



**A sense of the historic** as much as scientific curiosity brought thousands of physicists to the unparalleled evening session on high-temperature superconductivity that took place on 18-19 March in the New York Hilton, where The American Physical Society was holding its March meeting. As roughly 2000 people squeezed into the Sutton Complex, designed to seat 1000 (above left), hundreds more crowded into the corridors to watch the presentations on closed-circuit television. Above right, Karl Alex Müller (IBM Zurich) chats with Shoji Tanaka (University of Tokyo) at the superconductivity session. They opened the session and were among the participants the following day in press conferences, among the best attended in the history of APS conferences.

identified in titles. Questions from the audience and replies also are included.

The tape is available in 1/2-inch and 3/4-inch formats for American videotape players; APS can provide other formats if there are enough requests.

Before the March meeting was over, according to APS Executive Secretary W. W. Havens Jr, APS staff and officers had received about 500 requests for information about the videotapes. For an order form, write to High-Temperature Superconductivity Tape, APS, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017, or call (212) 682-7341.

**Journals.** The situation in superconductivity also has created an extraordinarily challenging situation for *Physical Review Letters* and *Physical Review B*, which have been flooded with submissions, many of them of exceptional importance and interest. At this writing, *Physical Review Letters* has received about 115 submissions, and *Physical Review B* about 305.

To cope with the situation, the editors have established a special panel to review manuscripts, consisting of four experimental physicists and one theorist. The members are anonymous.

To assure that manuscripts are dealt with expeditiously, they are being sent back and forth between the panel members and the journal offices by overnight mail. Some authors have been so eager to see their articles promptly published that they have hand-delivered their manuscripts to the journal offices.

Consistency of judgment is safeguarded by batching candidate manu-

scripts for each issue of each journal. After the panel has made its recommendations on how the manuscripts in each batch should be handled, Peter D. Adams, APS deputy editor in chief at Ridge, Long Island, and Myron Strongin of Brookhaven National Laboratory review all the manuscripts. Strongin is one of four part-time acting editors who are filling in this year for Gene L. Wells, a regular editor of *PRL* who is on sabbatical this year.

## Employment survey finds market strong as ever

The latest AIP employment survey, which is based on a survey of 1985 physics graduates done in winter 1986, describes a job market that in some respects is even stronger than the year before. Among those who earned PhDs in 1985 (excluding postdocs), over 90% of those who responded to the survey had found jobs within six months of graduation. Over 50% of the master's recipients and nearly 70% of the bachelor's recipients had jobs within two months.

Of the PhDs, six months after graduation, 51% had accepted postdocs and 47% potentially permanent jobs. Less than 1% were not yet employed and still seeking a position. Newly employed PhDs in potentially permanent jobs earned a median monthly salary of \$3120, physics postdocs \$1950 and astronomy postdocs \$1815.

Like earlier editions, the survey of 1985 graduates shows that while post-

docs earn lower salaries than physicists in potentially permanent jobs, they are more likely to be doing research in their dissertation subfields.

The physicists in potentially permanent jobs, on the other hand, were much more likely to be working outside their dissertation fields than in them. The exceptions were those working in solid-state physics and in plasmas and fluids, who had a 50% chance of still being in their dissertation fields.

Physics masters earned a median monthly salary of \$2445 in newly accepted jobs. The median ranged from \$1575 in secondary school teaching to \$2500 in industry. Compared with their counterparts of the year before, the 1985 masters were more likely to work for the government, especially the military, and less likely to work for industry.

The 1985 bachelor's degree recipients earned a median monthly salary of \$1920 in newly accepted jobs and \$2100 in jobs already held.

The 1985 employment survey is available free of charge from Susanne D. Ellis, Education and Employment Statistics Division, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017.

## Massey is AAAS president, Trivelpiece executive officer

Walter E. Massey, professor of physics at the University of Chicago and the university's vice president for research and for the Argonne National Laboratory, is the new president-elect of the

American Association for the Advancement of Science. Massey succeeds Sheila E. Widnall, professor of aeronautics and astronautics at MIT, who became president of the AAAS in February. At the February meeting of the AAAS in Chicago, it was announced that plasma physicist Alvin W. Trivelpiece, director of the office of energy research in the Department of Energy, will replace William D. Carey as executive officer of the AAAS. Carey has served for 12 years.

Massey earned a BS in physics and mathematics at Morehouse College in 1958 and an MA and PhD in physics at Washington University, St. Louis, in 1966. He worked at Argonne from 1966 to 1968 as a fellow and then physicist, and he taught at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1969-70. From 1970 to 1975 he was an associate professor at Brown University, and from 1975 to 1979 professor and dean of the college. Massey was director of Argonne from 1979 to 1984, when he became vice president at Chicago.

Trivelpiece earned a BS at California Polytechnic State College in 1953, and an MS and PhD in electrical engineering at Caltech in 1955 and 1958. He taught electrical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1959 to 1966, when he became a physics professor at the University of Maryland. He was vice president for engineering and research at Maxwell Labs in San Diego from 1976 to 1978 and corporate vice president of Science Applications Inc in La Jolla from 1978 to 1981, when he joined DOE as director of the office of energy research.

## Astronomical Society elects Osterbrock president

The American Astronomical Society has elected Donald E. Osterbrock of the University of California, Santa Cruz, to be its new president. Osterbrock will serve one year as president-elect and become president in 1988, succeeding Bernard F. Burke of MIT.

Osterbrock received a BS in 1948, an MS in 1949 and a PhD in 1952 from the University of Chicago. He was an astronomy fellow at Princeton University in 1952-53 and then joined the faculty of Caltech, where he stayed until 1958. From 1958 to 1973 he taught at the University of Wisconsin, serving as chairman of the astronomy department from 1969 to 1972. He became a professor at Santa Cruz in 1973, and he was director of Lick Observatory from 1972 to 1981.

Osterbrock has been a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota, Ohio State University and the Univer-



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sity of Chicago. He had an NSF postdoctoral fellowship at University College, London, and twice received a Guggenheim fellowship to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Osterbrock's most recent work has been on the nature and structure of active galactic nuclei. He has written a book on the astrophysics of gaseous nebulae and a biography of James E. Keeler, a pioneering Lick Observatory astronomer and director of the 19th century. One of Osterbrock's hobbies is the history of astronomy.

In other election results, J. Roger Angel (University of Arizona) and Stephen E. Strom (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) were made vice presidents; Leonard V. Kuhi (University of California, Berkeley), treasurer; and Neta A. Bahcall (Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore), John S. Gallagher (Lowell Observatory) and Tobias C. Owen (State University of New York at Stony Brook), councilors.

## New AIP award will go to science writers for children

The American Institute of Physics has established a new annual award for the best article or book for children about physics or astronomy. The \$3000 award will be made each year at the January joint meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers and The American Physical Society. Books eligible for nomination should be targeted at any age group under 18.

The new award joins two existing AIP science writing prizes, one for writing by a professional writer on physics or astronomy and the other for writing by a professional scientist for the general public.

Entries for the first children's writ-

ing award must be articles or books published in North America between 1 November 1986 and 31 October 1987. Entry applications are available from the Public Information Division, AIP, 335 East 45th Street, New York NY 10017.

## AIP history center launches fund-raising drive

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a Challenge Grant to AIP's Center for History of Physics to support a new fund-raising drive. Under the terms of the grant, the National Endowment will match funds raised by the history center with one dollar for every three dollars donated.

The Center for History of Physics hopes to raise a total of \$225 000, including the matching funds from the National Endowment. The funds will be used to increase the center's endowment, purchase new computer equipment and cover fund-raising costs.

## in brief

The Royal Society of London has started a new journal, *Science and Public Affairs*, which appears once a year. The second number will be available this month (May). The price of an overseas subscription is £10.75; orders should be addressed to The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, United Kingdom.

Elsevier Science Publishers has inaugurated a new review journal, *Materials Science Reports*. The first issue appeared in September 1986 and was devoted in its entirety to an article on new permanent magnet materials by K. H. J. Buschow of Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven, Holland. The price for a subscription to the eight issues that will appear in 1987 is \$111.25; orders should be addressed to Elsevier, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The National Science Foundation has made a two-year \$1.2 million grant to Cornell University to fund the first phase of a data communication network, NYSERNET, which will link 14 academic research institutions, Brookhaven National Laboratory and industrial laboratories in New York State. NYSERNET will be connected to NSF's basic network, NSFNET, which provides access to the five supercomputer centers funded by the agency. □