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80523. *New characteristic subgroups.*

Recently Glasby-Palfy-Schneider characterized p -groups with exactly one proper nontrivial characteristic subgroup, concluding that there are not many. On the other hand, the class of special groups are bountiful (as proved by Higman) yet in general these groups have exactly one *known* proper nontrivial characteristic subgroup. This talk introduces some new characteristic subgroups for p -groups which occur nontrivially in many of the special groups. (Received August 29, 2012)