

copyright laws, the CPP has sent to the Office of the Register of Copyright a statement by Koch, as well as dissenting views by Dick van der Helm, a CPP member. As scientific information is published in increasing quantities the practice of photocopying interferes with authors' and publishers' rights to royalties. AIP is directly affected because subscriptions to journals may decline considerably. A new method of compensation involves the use of the Copyright Clearance Center, which charges users for photocopied information and reimburses providers.

A broad area the CPP has begun to concern itself with is communication with government. A subcommittee headed by Peter B. Boyce has started to meet, and discussions have concerned working with AAAS to communicate reactions to the US R&D budget, making contacts with and educating members of Congress and their staffs, and developing rapid response mechanisms for communications among physicists, AIP, and member societies.

A subcommittee on Science to the Public, led by Richard A. Blade, is looking into establishing seminars for science writers as a means of extending public understanding of physics.

The CPP has also considered the US Office of Management and Budget circular A-21, which requires scientists supported by US grants to account for 100% of their working time (PHYSICS TODAY, February 1981, page 57). This measure has generated frustration and, many feel, has interfered with scientific work. The CPP has offered to cooperate with a National Academy of Sciences committee that is planning to suggest revisions to the circular when it is reviewed in two years.

**Member societies' activities.** The AIP member societies are involved in diverse public affairs activities. Among the reasons for the establishment of CPP were cooperating with these efforts and keeping member societies informed about each other's efforts.

The APS has among its divisions a Forum on Physics and Society, which organizes public policy sessions at APS meetings, awards prizes for public affairs activities and publishes a newsletter. The Society has committees on minorities and the status of women in physics and a Panel on Public Affairs. POPA sponsored a recently completed study on solar photovoltaic energy conversion and is currently studying whether physics research can contribute significantly to coal utilization and synthetic fuel production. POPA also has a subcommittee on International Scientific Affairs that assists physicists in developing countries. A former subcommittee, on International Freedom of Scientists, is now an independent APS committee.



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The American Association of Physics Teachers has been questioning the National Bureau of Standards decision to allow the use of the kilogram as a unit of weight as well as mass. It has also sent a letter to the President and various members of Congress calling attention to the effects of decreased funding of science education. Issue-oriented modules that teach physics by means of applications of general interest are being prepared and are being used in 200 organizations and as many schools.

The Acoustical Society of America has, through its Coordinating Committee on Environmental Acoustics, convened a workshop to study noise sources and their effects on wildlife, in particular those associated with Alaska Arctic petroleum operations. It also publishes acoustical standards as a public service and has 30 regional coordinators in communication with civic groups and local governments.

The American Astronomical Society in its quarterly newsletter publishes Washington news on NSF, NASA, the Federal budget and proposed regulations. The Society produces brochures for high-school students about careers in astronomy, sponsors a newspaper column and provides guest lectureships to small colleges. A Committee on the Status of Women conducts surveys on employment of astronomers and maintains a roster and a photo archive of women in astronomy.

The American Vacuum Society has started a program to help schools institute courses of study on vacuum-related topics and is working to establish rational guidelines for international technical conferences held in the US.

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine has a Committee on Legislation and Regulation that has set up contacts with regulatory agencies and a telephone hot-line. The AAPM Committee on Public Education is putting together a list of speak-

ers and a library of educational materials on medical and radiological physics. A Biological Effects Committee is preparing a paper on radiation for news media.

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## Heineman astrophysics prize to Giacconi

Riccardo Giacconi, professor of astronomy at Harvard University and Associate Director of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, will receive the second Dannie Heineman Prize for Astrophysics. The prize, awarded jointly by the American Institute of Physics and the American Astronomical Society, will be presented to Giacconi at the June meeting of the AAS in Calgary, Canada.

The \$5000 prize recognizes Giacconi "for his ongoing commitment to research in x-ray astronomy, his guiding conceptual role in the field from its beginning on through the construction and operation of UHURU and then of the Einstein Observatory, and his scientific leadership in the field of extragalactic x-ray astronomy."

Giacconi received his PhD degree in physics in 1954 from the University of Milan, Italy. He was assistant professor at the University of Milan 1954-56, research associate at Indiana University 1956-58 and at Princeton University 1958-59, Executive Vice President at American Science and Engineering 1959-73. Since 1973 he has held his current positions at Harvard.

## in brief

Ethical dilemmas facing engineers practicing in cultures other than their own is the topic of the International Engineering Ethics Project. Individuals who may want to contribute to this study should contact either of the co-directors: E. C. Jones, Department of Electrical Engineering, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011 or C. A. Smith, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Missouri 65401.

Los Alamos National Laboratory is establishing a Center for Nonlinear Studies to encourage contact among scientists at Los Alamos and elsewhere working on nonlinear problems. A steering committee has been formed to advise on the organization of the Center and the selection of a chairman. In the meantime, Basil Nichols and David Campbell are coordinating preliminary organization of the Center.