

the physics community

New England center acquires SPIN tapes

The New England Research Application Center has acquired AIP's computer-readable *Searchable Physics Information Notices*. The entire data base of over 150 000 articles is available for retrospective and current-awareness searches by participants in NERAC's Technology Utilization Program. Each article record on SPIN includes the article title, article type (experimental, theoretical, review), authors and their affiliations, journal title, volume, date and pages, and abstracts and subject classifications. New items are added to the data base at the rate of almost 2000 articles per month.

Most of the articles are from AIP and member-society journals, including the Soviet and Chinese translations. Because the tape service is a product of the integration of primary and secondary services at AIP, the articles generally appear on the tape simultaneously with the publication of the printed copies of the journals. For this reason, according to AIP Director H. William Koch, SPIN is noted for its timeliness and accuracy.

NERAC was established at the University of Connecticut in 1966 as part of the Technology Utilization Program of NASA. The purpose of the center is to help business and industry gain access to appropriate technical and business information.

Sigma Pi Sigma elects Hilton as president

Wallace A. Hilton of William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri has recently been elected to a two-year term as president of Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society. Professor of physics and department chairman, Hilton received the 1976 distinguished service citation of the American Association of Physics Teachers for his contributions to physics education.

Members who have been elected for three-year terms to the Council of the Society of Physics Students are Raymond F. Askew of Auburn University, Ala.; Richard C. Waring of the University of Missouri, Kansas City and Robert E. Jones of Linfield College, Ore. David L. Bushnell of Northern Illinois University has been re-elected to a three-year term on the Council.

The following students have been elected associate councillors for one-year terms: Lawrence Gottesman of the State University of New York, Albany; Sharon D. Byers of Shippensburg State College, Pa.; Betru Debebe of Morehouse College,



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Ga.; John Kinne of Miami University, Ohio; Stuart Hinnfeld of Hanover College, Ind.; Howard L. Brooks of William Jewell College; Riley Jackson of North Texas State University and R. Steven Turley of Brigham Young University, Utah. Andrei Szilagyi of Harvard University and D. Hubert Lloyd of California State University, Long Beach were re-elected to one-year terms.

AIP history center to document astrophysics

The AIP's Center for History of Physics has received a grant from the National Science Foundation for a project entitled "Documentation of the Revolution in Astrophysics and a History of Contemporary Cosmology." The Center will study correspondence and documents, arrange for their preservation in appropriate repositories and conduct oral-history interviews. In some cases the materials will be microfilmed and catalogued. The NSF granted \$23 600 for the year beginning 1 June, and expects to continue support for two additional years.

Videotape on 200 years of American astronomy

A 30-minute color videotape, entitled "200 Years of American Astronomy," has been made by Richard E. Berendzen (American University, Washington, D.C.). Beginning last January, the videotape has been aired on NBC stations in various cities across the US.

When the American University was successful in obtaining air-time on NBC's "Knowledge" series, Berendzen

began to make preparations for NBC's shooting by utilizing his extensive background in astronomy education and the history of science, and a shoestring budget as resources. The final videotape consists of a slide-lecture narrated by Berendzen, which dates from the heliocentric view of the cosmos in 1492, through the twentieth century and ending with the predictions of space colonies in the year 2076.

Berendzen believes that this videotape may be a unique document of the history of American astronomy. Included in his presentation are many unusual photographs, such as one taken of the 40-inch telescopic lens prior to its installation at the Yerkes Observatory and the oldest astronomical photograph, which was taken of the moon in 1852 at the Harvard College Observatory.

Persons interested in obtaining a standard 1/4-inch videotape cassette copy for educational purposes (not for broadcast), should write to: Dick Raad, Production Director, WRC-TV, 4001 Nebraska Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

Science-writing award to Frederic Golden

Frederic Golden, associate editor of *Time*, is the 1976 journalist winner of the American Institute of Physics-United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. The award is presented in the Fall to a scientist and in the Spring to a journalist.

The award, consisting of \$1500, a citation and moebius strip trophy, was presented to Golden for his article "Forecast: Earthquake," which appeared in *Time* on 1 September 1975. The author of two books, *The Moving Continents* and *Quasars, Pulsars, and Black Holes*, Golden is now writing a third about space.

EPS forms chemical physics section

A Chemical Physics Section has been formed in the Atomic Physics Division of the European Physical Society. Membership in the EPS is not necessary for participation in the activities of this section.

The inauguration of the Chemical Physics Section is planned for 30 August-1 September at the Free University in Amsterdam. Together with a general assembly meeting of the EPS, a program of lectures and short papers will be presented on "Exploring the Chemical Bond; New Developments."