

Although the subcommittee declared that such a booster deserves continued study, it nevertheless felt that a number of major technical problems with this concept still remained unresolved.

Other recommendations. In forwarding the facilities subcommittee report with strong endorsement, NUSAC declared that

▶ appropriate instrumentation would have to be provided at the new facilities;

▶ a rationale should be developed for deciding the proper mixture of small-scale university-based research and that best

done at centralized facilities; and
▶ the "absolutely vital" role of young scientists in nuclear research should be recognized.

The subcommittee, noting the erosion in technical staff levels at university laboratories over the past decade, strongly recommended that additional funds be made available for accelerator development and instrumentation projects at universities as well as at national laboratories.

Howell G. Pugh, the NSF representative on NUSAC, indicated that the Michigan State project could be accommodated if

the budget of NSF's nuclear-science program were given in FY 1980 a 3% increase beyond inflation over the previous year's budget and a supplemental \$10-million dollar allocation spread over three years beginning in 1980. (Such increases have been recommended in NSF planning guidelines for nuclear science.) George L. Rogosa, the DOE representative on NUSAC, said that the Bates recirculator, the LAMPF staging area and possibly the Yale project could be constructed if there were a 10% increase beyond inflation in the FY 1980 DOE budget for nuclear physics. —CBW

the physics community

AIP Corporate Associates meet in Columbus, Ohio

The annual meeting of Corporate Associates of the American Institute of Physics will be held at the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, on 28–29 September. The meeting brings together an audience of about 150–200 that includes top executives from industry (such as vice presidents for research and research directors), academic leaders (including heads of graduate physics departments), government officials, and officers of some AIP member societies to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The program for the meeting includes talks on policy matters such as long-range Federal planning of research in the US, the politics of energy, risk capital for industry, and the funding of science abroad, as well as talks on new research frontiers and applications of physics. A tour of the Battelle Columbus Laboratories has also been arranged.

Those who have not already received official notice of the meeting can request to attend; advance registration is necessary. Contact Dorothy Lasky, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 for details.

Timothy Ferris wins science-writing award

The author of the book, *The Red Limit: The Search for the Edge of the Universe*, Timothy Ferris, is the winner of the 1978 American Institute of Physics–United States Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award in Physics and Astronomy. Ferris, a free-lance journalist, received the award at a luncheon meeting of the AIP and the Washington Group of the National Association of Science Writers held on 25 April in conjunction with the spring meeting of The American Physical Society in Washington, D.C. The award, consisting of a cash prize of \$1500, a Möbius strip and a certificate, was pre-

sented to Ferris by H. William Koch, the Director of the AIP.

Ferris is an assistant professor of English at Brooklyn College and has written articles that have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *New Times* and *Playboy*.

Graduate survey suggests job-market improvement

The job market for physics doctorate recipients is improving, according to the 1976–77 Graduate Student Survey of the American Institute of Physics' Manpower Statistics Division. This conclusion was supported by 2% drops both in the number of graduates going on to do postdoctoral work and in the number of graduates without job offers.

The annual survey supplies information on various characteristics of the graduate-student group, such as number and distribution, sources of support, employment offers, duration of study, specialties, work activities and salaries. Data on women, minorities and foreign students are also included. The report contains a special section on graduate students in astronomy.

The improvement in the employment picture may be partly due to a decrease in the total number of physics doctorate recipients from 1111 in 1976 to 1051 in 1977. The median monthly starting salary for the doctorate recipients is reported at \$1490, up 15% from last year.

Broken down by field of specialization, the report found that a graduate specializing in elementary-particle physics (either theoretical or experimental) was most in demand, while jobs were scarcest for mathematical physicists, with 22% having received no employment at all. The single most populated field of study was solid-state physics.

The students showed a clear preference for experimental subfields, even though the report found that the median number

of years of study for experimentalists is 5.4, while theoreticians require only 5.0 years.

The report also indicates a slight increase in the number and percentage of women doctorate recipients over the past year, and notes that the class of 1977 physics doctorate recipients included 22% foreign citizens. The total physics-graduate-student population in academic year 1976–77 fell slightly below ten thousand (to 9991) for the first time since 1960–61.

The number of astronomy doctorates granted increased, although there was a decrease in potentially permanent employment opportunities for them.

Copies of this survey (AIP Publication number R-207.10) may be obtained free from Susanne Ellis, AIP Manpower Statistics Division, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

in brief

The American Astronomical Society will continue its program of Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureships in Astronomy for 1978–79. Visiting professors over a period of two days are prepared to give public talks and colloquia, advise students on opportunities for advanced study and employment, and discuss teaching and curricular problems with faculty members. Colleges and universities wishing to participate should request applications from H. M. Gurin, Executive Officer, American Astronomical Society, 211 FitzRandolph Road, Princeton, N.J. 08540. Deadline for receipt of applications is 1 September 1978.

Progress in Crystal Growth and Characterization recently began publication, with Brian R. Pamplin (University of Bath) as editor. Subscription inquiries should be sent to Pergamon Press, Ltd., Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW, England. □