

## APS LAUNCHES NEWSLETTER TO PROVIDE NEWS AND OPINION

Beginning in January 1990, subscribers to the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society* will be receiving a bonus: *News of The American Physical Society*, a monthly newsletter devoted to coverage of the activities of APS and its various divisions, topical groups and committees. With the premier issue of the newsletter, many of the items that currently appear in the *Bulletin* will be available to APS members in an easier-to-read, more accessible format.

In addition to "hard" news items of basic interest to members of the society—APS election results, committee reports and the like—*News* editor Robert Strauss promises coverage of broad issues that concern all APS members. "Items such as the impending change in the governance of APS and the creation of the Physics Planning Committee," says Strauss, "point up the need for a forum to which members can turn to find out what's going on in the organization and to express their opinions." (For background on governance and planning, see *PHYSICS TODAY*, June, page 93, and March, page 92.)

Readers of the newsletter, Strauss says, can also look forward to the following regular features:

- ▷ editorials by the APS president and other officers of the society
- ▷ an opinion column by APS Public Affairs Director Robert L. Park
- ▷ in-depth previews of major APS meetings, well before abstract deadlines
- ▷ items of importance to the 6000 foreign members of APS as well as domestic and international students
- ▷ a letters column in which APS members can exchange their views.

A basic aim of the newsletter, Strauss adds, is to unify the various subgroups of APS, whose members often are unaware of the activities of their colleagues in other divisions, topical groups and committees. In short, *News of The American Physical Society* will allow members to glean items of interest quickly from reports

on the activities of the society.

A Cornell graduate, Strauss comes to APS from a weekly publication in the consumer electronics industry and, before that, a peer-reviewed med-

ical journal. With his experience in journalism and technical writing, Strauss is confident that he can make *News of The American Physical Society* a real asset to all APS members.

### Open Forum on Cold Fusion at APS Meeting



CECELIA BRESCHIA/AIP

Attendees at the APS spring meeting in Baltimore are shown in the photo above examining abstracts received for a hastily organized session on cold fusion. In light of the stir brought on by Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, June, page 17), APS Executive Secretary W. W. Havens Jr asked E. F. Redish of the University of Maryland, College Park, to organize a postdeadline session on cold fusion for the Baltimore meeting in cooperation with the division of nuclear physics. Redish heads the topical group on few-body systems and multiparticle dynamics, which had already organized a regular session on muon catalyzed fusion with Steven Jones (Brigham Young University) as an invited speaker.

Notice of the special session was broadcast via electronic mail and fax machine in the ten days before the meeting, and contributed papers were requested. By the deadline (seven hours before the start of the 1 May session) a total of 41 abstracts had been received.

Approximately 1800 people attended the session, and a second session was held on 2 May. A complete set of invited and contributed abstracts from both sessions will be published in the July–August *Bulletin of The American Physical Society*. Videotapes of the sessions are also available (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, June, page 93).