

# Take Away Your Billion Dollars

五年前是“Physics today”創刊二十週年紀念，當時“時空”曾以巨幅版面，翻譯其紀念性文章“發展物理二十年”介紹戰後二十年，物理各部門，發展概況。

五年後的今天，該是“Physics today”二十五週年紀念了！本中心由於人才和經費極度缺乏，無法以巨幅版面，翻譯其紀念性文章“Physics today and the spirit of the Forties”（五月號），僅節錄其中一首musical comment，讓讀者了解在巨型加速器問世時，物理學家的心境。（本中心人才匱乏，沒有把握翻譯出來，只好摘錄，尚請原諒）。

“... Now in my lab we had our plans, but these we'll now expand.  
Research right now is useless, we have come to understand.  
We now propose constructing at an ancient Army base,  
The best electromuclear machine in any place.-Oh,  
It cost a billion dollars, ten billion volts'twill give.  
It will take five thousand scholars seven years to make it alive.  
All the generals approve it, all the money's now in hand.  
And to help advance our program, teaching students now we've  
banned...

This machine is just a model for a bigger one, of course,  
That's the future road for physicist, as I'm sure you'll all  
endorse.

And as the halls with cheers resound and praises fill the air,  
One single man remains aloof and silent in his chair.  
And when the room is quiet and the crowd has ceased to cheer,  
He rises up and thunders forth an answer loud and clear:

'It seems that I'm a failure, just a piddling dilettante  
Within six months a mere ten thousand bucks is all I've spent.  
With love and string and sealing wax was physics kept alive,  
Let not the wealth of Midas hide the goal for which we strive.-oh  
Take away your billion dollars, take away your tainted gold,  
You can keep your damn ten billion volts, my soul will not be sold  
...'