

AAPT elects Gerhart as vice president

James B. Gerhart, professor of physics at the University of Washington, has been elected the new vice-president of the American Association of Physics Teachers and took office at its annual meeting in February. Robert Karplus (University of California, Berkeley), last year's president-elect, has succeeded to the office of president, and Albert A. Bartlett (University of Colorado, Boulder) has become president-elect.

Gerhart studied as an undergraduate at the California Institute of Technology and earned his PhD at Princeton University in 1954. He remained at Princeton as a member of the physics faculty until 1956, at which time he accepted a position at the University of Washington. He served on the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics, 1973-76, and has recently completed his third term as AAPT secretary.

Gerhart has been an active contributor to National Science Foundation Institutes and Workshops for high-school teachers, two-year and four-year college faculty and for new instructional materials. He has served as a director of the Pacific Northwest Association for College Physics since its founding in 1966 and is currently its executive officer. His research interests include beta- and gamma-ray spectroscopy and nuclear scattering and reactions.

Postal Service relaxes stand on page charges

An agreement has recently been reached between not-for-profit publishers of scientific journals and the US Postal Service—postal authorities had threatened to withdraw the low-cost, second-class mailing privileges (non-profit) for all those journals that impose page charges. This withdrawal could be done under existing regulations by interpreting page charges as payment for publication, thereby placing scientific articles in the category of paid advertising.

On behalf of the scientific and engineering communities, members of the Federal Coordinating Council of Science, Engineering and Technology (FCCSET) met with attorneys for the Postal Service. The negotiations resulted in an agreement that scientific articles would not be considered advertising, on the condition that journals with page charges print a statement on their mastheads specifying page charges as voluntary contributions to help defray publication costs.

At the American Institute of Physics, for example, page charges have always been considered voluntary because ac-



GERHART

ceptance of an article by a journal editor is based solely on scientific merit. Once accepted an article is published even when the page charges are not paid; however, non-payment may result in delayed publication.

Because most scientific journals consider page charges voluntary contributions, this criterion does not pose any new problems for most publishers (including AIP and its member societies). Those journals with mandatory page-charge systems will have to reach their own accommodation with the Postal Service.

—BCC

OSA announces new letters journal

Optics Letters, a new monthly journal of the Optical Society of America, will commence publication 1 July. The journal was established for rapid publication of new and important results in all branches of optics, and will be a companion journal to *Applied Optics* and the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*.

The editor of *Optics Letters* is Robert W. Terhune, Ford Motor Co. Research Laboratories, P.O. Box 2053, Dearborn, Mich. 48121. Short-article contributions are now being solicited—a limit of three printed pages (700 words per page, less allowance for figures) will be enforced and authors should initially follow the guidelines for papers submitted to *Applied Optics* or *JOSA*.

Optics Letters will be distributed free to all Optical Society members and, for a

six-month period, to all non-member subscribers to *Applied Optics* and *JOSA*.

Ten SPS chapters win White and Bendix awards

The Society of Physics Students has announced the presentation of five Marsh W. White and seven Bendix Awards to SPS chapters for student research in 1977. The White Awards, made by the American Institute of Physics, were established to promote interest in physics among students and the general public. For fifteen years the Bendix Corporation has sponsored awards that support student research in physics and astronomy.

SPS chapters at the University of Dayton (Ohio) and Thomas More College (Fort Mitchell, Ky.) received both awards.

Other Bendix Award winners were at Benedictine College (Atchison, Kan.), Bowling Green State University (Ohio), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Moravian College (Bethlehem, Pa.) and University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

Chapters receiving only White Awards were at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) and Morehouse College (Atlanta, Ga.).

in brief

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has granted the American Institute of Physics Center for History of Physics \$50 000 in support of the Center's program for tape recording oral-history interviews with eminent physicists. The expanded program under this grant will run approximately three years—particular attention will be given to the effect on American physics of European physicists, such as the emigrés.

Recently elected to posts of the Israel Physical Society are Charles Kuper as president and Raoul Weil as secretary.

A physics-of-technology module, *The Bicycle*, is available from the American Association of Physics Teachers for a price of \$1.50 (members) and \$2.15 (non-members). Orders should be placed with the AAPT Publications Department, Graduate Physics Building, State University of New York, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794. (Single-copy requests should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped 9 × 12-inch envelope.)