

traditional physics subfield lines, according to Boris Kayser, program director for theoretical physics in the Division of Physics. Of course, he noted, an institute structure can also serve other purposes, such as the bringing together of physicists from different locations and age groups to stimulate the continued flow of new ideas into physics generally.

The institute being considered would operate year-round. Most of the participants would be visitors, but leadership would come from a core of approximately three physicists on two- or three-year leaves from their home institutions. Among the participants all levels of seniority, from graduate student to full professor, would be represented. With 30 persons present at any one time, the institute would cost about \$1 million per year to operate.

Further information may be obtained

in a Project Announcement on the institute, which is being prepared for distribution to all PhD-granting physics departments, national laboratories and related institutions. It is expected that proposers will need to notify the NSF Division of Physics of their intent to submit a proposal by 15 June.

Kayser strongly emphasized that although considerable discussion of the institute has already taken place, proposals based on alternative ideas for dealing with the intended goals will also be welcome.

in brief

Nearly 500 Fulbright-Hays awards will be available for university teaching and advanced research in 92 countries for

1978-79—a number of the awards are in physics or physics-related areas. Those desiring an announcement of opportunity should write to the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036. Letters should include highest degree, speciality and country of interest; the deadline for applications for the American Republics, Australia and New Zealand is 1 June and, for Africa, Asia and Europe, the date is 1 July.

The National Science Foundation will award international travel support to some 80 young US scientists to attend NATO Advanced Study Institutes in Europe during the summer of 1977. General information and a list of the Institutes may be obtained from NATO Travel Awards, NSF Division of Science Manpower Improvement, Washington, D.C. 20550.

the physics community

Science-writing award for 1977 goes to Metz

William D. Metz, senior writer in the research-news section of *Science* magazine, is the 1977 journalist winner of the American Institute of Physics-United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. This award is given twice yearly, in the fall to a scientist and in the spring to a journalist. Metz was chosen for his three-part series, "Fusion Research," which appeared in *Science* on 25 June, 2 July and 23 July 1976.

Metz earned his doctorate in experimental nuclear physics at Yale University in 1971. That year he joined the staff of

Science to do science reporting; he began writing almost immediately about physics and astronomy. Six months before the 1973 oil embargo, he and two other staff members published a book on *Energy and the Future*. In addition to fusion, Metz reports on planetary science, geophysics, the specialized applications of lasers, x-ray stars, black holes and, in the last year, the status of European breeder-reactor technology.

The presentation of the Science-Writing Award, including \$1500, a citation and a Moebius-strip trophy, was made in April by the director of AIP, H. William Koch, at the Washington Meeting of The American Physical Society.

Physicists petition Soviet Academy on Orlov arrest

In an expression of concern over the recent arrest of Soviet physicist Yuri Orlov, more than 200 high-energy physicists have signed a telegram that has been sent to the vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, A. A. Logunov. The signers, who include members of high-energy physics laboratories and many universities throughout Europe and the US, told Logunov that they considered Orlov "a respected member of the international community of high-energy physicists" and also expressed hope that "that matter of his arrest [could] be favorably resolved in short order."

According to *The New York Times*, Orlov was arrested by Soviet authorities in Moscow on 10 February. Orlov had worked on large storage-ring projects at the Physical Institute in Yerevan until he moved to Moscow. Orlov is the founder and chairman of an unofficial committee

that monitors Soviet compliance with the human-rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement; he also works closely with Andrei Sakharov and is a corresponding member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. —BCC

Sturrock reports his UFO-survey results

A report of a survey intended to evaluate the interest, views and thoughts of the astronomical community on the UFO problem has been published by Peter A. Sturrock, professor of space science and astrophysics at Stanford University. Sturrock used the mailing list of the American Astronomical Society to distribute 2611 questionnaires, of which 1356 were returned, 34 anonymously.

The aims of the survey, according to Sturrock, were to solicit opinions on the scientific significance of sightings and also to determine if members of the group could report such phenomena, thereby making a case for opening the subject to scientific investigation or dismissing it. In answer to the question on whether the UFO problem deserves scientific study, 23% of the respondents replied "certainly," 30% "probably," 27% "possibly," 17% "probably not" and 3% "certainly not." Sturrock states that the returns identified 62 respondents who had witnessed or obtained an instrumental record of an event that they could not identify and they thought might be related to a UFO phenomenon.

For further information on the study (SUIPR report No. 681), write to Sturrock at the Institute for Plasma Research, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. 94305. □



METZ