servomechanism work, has proved to be the most challenging part of the job. (For details on the polishing technique, see the article by Buddy Martin, John M. Hill and Roger Angel in PHYSICS TODAY, March, page 22.)

The cost of the first Keck telescope initially was estimated at $87 million and in fact the telescope will have cost a total of about $93 million by the time the project is completed. The estimated cost of the second telescope also is $93 million, of which the new grant from the Keck Foundation is expected to provide up to 80%.

Construction of a second telescope was anticipated as a possibility from the outset, and a tunnel linking the two telescope platforms already is built. The link between the two will be optical.

UTRECHT THEORY TEAM REORGANIZED AS THEORY INSTITUTE

In a ceremony held on 19 April the physics theory group at the University of Utrecht formally celebrated its reconstitution as an Institute of Theoretical Physics, an elevation of status that makes the institute more independent of the university's physics faculty and that repositions it to better seek funding both from the Dutch government and the European Community.

Starting with Hendrik Kramers, the close collaborator of Bohr and Heisenberg who taught at Utrecht from the mid-1920s to the mid-1930s, the university has been closely associated with evolution of modern physics. The current theory group was founded in the mid-1950s by the late Leon Van Hove, whose goal was to do research from a very broad disciplinary perspective. (Van Hove himself made important contributions to condensed matter physics in its early days, but by the 1960s, when he became theory director at CERN, he was an important name in particle physics.) In 1971 the young Gerard 't Hooft, a student of Martinus Veltman at Utrecht, published papers showing that the non-Abelian gauge theories developed by Steven Weinberg and Abdus Salam could be renormalized.

'T Hooft is currently a faculty member at Utrecht and will serve as director of the advisory board to the institute. The institute's director is Hans van Himbergen, who earned his PhD at Utrecht in 1976 and who has been a member of the Utrecht faculty since 1981. Van Himbergen's ambition is to make Utrecht's Institute of Theoretical Physics Europe's counterpart to the NSF-supported theory institute at Santa Barbara, which has four professorships and sponsors a large visitor program.

The Utrecht institute has 8 permanent staff members (including 't Hooft), 13 graduate students and 5 postdocs. About one-third of its funding comes from Holland's equivalent of NSF, and two thirds from the university. The institute's improved status means its personnel and budget are guaranteed for five years. The Kramers Chair, for short-term visitors, has been reinstated after a lapse of a decade, and the postdoc program has been expanded. It is hoped that there will be enhanced opportunities for participation in European Community programs such as Erasmus, which subsidizes graduate study outside home countries, and for the creation of more ambitious visitor programs.

LANGENBERG IS ELECTED APS VICE PRESIDENT

Donald N. Langenberg was elected vice president of APS in a special election held earlier this year. Langenberg succeeds Ernest M. Henley (University of Washington), who became president-elect following the resignation of Walter E. Massey to head the National Science Foundation. Langenberg will become APS president in 1993.

Langenberg received a PhD in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1959. The following year he joined the physics faculty at the University of Pennsylvania.

Donald N. Langenberg

He served as deputy director of NSF from 1980 to 1982 and as chancellor of the University of Illinois, Chicago, from 1983 to 1990. Last year he became chancellor of the University of Maryland.

Langenberg's research has included cyclotron resonance and Fermi surface studies of metals and semiconductors; investigations of tunneling and Josephson effects in superconductors; and low-temperature physics. He is a member of the APS division of condensed matter physics, and was the division's chair in 1978. He is also a past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

PETIT WINS 1991 AIP SCIENCE WRITING AWARD

Charles W. Petit, a science writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, is this year's winner of the award given by the American Institute of Physics for science writing by a journalist. Petit was selected for his article "Vanishingly Close to Absolute Zero," published in the winter 1990–91 issue of *Mosaic* magazine, a publication of the National Science Foundation. The article described research on quantum mechanical properties at extremely low temperatures, especially in superfluid helium.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in astronomy from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1968, Petit worked as a reporter for the *Livermore Herald and News*. He has been at the *San Francisco Chronicle* since 1972. (Petit described his experiences as a newspaper reporter covering physics and astronomy in PHYSICS TODAY, November 1990, page 35.)

The award, which consists of $3000 and an inscribed Windsor chair, was presented to Petit at the spring meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, DC. Warren Kornberg, editor of *Mosaic*, received a certificate for publishing the award-winning article.

IN BRIEF

The Foundation for Research and Technology–Hellas has established a special fund of 100 000 European Currency Units to support two international prizes: the Xanthopoulos Prize in Relativity, which will be given every odd year, and the Pnevmatikos Prize in Solitons and Related Non-Linear Phenomena, to be given in every even year. ■