those years. Since he reentered government a year ago, Smith has been involved in a broad range of nonproliferation issues such as the effort to create a nuclear weapons–free zone in Latin America and negotiations over nuclear exports to specific countries such as Iran. Smith, however, has not taken much of a public role in the exposition of nonproliferation policy. That task has fallen mainly to Nye.

Nye's appointment seems traceable, at least in part, to his activities as a participant in a 1976 study sponsored by the Ford Foundation and carried out under the aegis of the MITRE Corporation. Published as *Nuclear Power: Issues and Choices*, the report is generally regarded as having contributed significantly to the intellectual foundation of the Administration's policy. Spurgeon M. Keeny, Jr., who was chairman of the study panel and a member of the MITRE Corporation staff at the time, is now deputy director of ACDA.

Nye and others caution that although the report had an impact on policy, it could not be regarded as a blueprint. First, uranium resource estimates in the study may have been too high. This is

Brain That Rocked Physics Rests in Cider Box

Einstein died in the early morning hours of 18 April 1955. His biographer, Ronald Clark, relates that before Einstein died he began muttering: "It was in German that the last thoughts of one of the greatest brains since Newton's came to the surface through the unconscious mind." Since the nurse in attendance did not understand German, Einstein's last words were lost. As for that great brain, Clark notes that Einstein had insisted it be used for research, although the rest of his body was to be cremated.

What became of Einstein's brain? Clark does not say, but by an unexpected set of circumstances two New Jersey reporters have furnished the world with the answer to this unimportant yet curious question.

Two years ago Michael Aron, then an editor at *Harper's*, prepared an article on the mechanisms of the brain, and came to wonder what had become of Einstein's. He learned that it had been removed for study by Thomas S. Harvey, the pathologist at the Princeton Hospital where Einstein died.

Aron was unable to pursue his inquiries further because he moved from *Harper's* to *Rolling Stone*, and the editors of that generally less cerebral journal were not interested in the story. Aron then became editor of the *New Jersey Monthly*, published in Princeton. Einstein's brain was undeniably a story of local interest. He assigned one of his reporters, Steven Levy, the task of finding it.

"Why may not imagination trace the noble dust of Alexander till he find it stopping a bunghole?" Hamlet inquires of Horatio. Levy traced Einstein's brain to a Mason jar packed in a cardboard box marked COSTA CIDER, in an office in Wichita, Kansas.

The office belonged to Thomas Harvey, now medical supervisor in a Wichita biological testing laboratory. Harvey had had most of the brain sectioned and distributed to various specialists. Nothing has yet been published about their findings, he explained to Levy, because there is still more work to be done. It has all taken so long because Harvey has had other things to do, but he hopes to be ready to publish in "perhaps a year."

The parts of Einstein's brain which remain unsectioned are the cerebellum and a piece of the cerebral cortex. It is these fragments, preserved in a jar of formaldehyde, that are kept in the cider box, under a beer cooler, in Harvey's office.

"Was this the face," Faust exclaims in amazement at the simulacrum of Helen of Troy, "that launched a thousand ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium?" The brain of Einstein should surely inspire no less awe than the face of Helen. Here, from the August 1978 issue of the *New Jersey Monthly*, is Levy's account of being shown the physicist's organ of intellect:

> I had risen up to look into the jar, but now I was sunk in my chair, speechless. My eyes were fixed upon that jar as I tried to comprehend that these pieces of gunk bobbing up and down had caused a revolution in physics and quite possibly changed the course of civilization. *There it was!*

At the death of Friedrich Gauss, one of the greatest mathematicians in history, his brain was bequeathed to a Dr. Rudolph Wagner, who undertook to compare it in weight, depth of fissures, and pattern of cerebral convolutions, with the brain of an "ordinary day laborer." The brains of Gauss and the laborer turned out to be identical in all respects. Even with contemporary methods, it would be more surprising than otherwise if the nature of Einstein's genius could be divined from dead tissue. "So far it's fallen within normal limits for a man his age," Harvey told the *New Jersey Monthly* of the savant's gray matter.

Like his last words, the physical basis of Einstein's mind has eluded understanding.—N.W.

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