

## Halves and Halves Not

Half a page, half a page, half a page onward, all for the monarch of fractions, this endword. Lesser quotients deserve no quarter at all, but a one by a two is two quarters tall. A middling percent is fifty, it's true, but it seems to have taken the language by coup. Take for example the infamous test of the fullness or emptiness of the proverbial glass. You're cast as a pessimist if half empty is stressed, but half full is a plus in even demitasse class. Nevertheless, you can't know in advance if the factor of two even stands half a chance. Half the battle being over means it's downhill to win, but to parse the impartible to half-truth is sin. It's well understood that half price is quite good, but half baked does not live in the same neighborhood. A flag at half staff is the same as half mast and sadly implies that someone has passed.

Would only a half-wit go off so half-cocked, provoking a fraction that deserves not to be mocked? We have

half a mind to end it right here, but have not heard the half of this fractional smear. Half a loaf may indeed be better than none, but half again as much would



not see this piece done. Why, we'd miss the half line of geometry fame, the half width at half max of the resolution game, the mode of the modem as half-duplex is known, and the printer's penchant for offset half-tone. And that two-donkey cart that's missing one beast and gives license to half assed while offending the least would never be mentioned were this piece to end. Well, maybe that's a demi-godsend. Fascination with half integrals is bound to decay with a half-life of very much less than a day, and the pages of Roget will undoubtedly fray before all the halves have their ultimate say. Apologies to Pauli for omitting half spin which he has excluded to our great chagrin. Now half a page reached, halves lost on the way, all that is left of them in disarray, honor the half note sounded today, heard round the hemisphere as if homage to pay to the one noble fraction for going only halfway.

E.N. KAUFMANN

## CLASSIFIED

### Positions Available

#### TENURE-TRACK JOINT FACULTY POSITIONS Grambling State University and Louisiana Tech University

The Department of Physics at Grambling State University and the Institute for Micromanufacturing at Louisiana Tech University are seeking applicants for two tenure-track positions. Candidates with experience in magnetic materials and degrees in physics, electrical engineering, or materials science will be considered. Candidates must be capable of teaching undergraduate physics and will be expected to develop graduate and undergraduate research programs. These research activities will be part of a joint program in magnetic materials and magnetic microdevices.

A start-up package includes two months summer salary for two years, reduced teaching loads, and a substantial equipment budget. These positions are one of six Joint Faculty Appointment partnerships between HBCUs and majority institutions within the state of Louisiana and are supported by NSF and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

All applicants are encouraged to send a curriculum vitae, a brief statement of research goals, and three references to either Dr. Matthew Ware, Department of Physics, Grambling State University, Grambling LA, 71245 or to Dr. James L. Maxwell, Institute for Micromanufacturing, P.O. Box 10137, Ruston, LA, 71272. Grambling State and Louisiana Tech are neighboring Universities, within five miles of each other.

*Grambling State and Louisiana Tech are equal opportunity/affirmative action employers, with facilities accessible for the disabled, and encourage women and minority candidates.*

#### POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH POSITION University of Delaware

The Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering of the University of Delaware invite applications for a postdoctoral research position that is available immediately in the fracture mechanics of crystalline ceramic materials. Our interest is in the study of microcrystalline micro-porous aluminosilicates used as catalysts in the chemical industry. Direct experience in micromechanics of fracture (preferably experimental) or a closely related area is desired. There should be some interest in the combined use of techniques such as x-ray powder diffraction, IR spectroscopy, and NMR spectroscopy. There will be direct interaction with industrial research collaborators throughout the project.

The appointment is initially for one year with renewal possible for an additional year. A PhD degree in materials science or equivalent is required. Please submit a curriculum vitae, publications list, and names of three references to Dr. John Lambros, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716. E-mail inquiries may be submitted to [lambros@me.udel.edu](mailto:lambros@me.udel.edu).

*The University of Delaware is an equal opportunity employer which encourages applications from minority group members and women.*

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