

APS AND AAPT WILL COSPONSOR UNITY DAY AT APRIL MEETING IN DC

A special "Unity of Physics Day" will take place on Tuesday, 17 April at the American Physical Society's meeting in Washington. In keeping with the spirit of unity, the event will be cosponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

The program will consist of talks of broad interest by distinguished physicists, including the address of retiring APS President James Krumhansl of Cornell University. Krumhansl's address is entitled, "Shared Concepts in Physics: Solitons."

Other speakers will include Steven Chu (Stanford), "Laser Cooling and Manipulation of Neutral Atoms"; Thomas Appelquist (Yale), "Symmetry Breaking and Elementary Particle Masses"; Gerald Holton (Harvard), "The Drive to End Science: Its Past, Present and Future"; and Edward Stone (Caltech), "Voyager and Physics of the Solar System."

Activities associated with this program will take place at the Ramada Renaissance Techworld Hotel, headquarters hotel for this meeting. Pre-registration information is in recent issues of the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*. The afternoon plenary session will be open to all registrants for 17 April. It will be followed by a general reception and banquet for which tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in advance through preregistration or on site, if available. A prize ceremony will take place at the banquet, and D. Allan Bromley, science advisor to the President, will speak.

The concept for the special program arose out of a feeling in the society that with divisions, topical groups and sections holding so many separate meetings and supplying so much of the "action," the unifying concepts, methods, goals and interests of physics are sometimes obscured. APS officers and leaders felt that a physics unity day would help bring commonalities back into focus.

President Eugen Merzbacher (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) has the hope that the unity

session will "make people aware of physics as a whole, rather than its separate parts. It will bring together our colleagues from the different subfields, and make it possible for them to share an experience. We can be all together: This is something that was

lost when we became so specialized."

The decision to have a unity day also was loosely connected with decisions by APS and AAPT to phase out their joint January meeting and to phase in a joint April meeting (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, February, page 113).

COUNCIL ADOPTS GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

In 1989 a number of members asked APS whether the society had guidelines regarding scientific contact with countries accused of abusing human rights. Some of these inquiries were addressed to the APS committee on the international freedom of scientists. In response the committee prepared the following statement, which was adopted by the APS council on 21 January.

▷ APS members bear individual responsibility for any decisions concerning visits or contacts with scientists in foreign countries. The society hopes, however, that its members abide by the basic principles espoused in the

"American Physical Society Statement on the International Nature of Physics and International Physics Cooperation." (See *PHYSICS TODAY*, February 1990, page 139.)

▷ APS members are reminded that there have been instances in the past where governments have used scientific visits for political rather than for legitimate scientific purposes.

▷ APS members are encouraged to avail themselves of legal opportunities for establishing or extending contacts with scientists who are denied normal access to scientific communication or to the free exchange of ideas.

SWITCH TO ACID-FREE PAPER APPROVED FOR TWO JOURNALS

As of 1 January, *Reviews of Modern Physics* is once again being printed on paper free of acid and groundwood, and all sections of the *Physical Review* will revert to this type of paper in July. The APS council approved the change on the recommendation of the publications committee, which acted on advice from Carol Fleming, director of the American Institute of Physics Publishing Branch III. AIP produces *Reviews of Modern Physics* and *Physical Review* for APS.

These publications had been printed on acid-free paper prior to 1984, when APS decided to switch to an acid-groundwood paper because it is less costly. Unfortunately, an acidic

pH causes paper to become brittle with age, and furthermore, the impurities in groundwood cause yellowing, limiting shelf life to about 50 years.

Fleming outlined the case for switching back to acid-free paper in a letter to publication committee chair Bernd Crasemann of the University of Oregon. Longevity and cost are important, she said, but so are opacity, weight and availability—considerations that also argued for a switch.

Member subscription rates will rise approximately 9% to cover the incremental increase in producing *Review of Modern Physics* and *Physical Review* on acid-free paper. ■