Electroluminescence Seen in 1907

H. C. Gatos in "Electronic materials and applications" (11 Apr., p. 137) states that "Electroluminescence was discovered in 1937, 10 years before the transistor." Electroluminescence in zinc sulfide was first observed by G. Destriau (*1*) in 1936 (*2–4*), not 1937. However, it has been known for a long time that electroluminescence in silicon carbide (also referred to by Gatos) had been seen as early as 1923 by Lossew (*5*). Furthermore, I recently reported (*6*) that similar observations on silicon carbide were made as long ago as 1907 by Round (*7*). Electroluminescence thus predates the transistor by 40 years, not a mere 10 years.

I would also like at this time to correct a misleading statement made in my reference 6. At the time Round published his results on silicon carbide, he was residing in New York City as stated. However, it has been pointed out to me (by P. C. Newman of Northampton, England) that Round was an English citizen and one of the pioneers of "wireless" in that country. Furthermore, in 1966 he was still alive and had attained the age of 85.

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Relevance of Research to Students

In general, I find myself in strong agreement with Stephen J. Tonsor's speech of 1 April to the education committee of the National Association of Manufacturers which was endorsed by President Nixon (*1*). In particular, his proposal that the student exercise the choice in the placement of the funds supporting his or her education is the strongest possible reinforcement of diversification and, ultimately, relevance of an education.

However, I strongly disagree with