

City, Texas, the community that is now penalizing her for having received an outstanding honor from the major national professional organization in her field.

In a letter dated 6 August to William P. Hobby, the lieutenant governor of Texas, AAPT Executive Officer Jack Wilson complained in the following terms: "Each year we select one National Visiting Fellow to work in our office. The Fellows are outstanding university professors or high-school teachers of physics. This year we selected an outstanding physics teacher from Bay City, Texas, Mrs. Katherine Mays. . . . Bay City Independent School District not only refused to grant an unpaid leave, they forced Mrs. Mays to resign. . . . The first National Visiting Fellow from the state of Texas was forced to resign! Previous Fellows from Pennsylvania, Nebraska, California, New York and Massachusetts (to name just a few) were honored, rewarded and publicized." Wilson, himself a Texan, feels not merely indignant but embarrassed as well.

Undeterred by the Bay City board, Mays joined the AAPT staff in College Park, Maryland, in September, where she is responsible this year for administering the Physics Teacher Resource Agents Program (PHYSICS TODAY, June 1985, page 72). She also is coordinating development of national guidelines for high-school physics programs and accreditation of teachers. She is involved in the continuing-education program and will serve as a representative physics teacher on national advisory boards and committees.

Even if she is hired back at Bay City after her year with AAPT, Mays will lose her seniority and have to start back at the bottom of the career ladder, she reports. The superintendent of the Bay City School Board did not return phone calls from PHYSICS TODAY.

—WILLIAM SWEET

Education

Hein of South Dakota State is named outstanding SPS adviser

The Society of Physics Students has announced the selection of physics professor Warren W. Hein of South Dakota State University as the first recipient of the Outstanding SPS Chapter Adviser Award (PHYSICS TODAY, December 1984, page 65).

Hein is described by his students and colleagues as a person who knows how to recognize and work with good ideas from students. He is said to have a special talent for helping students develop leadership skills. In 1979, when Hein became chapter adviser at South

Dakota State University, the local chapter had been virtually dormant for a number of years. Each of the following six years, South Dakota State University received an Outstanding SPS Chapter Award. Last year the chapter was granted a Bendix Award to support a research project.

South Dakota State University will receive \$500 from SPS to support a talk by a distinguished speaker in November, when the citation is formally presented to Hein.

European Physical Society launches *Europhysics Letters*

Starting at the beginning of next year, a new journal called *Europhysics Letters* will be published twice monthly under the auspices of the European Physical Society. The journal actually is only partially new in that it replaces two well-established publications, the *Journal de Physique Lettres* of the French Physical Society and *Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere* of the Italian Physical Society. Nicholas Kurti of the University of Oxford is to be the first editor-in-chief.

The "Euro" prefix to *Europhysics Letters* should not be taken too literally, Kurti says. "It [the journal] will be a truly international publication," he said, and "we hope that both readers and authors will span all countries and all continents."

Kurti notes that publishing results in the shortened form of letters has had the unfortunate disadvantage that there often is a long delay before the complete account appears. "We hope to evolve some methods whereby readers may obtain full experimental data and details of experimental or mathematical techniques quickly and at only minimal cost," he said.

The editorial board of *Europhysics Letters* consists of 15 coeditors appointed

KURTI



ed by the European Physical Society. The journal is to be published by a partnership consisting of the French Physical Society, the Italian Physical Society, Britain's Institute of Physics and the European Physical Society. The Institute of Physics is contributing initial working capital of 150 000 Swiss francs (roughly \$60 000). Additional capital, should the need arise, has been guaranteed by eight other national societies, which are Associate Partners in the project: Austrian Physical Society, German Physical Society, Hungarian Physical Society, Portuguese Physical Society, Scandinavian Physical Societies (as a group), Swiss Physical Society, Turkish Physical Society and Yugoslavian Physical Society. The journal will have its headquarters at the Secretariat of the European Physical Society in Geneva, where a staff editor will manage operations.

Letters may be submitted to *Europhysics Letters* in English, French, German or Russian, and they will be published in the original language. Submissions should be addressed to: Staff Editor, *Europhysics Letters*, European Physical Society, P.O. Box 69, CH-1213 Petit Lancy 2, Switzerland.

—WILLIAM SWEET

Education

More physics degrees awarded at all levels in 1983-84

The numbers of students enrolling in physics programs and obtaining physics degrees are rising at all levels of higher education in the United States, it was found in AIP's latest survey of enrollments and degrees. The number of master's degrees awarded in 1983-84 rose by an especially marked 6.7% over the previous year, but doctoral degrees also were up quite sharply. Compared with the slumps of the late 1970s, many more degrees were conferred at all levels. There were 10.5% more bachelor's degrees in 1983-84 than in 1978-79, when they hit a low. Master's degrees were up 10% last year from 1979-80, and doctoral degrees were 6.5% higher than in 1979-80.

The number of juniors and seniors majoring in physics was 12 610 last year, higher than in any year since 1972-73, when there were 11 818 physics majors. The number of students that took introductory physics courses at institutions that confer physics degrees held steady at about 300 000 last year. Introductory physics courses also are offered at another 1000 colleges and universities that do not offer a bachelor's degree in physics.

Currently, 745 institutions grant physics degrees, and of these, 168 offer doctoral degrees—three more than last