

MEMO
Concerning the appointment of
Shuwa McLerran
as a
Visiting Scientist the in Physics Department
at
Brookhaven National Laboratory

This memo warmly recommends the appointment of Shuwa McLerran as a Visiting Scientist in the Physics Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Shuwa at present has no appointment at any other scientific institution, and ordinarily I would be hesitant to nominate him for the above-named position. Recent events have proven, however, that conventional academic standing is no longer a requirement for appointment as a visitor Brookhaven Laboratory, so now seems an opportune time to make such a recommendation.

Shuwa is without question a well-known member of the international scientific community. He has on many occasions shared a glass of wine with respected scientists such as Jack Marburger, current Science Advisor to the President of the United States, and has provided the current scientific director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Peter Paul, with comments on matters both scientific and political. He has lived and in fact even slept with the current director of the theory department of France's most prestigious physics institution, Jean-Paul Blaizot (CEA Saclay). It should not be assumed incorrectly that Shuwa might not have the highest moral standards, I mention this circumstance only to indicate the high degree of rapport between the two. Nor does the circumstance that Mme. Blaizot was usually present, sharing the bed with Shuwa and her husband, imply that there was anything like a *ménage* (or for that matter a *ménagerie*) à trois involved.

One must admit that Shuwa has a scant publication record. He has in fact not yet published any scientific paper. He does, however, have a well-established appetite for scientific work. From the time he was but a young kitten he has devoured any number of my manuscripts and thoroughly digested them. I might add that we are now working together on an exciting new paper, "Why the Pentaquark is Like a Giant Tuna Fish". We fully expect this paper will make a big splash.

I believe that the primary reason for Shuwa's superficially weak record of conventional scientific accomplishment, at least as judged by the narrow standards usually considered in appointments of this sort, is that there are lamentably few educational opportunities for cats.

In my judgment, Shuwa has consistently shown extraordinary creativity, and can boast certain remarkable accomplishments. He can jump through hoops and on occasion he has

even been known to fetch. I do not think you will find very many theoretical physicists capable of such feats.

In addition, Shuwa is well-known for his ability to interact successfully with others. He is noted for his generally amiable and sociable temperament. These are qualities all too rare in the competitive world in which we work, and ones that would make him a congenial addition to any scientific group. To be quite fair, he does seem to have a certain difficulty with anger management in a few rare situations, such as when there is an uninvited attempt to take his temperature using a rectal thermometer – but which of us might not react the same way in a similar situation?

Some may object to the proposed appointment on the grounds that Shuwa is only ten years old. Such objection is specious, and ignores the fact that one cat year equals seven human years. A scientist of his relative age can surely be counted upon to approach physics with maturity and judgment, yet can look forward to many years more of productivity and accomplishment.

I am particularly confident that Shuwa can meet the high standards for successful participation in the discussions often held in the second floor lounge, discussions viewed by some as the essential core of our scientific functioning. To be sure he does not drink coffee, but he will be more than willing to consume his share of cookies and milk, and I guarantee that if he is appointed, he will share in those afternoon sessions with his colleagues with nearly-unparalleled enthusiasm, regularity, and dedication..

I understand that the above arguments for Shuwa's appointment may seem to some to be strong, yet not entirely compelling. I therefore conclude with what I see as the most persuasive reason for appointing Shuwa.

He is my cat.

I am sure that if you will reflect on the various ways in which there might be resulting difficulties for the laboratory should the appointment I recommend fail to be made, you will see that Shuwa's addition to our scientific community is both in the best interests of this group, and totally in line with long-standing traditions at Brookhaven National Laboratory.