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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**Transition Effect**

Recent issues of *Physical Review Letters* have been unusually thick, so much so that the printer has resorted to perfect binding rather than the usual saddle-stitch binding. Readers could understandably wonder if there has been a dramatic increase in submissions, or a major change in editorial policy. Although submissions continue to increase significantly, as they have for a number of years, there has been no sudden change in slope. Nor has editorial policy been changed; nor has there been a sudden global change in referees' willingness to recommend publication. Rather, the current thick issues are a temporary effect of a transition in the production of *Physical Review Letters*.

Since July 1, 1994, *Physical Review Letters* has been composed at Beacon Graphics of Ashland, Ohio rather than in the APS Editorial Offices at Ridge, New York. The reasons for this change are increased economy and the desire to institute a production method which would evolve smoothly into the electronic era (as of July 1995, *Physical Review Letters* will be available on line—more information about this at a later date).

However, the transition involved additional work beyond that anticipated, both at Ridge and at Beacon, with the result that a backlog of papers to be published accumulated. This backlog, which is now diminishing, amounted to about six issues as of February 1995. During the period of catching up, the journal will be thicker than usual. We are making every effort to be back to our usual publication time of four weeks (after acceptance) in about six months. We appreciate the patience shown by our authors and readers during this transition.