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 Phyical 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 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.

KURTI

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

year. The three institutions that started to offer doctoral degrees in 1984–85 are Hunter College of the City University of New York, Maharishi International University in Iowa and the University of Texas, Arlington.

AIP added astronomy departments to its surveys of physics departments in 1975–76, and the survey currently includes 66 such departments. Astronomy enrollments and degrees dropped quite sharply in the late 1970s, but in recent years there have been no strong trends detectable.

In last year's survey of enrollments and degrees, the proportion of foreign citizens among those enrolling as first-year students in US graduate physics programs dropped for the first time in a decade, reflecting a strong increase in enrollments by US citizens (PHYSICS TODAY, September 1984, page 74). This year, enrollments of US and foreign students in graduate physics programs held fairly steady. The proportion of foreign students was 39% in 1984–85, hardly changed from 38.2% the year before.

The figures on women and minorities in physics remain discouraging on the whole, but it appears that over 15% of the students who received bachelor's degress in physics in 1983–84 were women, compared to just over 10% in 1976–77.

The latest edition of *Enrollments and Degrees* has two supplements, one a complete list of physics departments, with enrollments and degrees for each, the other a complete list of astronomy departments. The survey and supplements can be obtained from Susanne D. Ellis, Manpower Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Education

Kirwan takes over editorship of *Physics Teacher* from Swartz

On 1 July, Donald Kirwan (University of Rhode Island) took over the editorship of *The Physics Teacher* from Clifford Swartz (State University of New York, Stony Brook), who had been editor for 18 years. Kirwan has been a frequent contributor to the *American Journal of Physics* and *The Physics Teacher*, a member of many committees and boards, and a participant in teacher training seminars. Kirwan led NSF-sponsored summer institutes, and this summer he was director of AAPT's Physics Teacher Resource Agent Workshop in Flagstaff (see PHYSICS TODAY, June 1985, page 72).

Kirwan received his PhD in 1969 from the University of Missouri, where he specialized in theoretical nuclear physics. He is interested in computational methods applicable to energy resources, as well as classroom physics teaching.

From now on, editorial correspondence should be addressed to Donald Kirwan, Editor, *The Physics Teacher*, Physics Department, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

Education

Optical Society takes new initiatives in education

The Optical Society of America has started to take a greater interest in precollege science education. Last spring OSA established an education committee under the chairmanship of Robert Massof, a specialist on physiological optics at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The committee's work helped stimulate the organization of a special program for science teachers, which is to take place when OSA holds its annual meeting in October at the Washington Hilton on Connecticut Avenue. The one-day program for outstanding teachers from Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC was arranged by OSA's National Capital Chapter under the leadership of Bruce W. Steiner of the National Bureau of Standards.

During the morning session on 16 October, there is to be a series of talks about optical phenomena in the sky, followed by a plenary session on early science education and a talk by Jack Wilson, executive officer of AAPT, on what OSA members might do to improve science education. After lunch there are to be seven workshops with exhibits on aspects of optics that could be taught in schools. At the end of the afternoon, teachers will have an opportunity to visit the Smithsonian's "Laser at 25" exhibit.

Smithsonian selects Goldberg for new space history chair

The National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution has established a Chair of Space History, with funding from the Martin Marietta Corporation. The new chair is to enable the Smithsonian to capture and preserve the recollections of people who played major roles in creating the US space program. Individuals will be brought to Washington, each for a one-year term, to work on their memoirs. That work can include background research at archives in the District of Columbia, oral interviews and writing.

Leo Goldberg has been selected to be the first occupant of the Martin Marietta Chair of Space History. Goldberg, who took up his appointment in April, hopes to prepare a memoir covering his career as a solar astronomer and his role in developing modern astronomical institutions. Born in 1913, Goldberg earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Harvard University, where he studied atomic processes and their implications for astrophysical research. In 1941 he moved to the McMath–Hulbert Observatory of the University of Michigan, becoming director of the observatory and chairman of the astronomy department in 1946.

Goldberg returned to Harvard in 1960 as Higgins Professor of Astronomy, and from 1966 to 1971, he was director of the Harvard College Observatory and chairman of the astronomy department. While at Harvard, he headed a group that designed and built instruments to observe the Sun in the Orbiting Solar Observatories and Skylab missions.

In 1971, Goldberg became director of the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, where he remained until his retirement in 1983.

Goldberg has served as president of the International Astronomical Union, president of the American Astronomical Society, chairman of NASA's Astronomy Missions Board, and chairman of the astronomy section of the National Academy of Sciences.

in brief

Last year the Chinese Physical Society in the People's Republic of China started a new journal, *Chinese Physics Letters*, which has appeared in English from the outset. Springer-Verlag has agreed to copublish the journal and distribute it outside the People's Republic. Two issues appeared last year, and this year it went monthly. Subscription information can be obtained from Springer-Verlag, which has offices in Berlin, Heidelberg, New York and Tokyo.

Washington University in St. Louis and Digital Equipment Corporation have signed an agreement to develop a computing network to support advanced picture communications and high-speed text transmission. The agreement enables Washington University to obtain computing and networking resources from Digital that are valued at $15 million. The university will provide Digital with expertise and act as a demonstration site. □