

the physics community

Astronomy and medical-physics films planned

The National Science Foundation has awarded the American Institute of Physics a grant for the production of two 30-minute motion-picture films for television, to foster a better public understanding of science. The first part of the grant, amounting to \$64 000, has been awarded, and a second part is to follow.

"Birth and Death of a Star" is the working title of the first film, which is scheduled for completion next May. It will be aired over the Public Broadcasting System. The second film is planned to appear in September and will cover physics in medicine.

Both films will be in color and will be produced by Bert Shapiro, who is associated with PBS station KECT in Los Angeles. Shapiro will write the script and direct production of the films.

The NSF is underwriting production costs for these films, which are intended to give a better understanding of the role science plays in everyday life to those who might not otherwise have the chance to learn about it. It was decided that television would be the best medium for this purpose. The first two films may be the start of a series that will eventually cover various other scientific disciplines in addition to physics.

AIP's involvement in the film will not be limited to sponsorship. The Institute will also call on members of the Astronomical Society and The Association of Physicists in Medicine to serve on an advisory committee to guide Shapiro in scripting the films.

Disadvantaged students like Colorado course

A physics course for educationally disadvantaged students is underway at the University of Colorado and according to its organizer, Allan Franklin, is a success. Franklin, who lectures in the course, told *PHYSICS TODAY* "I'm very pleased with the course. It's a real physics course for real physics students."

The course is offered by the physics department at Colorado, and was intended both to help educationally disadvantaged students meet the university natural-science requirement, and to interest some of them in science as a major.

Designed for students with weak backgrounds in science and mathematics, the course is based on the text *Conceptual Physics: A New Introduction*

to Your Environment (Little Brown, Boston, 1971). Franklin adds mathematical depth where he feels it is necessary.

"The idea for the course came from the minorities committee in the physics department," said Franklin. Most of the students are Chicanos, with a large number of blacks, some American Indians and some whites. "It was open to the first 200 who signed up," Franklin told us, "More wanted to apply, but we were limited by the size of the room."

"The course has been going well. Their performance in the course is as good as that of the students in the other non-calculus introductory course."

No special attempt has been made to recruit minority recitation leaders, although there is one black teaching assistant. The race of the instructor does not appear to matter much to the students, however. Two of the most popular teaching assistants, Franklin says, are Englishmen.

—SMH



EIRICH

Rheologists elect Eirich as president of society

Frederick R. Eirich will be president of the Society of Rheology for 1972 and 1973. Eirich, who succeeds Herschel Markovitz in this position, is presently Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

Eirich was dean of research at PIB from 1967 to 1970 and has been active in work on colloids and adhesives. He is a member of both the American Chemical

Society and the American Physical Society and of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Ronald S. Rivlin, director of the Center for the Application of Mathematics at Lehigh University, has been elected vice-president of the Society of Rheology for the same term. Other officers are J. C. Miller, secretary, E. A. Collins, treasurer, and R. R. Myers, editor. The society's executive members at large are Herschel Markovitz, A. N. Gent and W. W. Graessley.

Another Soviet journal translation from AIP

The American Institute of Physics will begin publishing a new journal, the *Soviet Journal of Particles and Nuclei* (*Fizika Elementarnykh Chastits i Atomnogo Yadra*) in July. The journal, edited by Academician N. N. Bogolyubov, was published for two years in the Soviet Union without journal status. This year it becomes a journal, and it will be published by AIP with the usual six-month delay between appearance in Russian and English. The 1970 and 1971 volumes will be published by Consultants Bureau of Plenum Publishing Corp at \$90.00 per volume. The AIP journal price will be \$50.00 per year. There will be a joint solicitation of subscriptions by AIP and Plenum.

AIP-APS postdoc data pool reports progress

Over 60 universities and laboratories have joined the AIP-APS Physics Postdoctoral Information Pool (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, November 1971, page 64) and additional enrollments are coming in. These institutions maintain about 80% of the physics postdoctoral positions in the US, according to Arnold Benton, director of PPIP. "Individuals registering in PPIP will have their resume information sent to most of the large, prominent physics departments in the country," said Benton.

Compilations containing information about the 450 individuals who had registered as of 1 Jan. have already been sent to member institutions and as more people apply, the information on them will be mailed out. Benton advises those wishing to use PPIP for help in finding a postdoctoral position this spring to get their applications in by the end of February. The pool will continue to operate through the summer. Applications to join PPIP can be obtained from Arnold Benton, PPIP/AIP, 335 E. 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.