

director Ken Frazier, "because G&B impact factors are no longer available, and because the journal issues we needed for the study hadn't come in by our cutoff date."

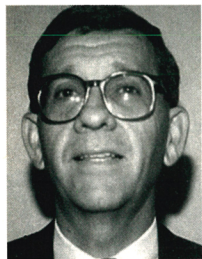
The university plans to carry out similar studies in other fields in both the social and natural sciences. Says Frazier, "I've always felt that the G&B lawsuits against Henry Barschall were a blatant assault on academic freedom. By doing the studies, we want to assert our right to investigate the cost effectiveness of journals and to demonstrate the continuing usefulness of Barschall's methodology." The results of such studies are used by libraries under budgetary pressure to aid in making choices about which subscriptions to cut, he adds.

TONI FEDER

Coffey Will Lead AAPM in 2001

Charles W. Coffey II, chief of clinical physics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, has been elected president-elect of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Coffey's term begins on 1 January, and he will assume the presidency in 2001. AAPM's president for 2000 is Kenneth R. Hogstrom of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Coffey, who holds a PhD in bionucleonics from Purdue University, has investigated radiation dose verification and quality assurance methodologies in clinical radiotherapy and is presently doing intravascular brachytherapy dose measurement studies. He has also been active in the teaching and training of graduate students and postdocs in medical physics.



COFFEY

In other results of the AAPM elections, Gerald A. White Jr, a clinical medical physicist with a private practice in Colorado Springs, Colorado, was elected secretary of the association, and Howard I. Amols (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Cornell University), Mary Ellen Masterson-McGary (Holmes Regional Medical Center, Melbourne, Florida), Maryellen Lissak Giger (University of Chicago), and Michael T. Gillin (Medical College of Wisconsin) were elected to the AAPM board of directors.

Brinkman Is Elected Vice President of APS

On 1 January, William Brinkman will take office as vice president of the American Physical Society. He will succeed George Trilling and will become president-elect of APS in 2001 and president in 2002.

Brinkman is vice president of physical sciences research at Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies, where he has spent much of his career. He joined Bell Labs in 1966, after receiving a PhD in physics from the University of Missouri. Brinkman left in 1984 to become vice president of research at Sandia National Laboratories, but returned in 1987, when he was named executive director of the physics research division. He has held his current position since 1993, overseeing a \$200 million annual research budget for physical sciences, optoelectronic and electronic devices, fiber optics, and related areas.

Also taking office next month will be the new chair-elect of the APS nominating committee, Curtis Callan Jr, a professor and chairman of the physics department at Princeton University. The four new members of the APS council are Stuart Freedman (University of California, Berkeley), Margaret Murnane (University of Colorado at Boulder), Philip Phillips (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Jin-Joo Song (Oklahoma State University).



BRINKMAN

IN BRIEF

New management for ORNL. A university-nonprofit partnership has received a \$2.5 billion, five-year contract to manage the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Under the new contract, which takes effect on 1 April, the lab's research on the environment, fusion energy, advanced computing, nuclear physics, and renewable energy will be overseen by the University of Tennessee system; the Battelle Memorial Institute (of Columbus, Ohio); and Oak Ridge Associated Universities (made up of Duke University, Florida State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, North Carolina State

University, University of Virginia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University). Among the biggest projects now under way at the lab is the planned \$1.3 billion Spallation Neutron Source. Work on nuclear weapons will be run separately by Lockheed Martin Corp, which currently manages the entire lab. Meanwhile, the search continues for a successor to Oak Ridge director Alvin Trivelpiece, who plans to step down at the end of March.

CERN outreach. Beginning in January, CERN (formally the European Laboratory for Particle Physics) located in Switzerland, near Geneva, will increase its emphasis on education and technology transfer, joining a growing worldwide trend of courting taxpayers. A new CERN division, headed by Juan Antonio Rubio, a particle and nuclear physicist from Spain, will sponsor a variety of endeavors, such as traveling exhibitions on high-energy physics, as well as educational programs for the more than 30 000 people who visit CERN each year, Rubio says. The division's other main charge will be to step up CERN's collaborations with industry. For example, with more than half of young scientists going into industry after their lab stays, one aim is to help them get jobs by strengthening ties between CERN and companies in its 20 member countries. The new division will also stress patenting ideas developed at CERN, and getting industry to commercialize them. "It's really knowledge transfer, more than technology transfer," Rubio says, adding that the goal is not to earn income for CERN, but to "be at the service of society"—and to stave off future attacks on the lab's budget.



RUBIO

Physics competitions journal. The first issue of a new biannual journal on physics competitions is due out this month. *Physics Competitions* will cover national and international physics meets, and will include reports and announcements, tests, questions from tournaments, and student research submitted for judging to the International Conference for Young Scientists. The journal is being modeled on a similar mathematics publication, says editor Hans Jordens, a physicist at the University of Groningen and an organizer of the Dutch Physics Olympiad, which for

now is footing the journal's bill. To request a free copy of *Physics Communications*, e-mail Jordens at H.Jordens@cpedu.rug.nl.

On-line physics digests. The *Virtual Journal of Biological Physics Research* and the *Virtual Journal of Nanoscale Science and Technology* will be launched by the American Institute of Physics and the American Physical Society next month. The new titles will be the first in a planned on-line series that will cull recently published articles from about two dozen journals, including all of those published by AIP and APS. AIP executive director Marc Brodsky and APS editor in chief Martin Blume, who are overseeing the editorial direction of the new series, say the idea is to help physicists keep up with the literature in emerging fields, while continuing to encourage people in those fields to publish in established physics journals; the digests are also targeted at small companies that can't afford to subscribe to a full set of journals. "It's really important that industry have access to state-of-the-art science, because fewer and fewer industrial laboratories are doing basic research," adds the University of California, Santa Barbara's David Awschalom, editor of the nanoscale digest. Anyone will be able to view article abstracts in the virtual jour-

nals (<http://www.virtualjournals.org>), and full articles will be available for free to subscribers of the underlying journal in question; nonsubscribers will be able to purchase articles online. E-mail alerts and selections of articles tailored to individual readers are expected to be added later. Eventually, says Princeton University's Robert Austin, editor of the biological physics digest, "I'd like to see commentary on the articles we include."

Encyclopedia. Volume 23 of the *Encyclopedia of Applied Physics*, covering applications of physics in technology from U through Z, came out last year. A cumulative subject index followed this past August. The encyclopedia "should be in the library of any institute where physics is studied," said a 1994 review in our pages (December, page 60), after the first ten volumes had appeared. The full set includes some 600 articles filling nearly 14 000 pages, and costs \$9495. Two addenda volumes, flushing out topics in the first edition, as well as covering new ones, will be out before the end of this year, and editor George Trigg, a former editor of *Physical Review Letters*, and Wiley-VCH publishers (with sponsorship from the American Institute of Physics and physical societies in Japan and Germany) plan to publish update volumes periodically. ■

Web Watch

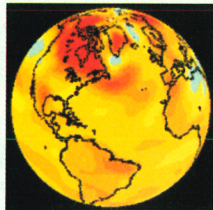
<http://web.physics.twsu.edu/facsme/nitro.htm>

<http://www.physik.uni-augsburg.de/~ubws/nitrogen.htm1>

From Wichita State University's Fairmont Center comes **Liquid Nitrogen Demos**, a page devoted to experiments that teach high-school students the physics of liquid nitrogen. Less educational, but just as fun, is **1001 things to do with Liquid Nitrogen**, a page of sophomoric tricks originally put together by the University of Frankfurt's Frank Illenberger.

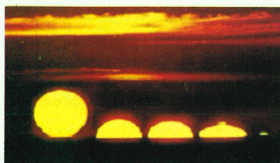
<http://www.climate-dynamics.rl.ac.uk/~hansen/casino21.htm1>

Casino-21 is the name of an innovative project whose aim is to enlist the help of the world's personal-computer users to help understand how Earth's climate is changing. Once enough would-be climate modelers have signed up, the project, based at the UK's Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, will give each participant a unique model to install and run on his or her PC like a screen saver.



<http://mintaka.sdsu.edu/GF>

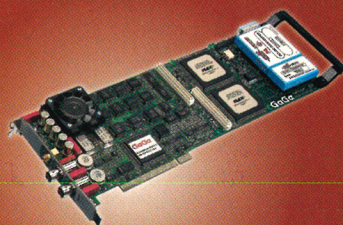
San Diego State University astronomer Andrew Young has compiled and contributed to **An Introduction to Green Flashes**, an extensive collection of information and references about the much-sought atmospheric phenomena known as green flashes.



To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please contact ptwww@aip.org by e-mail.

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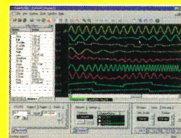


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