

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CHARLES C. LAURITSEN LABORATORY OF HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

June 19, 1991

Mr. Tom McIver
852 22nd Street
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Dear Tom:

I just read the information you sent to Murray Gell-Mann re Al Seckel, and all I can say is "good luck," and I'll keep my fingers crossed for you. Every time I would read anything about Al, the physicist, I would literally choke and rant and rave. Like the article in Los Angeles magazine last year! Yuk!

When Al first started hanging around Caltech, at least around the Physics Department, he latched onto Feynman like a leach. (I was Feynman and Gell-Mann's secretary and my office is in between.) He was sitting in on Feynman's classes, and would come up to his office before class, return after and go into the office and stay for ages. Upon casual questioning about his background he gave me very vague answers about Cornell, and turned on the charm. Since I'm hardly a "sweet young thing," it didn't wash, so I just sat and watched. Before many weeks I realized he was taking up too much of Feynman's time (there were after all other students). During this period Al was organizing the series of lectures presented at the campus Y (sound familiar?). I called a friend in the Registrar's office and of course found out he wasn't registered, then called the Y and told them this person was organizing lectures and really had no business even being on campus. He couldn't even be credited with "auditing," because to do so legally you have to register.

Let me say that Feynman thought Al was bright and intelligent, and always was generous with his time if a student was interested. As soon as I had my information I told Feynman, who dropped Al immediately (he really disliked a phony). In fact, it wasn't too long after that before Al approached him about the Skeptics and Feynman brushed him off, then came in my office and told me I was sure right about that guy. I told Gell-Mann many times too, but he chose not to pay any attention to me.

Anyhow, I hope he doesn't cause you too much grief; along with his wife, you have my sympathy.

Sincerely,



Helen J. Tuck (Mrs.)

Admin. Assistant-Theoretical Physics

P. S. Feynman also had an interesting experience with Geller - which turned out to be "not as advertised."