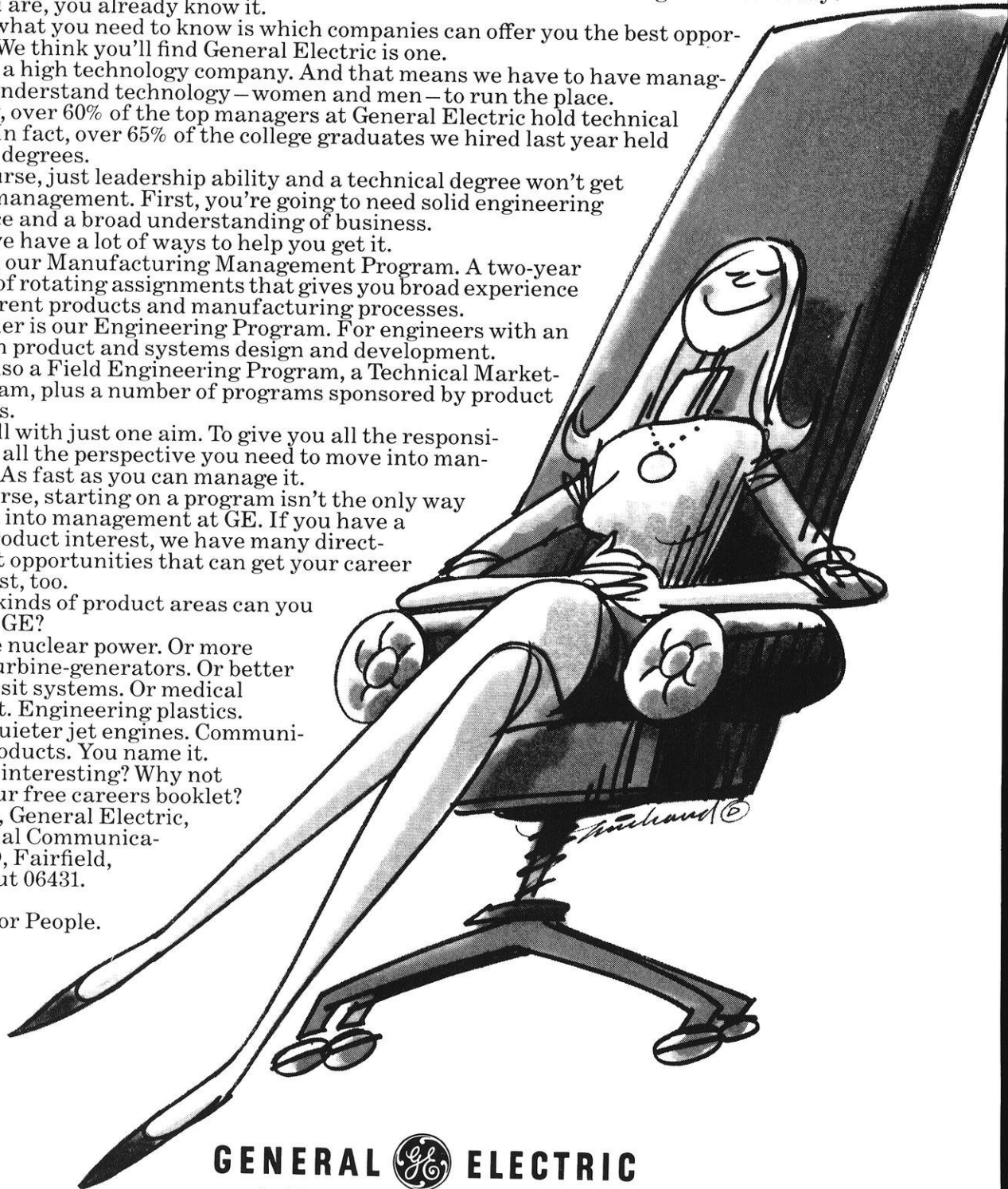
Of course, starting on a program isn't the only way to make it into management at GE. If you have a specific product interest, we have many direct-placement opportunities that can get your career started fast, too.

What kinds of product areas can you work in at GE?

Maybe nuclear power. Or more efficient turbine-generators. Or better mass-transit systems. Or medical equipment. Engineering plastics. Cleaner, quieter jet engines. Communications products. You name it.

Sound interesting? Why not send for our free careers booklet? Just write, General Electric, Educational Communications, WID, Fairfield, Connecticut 06431.

Progress for People.



**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**

An Equal Opportunity Employer.