Letter to the Editor

ETHER OR EINSTEIN?

Dear Editor,

Where oh where did B. F. Johnston get his information[1] that 'From its (the Michelson-Morley experiment) null result Einstein concluded that there was no ether (and so no absolute standard of velocities), and that he could have a many valued definition of time at a distance,'? This is highly improbable, as Einstein is reliably quoted as writing of this famous experiment 'I do not remember IF I KNEW OF IT AT ALL when I wrote my first paper on the subject.'[2]

This is hardly the reaction of a scientist influenced by an experimental result. If only the brilliant Einstein could have lived long enough to see how modern techniques have verified his theories much more thoroughly than the Michelson-Morley result did more than 100 years ago.

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REFERENCES

1. Johnston, B. D., 1990. On the compatibility of special relativity with a decreasing velocity of light. EN Tech. J., 4:186–190.
2. Calder, N., 1989. Einstein's Universe, Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, UK, p. 181.