

the physics community

AAPT recommends limits for teaching loads

The American Association of Physics Teachers has recently recommended maximum teaching loads at high schools, two-year and four-year colleges.

At the high-school level, AAPT recommends a maximum teaching load of five classes, including laboratories, and a pupil load of 125 physics students. Among the other recommendations of the task force on high-school physics teaching conditions are: teacher control of curriculum, the use of teacher aides, a budget for unanticipated daily supplies for each teacher, and provisions for professional travel.

For two-year college physics teachers, AAPT regards teaching loads of more than 12 contact hours or 360 student contact hours per week as excessive. The AAPT also stressed the importance of professional meetings and laboratory work for two-year college professors.

The report of the task force on teaching responsibility for four-year colleges also set a maximum work load of 12 contact hours per week, which it said corresponds to a minimum of 47 hours per week when grading, preparation, advising and committee time is taken into account. The task force felt that the formula for computing contact hours should include a weighting factor to take class size into account. The report also spells out minimum requirements for support staff, budgets, sabbatical leave programs, travel allowances, library upkeep, support for student research projects, equipment acquisition and services and supplies.

Copies of the three reports have been sent to appropriate accrediting agencies and are available free from the AAPT, Graduate Physics Building, State University of New York, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794.

Astronomical society elects three new officers

The American Astronomical Society has a new president-elect, vice president and executive officer.

The new president-elect is David S. Heesch, a member of the research staff of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, Va. He will serve for one year before succeeding Ivan R. King to a two-year term as president of the Society. Heesch earned a BS from the University of Illinois in 1949 and a PhD in astronomy from Harvard University in 1955. He was a faculty member at Harvard for the next seven years. In 1962, he came to the NRAO as its director, a post he held until this year. Heesch

is currently studying short-term variability (time scale: a few days) of extragalactic radio sources.

George Wallerstein joins Leonard Searle as one of the two vice presidents of the AAS. Professor of astronomy at the University of Washington since 1965, Wallerstein has done research on the spectra of variable stars, the abundances of elements in stellar atmospheres, color-magnitude diagrams and interstellar absorption lines. He took an AB from Brown University in 1951 and a PhD from Caltech in 1958. Wallerstein was on the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley from 1959 to 1964.

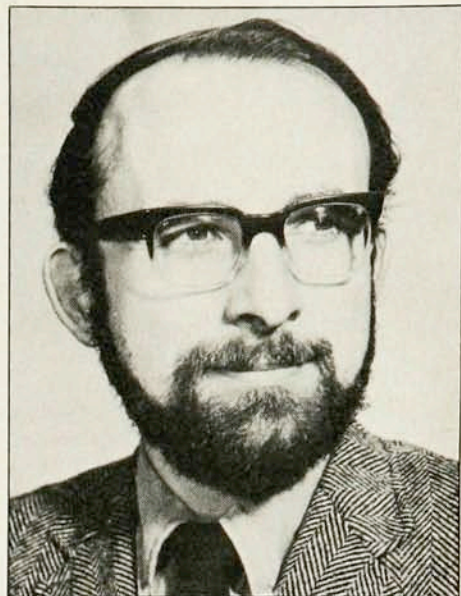
Peter B. Boyce, formerly of the Lowell Observatory and the National Science Foundation, is the new executive officer of the American Astronomical Society. He replaces Herman M. Gurin, who recently retired. Boyce's first task upon taking office was to supervise the transfer of the AAS offices from Princeton, N.J. to Washington, D.C. Calling it a "tremendous advantage" to be located in Washington, Boyce feels that the interests of the AAS will be better served because of the move.

Boyce has been a program director in the astronomy division of the NSF since 1973. During that period he spent a year working with Congressman Morris K. Udall on a Commerce Department Science and Technology Fellowship. From 1963 to 1975, Boyce was a research astronomer at Lowell Observatory where he did work on astronomical instrumentation, photoelectric measurement of nebular spectra and planetary photometry. He received an AB from Harvard University in 1958, and an MA and a PhD from the University of Michigan in 1962 and in 1963 respectively.

Hans von Baeyer wins science-writing prize

This year's winner of the American Institute of Physics-US Steel Foundation Science-Writing Award for scientists writing for the general public is Hans C. von Baeyer, professor of physics and director of the Virginia Associated Research Campus of the College of William and Mary. He won the award for "The Wonder of Gravity," an article published in the *William and Mary Alumni Gazette*. It commemorates Einstein's birth with a description of the Greek, Newtonian and Einsteinian views of gravity. The award, which consists of a \$1500 prize, a Moebius strip and a certificate, is to be presented at the AIP Corporate Associates meeting in October.

Von Baeyer, a nuclear and elementary-particle theorist, earned a bachelor's



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degree from Columbia University (1958), a master's degree from the University of Florida (1961) and a doctoral degree from Vanderbilt University (1964). From 1964 to 1968, he was a member of the McGill University faculty, first as a research associate and then as an assistant professor. In 1968, von Baeyer came to William and Mary. Starting in 1977, he and a colleague, John McKnight began to travel to universities across the country to present reenactments of 18th-century physics lectures in period costume and with period laboratory apparatus. Von Baeyer is currently on leave to conduct research at TRIUMF, the high-intensity cyclotron, and to teach at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.

International advisory group on radioactivity measurement

The International Committee for Radio-nuclide Metrology is an informal association of scientists representing national laboratories producing radioactivity standards and international organizations concerned with radiation. The ICRM currently operates through five working groups concerned with the dissemination of information and the organization of intercomparative measurements in nuclear data and spectrometry, low-level-activity measurements, and metrological needs in the applications of radioactivity to nuclear energy and to the life sciences. Wilfrid B. Mann, chief of the Radioactivity Section of the National Bureau of Standards Center for Radiation Research, was elected this year to a three-year term as president. Scientists who wish to cooperate with the committee or to discuss their measurement problems are invited to contact Mann at the NBS.