

regular training with simulators. Insufficient attention has been paid in the past to training for emergency situations, the Commissioners said, and "the role that the NRC plays in monitoring operator training contributes little and may actually aggravate the problem."

Another problem area singled out by the Kemeny Commission is the design of nuclear power plant control rooms. "The control room [at TMI] ... is lacking in many ways. The control panel is huge, with hundreds of alarms, and there are some key indicators placed in locations where the operators cannot see them ...

During the first few minutes of the accident, more than 100 alarms went off, and there was no system for suppressing the unimportant signals so that operators could concentrate on the significant alarms." Carter has urged NRC and the industry to simplify control rooms, and standardize their format.

**A warning.** The Kemeny Commissioners cautioned policy-makers against trying to answer their charges by merely plugging the holes in the present system. "Fundamental changes must occur in organizations, procedures, and above all, in the attitudes of people. No amount of

technical 'fixes' will cure this underlying problem. There have been many previous recommendations for greater safety for nuclear power plants, which have had limited impact. What we consider crucial is whether the proposed improvements are carried out by the same organizations (unchanged), with the same kinds of practices and the same attitudes that were prevalent prior to the accident. As long as proposed improvements are carried out in a 'business as usual' atmosphere, the fundamental changes necessitated by the accident at Three Mile Island cannot be realized." —MEJ

## the physics community

### AAPM chooses Orton as president-elect

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine has a new president-elect for 1980—Colin G. Orton, director of medical physics at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence. He takes over from Robert G. Waggener of the University of Texas

served as editor of the AAPM's *Quarterly Bulletin* for three years.

Other AAPM officers recently installed are the secretary, Arnold Feldman (radiological physicist at the Methodist Medical Center of Illinois in Peoria), and the treasurer, Ann Forsaith (manager of the medical-physics section at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, Michigan).



ORTON

Health Science Center, who assumed the AAPM presidency on 1 January.

Orton has done research in radiobiology, radiation oncology and dosimetry and on the use of computers in medicine. He earned a BSc from Bristol University (1959), an MSc and a PhD in radiation physics from the University of London (1961 and 1965). Orton lectured in physics at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, University of London from 1961 to 1966. He then joined the Medical Center at New York University where he eventually rose to the position of associate professor of physics. In 1976, the same year he came to Rhode Island Hospital, Orton was appointed associate professor of radiation medicine at Brown University. Orton has

### DOE group studies high-energy accelerators

The Department of Energy has appointed a subpanel of its High Energy Physics Advisory Panel to review the overall quality and scope of the high-energy accelerator R&D effort in the US. The review, headed by Maury Tigner (Cornell), will, in addition to examining existing accelerator R&D projects, compare US efforts with efforts abroad and make recommendations to the DOE with regard to the balance among short, mid, and long-term R&D, priorities within the field and appropriate funding levels.

The review is expected to be completed by June. Those with relevant opinions are invited to write to the secretary of the subpanel, David Sutter, Division of High Energy Physics, Office of Energy Research, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20545.

### SPS elects Shwe to second term

Hla Shwe has been re-elected to a second two-year term as President of the National Council of the Society of Physics Students. Shwe is dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and professor of physics at East Stroudsburg State College in Pennsylvania.

In addition, four physics faculty members were elected to three-year terms as councillors. Councillors represent the SPS chapters at academic institutions in

their region. They are: Raymond F. Askew (Auburn University), Richard C. Waring (University of Missouri-Kansas City), Gordon C. Whitten (Olivet Nazarene College, Illinois) and Paul Stephas (Eastern Oregon State College).

## in brief

The Gravity Research Foundation is offering five awards for essays of 1500 words or less on the subject of gravitation, its theory, applications or effects. First prize is \$1500. Essays must be received before 1 April. Additional information is available from the Gravity Research Foundation, 58 Middle Street, Gloucester, Mass. 01930.

The 1978 *Census of High-Energy Physicists & Graduate Students*, a listing of physicists and students associated with high-energy physics in the US, is now available from the National Technical Information Service, US Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22161. For each person the entry indicates his affiliation, specialties, sources of Federal support and other information. Printed copies are \$13 each, and microfiche copies are \$3.

The American Physical Society is now offering subscriptions to *Reviews of Modern Physics* to members of the Italian, Japanese, British and French physical societies for \$25 (including air freight postage), a savings of \$32 over the regular foreign rate. □

### APS meeting date changed

The American Physical Society has rescheduled its next Washington meeting to begin on 28 April. The four-day gathering originally was to start on 21 April.