

The main attraction is its title 'National Science University'. However, there is no argument anywhere for a separate Science University. The coexistence with arts, law, social sciences, etc. is welcome for the science departments. Why have those to be isolated? I have myself one explanation in my mind. The troubles of

the universities mostly originate (not always) from the arts, law and social science departments, therefore, in isolation, a Science University may be in a somewhat advantageous position. But where is the guarantee if the basic problems of the Universities are not solved? We have to seriously ponder on this issue without

creating more and more Universities.

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## Pancharatnam

Permit me a personal note to say how astounded I was to see the picture in the second column on page 291 of the Pancharatnam memorial issue (*Curr. Sci.*, 1994, 67, 290–292). The picture shows Prema, Pancharatnam, myself to his right, and friends. The building in the background is, I think, either 'the other end' of the Clarendon or Keeble College. The picture was taken by one of our gang on our way to Startford-upon-Avon. We had stopped over at Oxford one very hot

summer day of 1966.

Pancharatnam had just showed me around his lab, full of lasers and largish Helmholtz coils. He explained to me his on-going work on optical pumping, etc. I made one of my usual brash, off-the-cuff remarks about spin-orientation in a slowly-changing magnetic field (or some such). Pancharatnam took the remark seriously enough to say that needed to be investigated. Believe it or not, right there, when that picture was taken, Pancharat-

nam is asking me if I would want to work with him for a Ph D after I finished my Master's in Cranfield!

That picture records a road not taken, another might-have-been in my wayward professional life!

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## Plagiarism

*We publish below a letter by V. S. Kale. It is a reaction to a paper entitled 'Equation of estimation of sedimentation rates: Applications to sequence stratigraphy' by M. Aslam, Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202 001 published in Current Science (67(5), 10 September 1994, pp. 396–397). The paper was refereed as usual. It is unfortunate that the referee did not see that large parts of the paper were lifted verbatim by the author from a previously published paper. We wrote to the author seeking his clarification but we did not receive a satisfactory reply.*

*After careful investigation we found the allegation made by V. S. Kale has much substance to it. We are sorry we published Aslam's paper. We request the readers to treat this paper as not published in Current Science. Hence this will not be indexed. We will be grateful if our referees help us in seeing that such cases, even though few and far between, are not repeated.*

— Editor

I am a subscriber to *Current Science* and have received the latest issue (dated 10 September 1994, Volume 67, No. 5) only yesterday. It is with a very heavy heart and due sadness that I am to communicate to you a case of very obvious plagiarism which has been conducted in one of the 'Research Communications' (page numbers 396–397) published in this issue of the Journal.

Many paragraphs, figures (1, 2) and equations have been taken *verbatim* from a paper written by Cant (*Basin Research*, 1989, 2, 73–81, published by Blackwell, UK). It is significant to note that the relevant paper from which the material

has been copied and reproduced does not find any mention in the listing of citations, though an earlier paper by Cant has been cited; as it was in the 1989 paper.

**If this is not plagiarism, we need to redefine the word.**

It is my misfortune that this came to my notice and that I cannot keep silent about it. It is such individual cases of unscrupulous practices which go unreported and unpunished that bring a bad name to Indian Science, with the result that even sincere workers are looked at with suspicion by the outside world. Do we want to persist with this? As the

Editor of the Journal, one would appreciate and understand that it is practically impossible for you to be personally aware of each and every publication, given the overall reliance on the review process. However, it is for you now to take some firm and clear cut stand against such unfair practices by isolated unscrupulous individual cheats, so as to deter anyone from trying it again.

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