and have argued convincingly that the treaty should be rethought on those grounds. But the NPT's newly permanent status may leave little room for such discussion.

Still awaited is the completion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, something the five nuclear states have promised by the end of next year. Four already have test moratoriums in place; only China continues to test. On the Monday following the NPT extension, the People's Republic detonated its latest nuclear device, an odd punctuation to the UN talks.

JEAN KUMAGAI

## STAT OF THE MONTH

The members of the Acoustical Society of America are engaged in diverse areas of specialization. The adjacent table indicates the important areas of interest for ASA members. The total adds to more than 100%, as members were permitted to check up to three areas each.

| % | Area of Interest |
|---|---|
| 34 | Noise and noise control |
| 34 | Physiological and psychological acoustics |
| 32 | Engineering acoustics |
| 29 | Speech communications |
| 28 | Underwater acoustics |
| 25 | Physical acoustics |
| 19 | Architectural acoustics |
| 19 | Structural acoustics and vibration |
| 17 | Musical acoustics |
| 14 | Signal processing in acoustics |
| 12 | Acoustical oceanography |
| 9 | Animal bioacoustics |
| 4 | Bioresponse to vibration and to ultrasound |

Source: AIP Education and Employment Statistics Division (stats@aip.org).

# Boyce Passes AAS Executive Office to Milkey

On 10 August Robert W. Milkey will become the new executive officer of the American Astronomical Society. Milkey, currently associate director for program management at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, replaces Peter B. Boyce, who has held the position since 1979. Boyce will move to a newly created position in the society. As senior associate, he will help to transform the society's journals and communications into electronic form and to revitalize public-policy programs by assisting AAS members in dealing with their Congressional representatives.

"The society's activities have expanded to the point where we need two full-time people with scientific backgrounds in the executive office in Washington," says Sidney Wolff of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, who is a past president of AAS and the head of the search committee that selected Milkey. "We saw in Bob someone with very strong administrative experience, experience in managing budgets and also experience interacting effectively with funding agencies."

Milkey received both his master's degree (1967) and doctorate (1970) in astrophysics from Indiana University. After a one-year postdoctoral assignment, he joined the Kitt Peak National Observatory, in Tucson, Arizona. From 1971 to 1980 Milkey held a variety of positions at the observatory, from astronomer in the solar division to assistant director of administrative services.

Milkey left Kitt Peak to become the assistant director of the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Hawaii in Manoa. In 1982 he moved to the corporate headquarters of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, where he served for two years as corporate staff scientist before becoming the associate director for program management at STScI, one of the AURA institutes. Milkey says he made a career choice to put administration ahead of his own research: "I felt that I could do more for science and contribute more to the overall research output by enabling others to do research."

In his new position, Milkey says, "the very first thing is to educate myself about the operation of the society." Asked about his plans for the society, he replied: "It seems to me that it is working very well and I don't want to upset anything. There may be some embryonic ideas rolling around in my brain but I wouldn't want to expose them to the world at this point."

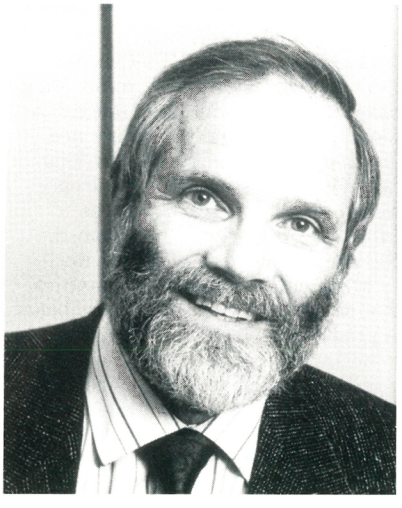
## Looking back

The society that Milkey inherits is certainly different from the one Boyce took over in 1979. Then the society had 3500 members; now it has 6300. The 1979 budget was $1.5 million; now it is $6.4 million. "The officers of the society were ready for change," says Boyce of the expansions that began with a politically savvy move from the basement of the Princeton observatory to Washington, DC, just before he was hired. "I came along with a plan and a desire to play a more activist role."

Boyce, who had worked at the National Science Foundation and as a Department of Commerce Congressional Science and Technology fellow, started as executive officer with a five-point plan addressing areas of the society in need of improvement. Over the years Boyce and an office staff that grew from 3 to 11 improved communication between the society and its members via the *AAS Newsletter*, the *Job Register* and electronic media, and between the society and Congress through public-policy initiatives.

Says Milkey: "I can remember a fairly passive society before Peter ar-

ROBERT MILKEY



PETER BOYCE

rived. Now it's a much more active organization; I have a great deal of respect for him and his accomplishments."

ROSLYN M. DUPRÉ

## APS Says Dangers from EMFs Are Unsubstantiated

The American Physical Society has proclaimed that various studies, when considered as a whole, "show no consistent, significant link between cancer and power line fields." The three-paragraph statement on "Power Line Fields and Public Health" is based on APS's own analysis of the scientific literature and other reviews of possible health effects of low-frequency electromagnetic fields. The announcement, which the APS council approved by a vote of 29 to 1 on 22 April, was noted by national news media such as *The New York Times* and CNN.

Since 1988 APS's Panel on Public Affairs—created to examine ways that "physics can help society"—has been following the debate about effects of low-level 60-hertz electromagnetic fields produced by power lines. David Hafemeister, a physics professor at California Polytechnic State University, in San Luis Obispo, headed a renewed study within POPA during the past year.

Why make a statement now? According to Robert Park, APS's director of public information, as increasingly sophisticated studies have been completed, the evidence to favor a general thesis that power lines cause cancer has not been found, nor has a credible biophysical process been discovered. However, contrary to POPA's expectation that this knowledge would lessen public concern, anxiety has grown. With no change in sight, APS finally decided, Park said, "If not now, when, and if not us, who?"

Hafemeister hopes the APS statement will counter a concept called "prudent avoidance," which says that electric companies should try to prevent exposure to EMFs because one cannot prove that they do not cause cancer. That argument can sound cautious and reasonable, or it can be seen as a futile attempt to reduce ill-defined (but small) exposure limits to zero—to the tune of $1 billion per year and growing, according to a 1992 estimate by H. Keith Florig at Resources for the Future in Washington, DC. APS contends that professional organizations should comment "in the interest of making the best use of the finite resources available for environmental research and mitigation."

For an analysis of electromagnetic fields in the environment, see William R. Bennett Jr's PHYSICS TODAY article "Cancer and Power Lines" (April 1994, page 23) and letters in response (January 1995, page 13, and March 1995, page 124). A background report by Hafemeister, as well as the complete text of APS's statement, can be found through the APS home page on the World Wide Web, http://aps.org/.

DENIS F. CIOFFI

## IN BRIEF

In May Japan announced that its 1995 supplementary budget includes 5 billion yen (approximately $58 million) toward the construction of CERN's Large Hadron Collider (see PHYSICS TODAY, February, page 48). About 70 Japanese scientists now participate in CERN research, but the LHC contribution is expected to increase that number. The action by Japan's Ministry of Education, Science and Culture followed a March mission to that country by a top-level CERN delegation. ■