

**NCSU Chapter Hosts Rustum Roy, Debates K-12 Science Education**

The North Carolina Section of the Materials Research Society, along with the Carolina Section of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME), recently conducted a symposium, *Science Education: Problems and Solutions—Perspectives from Educators and Scientists*. Featuring a number of speakers, including Rustum Roy of Pennsylvania State University's Materials Research Laboratory, the meeting featured a talk by Roy, a poster session, and a panel discussion that focused on Roy's ideas for improving science education.

Roy spoke on the theme, "Applied Science and Engineering as the Salvation of K-12 'Science' Education," to a televised audience. The event was carried by the Southeastern University Research Association broadcasting system. Roy said U.S. science education is a "failure" because U.S. goals are not clear, and that despite adequacy in the traditional sciences, science education is deficient in the area of technology and in relating science to citizenship. Roy also noted that the science and engineering community has totally neglected the task of educating the 95% of students who will *not* become scientists or engineers.

The panel examined the question, "Do we need a radical approach for K-12 science education for the 21st century?" Speakers included Linda Stroud, a chemistry teacher; Robert Cullen of the Research Triangle Science and Mathematics Partnership; David Haase, NCSU physics professor; Louis Schlesinger of the NCSU Mineral Research Laboratory; Robert Davis, a professor in the NCSU Materials Science and Engineering Department; and Rustum Roy.

Stroud discussed the problems of teaching high school science in the current environment of societal and family problems, a situation outside the control of educators. Cullen talked about how his group is helping science teachers through lectures, demonstrations, and other activities. Haase described The Science House, an initiative at NCSU that helps train school teachers through an ongoing series of workshops and science demonstrations. Schlesinger discussed

how AIME is helping teachers with earth science topics and showed a videotape of the 1993 AIME Exhibit at the National Science Teachers Association. Davis offered examples of the "final results" of quality science education, displaying

some recent highly successful work from NCSU graduate students. □

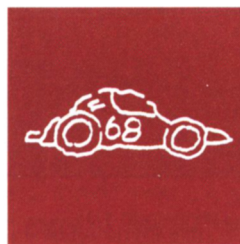
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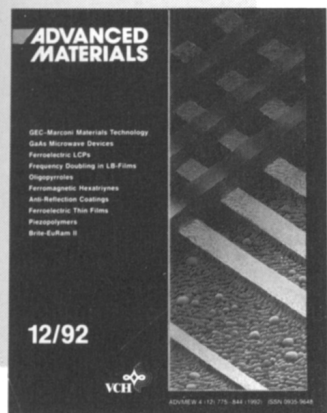
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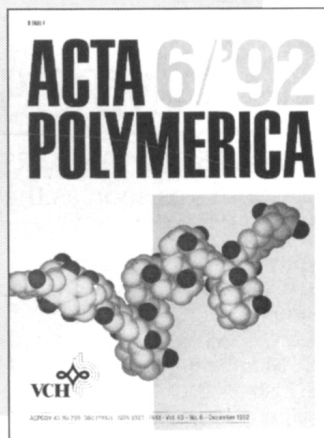
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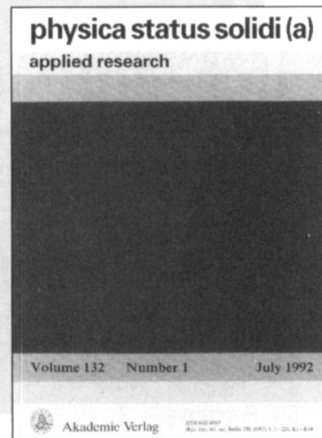
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