

## Professional Concerns Committee formed

A Professional Concerns Committee has been established by the Council of the American Physical Society in response to a recommendation made by the Committee on the Future of APS. The chairman is Peter Bender of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics.

The committee will assess the physics job market and issue reports on a regular basis; it will recommend to the Council the best methods for maintaining continuous service in such areas as manpower data, rosters of women and minorities in physics and preparation of a directory of industrial physics institutions; and it will advise the Council on the implementation of additional professional enhancement programs.

The other members of the committee are Earl R. Callen (American University), Henry Motz (Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory), Ronald F. Peierls (Stevens Institute of Technology), Esther Conwell (Xerox Corp), Brian B. Schwartz (MIT) and David Wetstone



BENDER

(United Aircraft Research Laboratory). Ex-officio members are Joseph Burton (Bell Laboratories) and W. W. Havens, Jr, APS executive secretary.

## New MAC groups approved by Council

The APS Council has approved the formation of Member Advisory Committees (MAC) to work toward the improvement of communication between the Society's officers and its members and to encourage younger members to commit themselves to the work of the Society. The proposal for the committees was made to the Council by Peter Eisenberger of Bell Laboratories.

The membership of these regional committees is to represent a cross section of the disciplines and attitudes in the physics community. Their conclusions and recommendations will be sent directly to the Executive Committee of the Council.

MAC groups have been formed in the New York, Washington, and Detroit areas. They will experiment with various organizational structures as they consider problems of local and national concern. Final recommendations to the Council on the organization, membership and operation of the committees are expected later.

On 8 June thirteen young physicists attended the initial organizational meeting of the Detroit area MAC group, called by Alvin M. Saperstein of Wayne State University. The participants were enthusiastic, and the meeting ended only when the tape supply was exhausted and the building had to be closed for the night.

Members felt that a survey on non-defense expenditures in applied physics, an increase in the number of sessions on applied physics at APS meetings, an exchange of scientists between industry and academic institutions, work-study programs for physics students, and incentive awards to recognize achievements in applied physics would encourage physicists to enter non-traditional areas. Repeatedly, the group (dominated by applied physicists) returned to the point that applied physics must be promoted to first-class status. Nevertheless, they emphasized that the Society should lobby against a decrease in support for basic research.

Some other concerns the group felt to be in need of attention included the

small number of women in the profession, possible ways for dealing with the oversupply of physicists, and the need for a broad public-relations campaign to demonstrate to the public the relevance of physics to contemporary concerns. That APS could become an effective force for action in all of these areas was a general consensus.

The deliberations of this first MAC meeting will serve as the basis for the next meeting at which some of these recommendations will be selected for action by the group.

## Society establishes new biological physics division

The American Physical Society has established a new Division of Biological Physics. The officers are Franklin Hutchinson, of Yale University, chairman; Earl C. Gregg, of Wearn Laboratories, Cleveland, Ohio, vice-chairman, and Leonard I. Grossweiner, of the Illinois Institute of Technology, secretary-treasurer.

According to the by-laws the Division's objectives are to "assist the advance and diffusion of knowledge of the physics of biological systems and of other aspects of the relationships between physics and biology." Chairman Hutchinson adds that "the Division will help minimize the artificial barriers between sciences imposed by the organization of departments in universities, and make it easier for physicists to pursue research in biological areas."

The Division will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the March 1974 APS meeting in Philadelphia, where it will sponsor several symposia. It will also sponsor a general-interest symposium at the February 1974 meeting in Chicago.

## in brief

The Division of Nuclear Physics is organizing a session of invited papers as part of an Energy Symposium that will be held during the Chicago APS meeting (4-7 February 1974). The Division's session will discuss the particular contributions which nuclear physicists might make to the solution of the energy problem. □