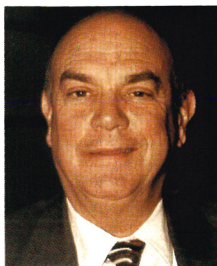


president), the Lausanne, Switzerland-based ICSC-World Laboratory was founded in 1986 to promote science and technology in developing countries, and the free circulation of scientists and scientific information. There are now 37 independent centers, which focus variously on technology transfer, basic research and training. The new Houston center, for example, will arrange four two-year postdoctoral fellowships each year for Latin Americans, says center director and physics professor Carlos Ordóñez, adding, "We are starting with the physical sciences."

On 10 April, Benjamin B. Snavely will become corporate secretary of the American Institute of Physics. He will move to AIP from the National Science Foundation, where he has held several positions in the division of astronomical sciences since 1991. Snavely will succeed Roderick Grant, who has held the post for nearly 17 years (and before that



BENJAMIN SNAVELY

served 6 years as secretary of the American Association of Physics Teachers). Following his retirement, Grant plans to renew his ties to AAPT, and to finish writing a book on the physics of the human body.

The US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled in favor of the American Physical Society and the American Institute of Physics on 25 January, a scant two weeks after oral arguments, in the lawsuit brought by Gordon & Breach Science Publishers against the two organizations. The appellate court upheld the decision of Judge Leonard Sand (see PHYSICS TODAY, October 1997, page 94) that statements based on a study of journal prices "did not constitute false advertising." However, the court also upheld Sand's denial of recovery of attorneys' fees by APS and AIP, observing that the "litigation may not have been strong on the merits," but it was not "exceptional" enough to warrant fee recovery. Even so, AIP's executive director, Marc Brodsky, said he was "extraordinarily pleased" by the decision and APS's treasurer, Thomas McIlrath, said he was gratified to have "such sweeping vindication." Further information on the long-running lawsuit is available on the Web at <http://barschall.stanford.edu>. ■

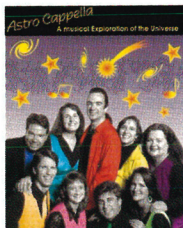
Web Watch

<http://sgvenus.cern.ch/musicclub/cernettes>
<http://www.pagecreations.com/astrocappella>

Whatever Megadeth, Metallica and Motörhead might have to say, Les Horribles Cernettes (LHC for short) are the only



real high-energy rock band—at least according to their Web site. Shown on the left, the CERN-based band performs such songs as "Antiworld," "Daddy's Lab" and "Collider," which you can sample at their Web site. The Maryland-based Chromatics, by contrast, are an a cappella band with an educational mission. Billed as "A Musical Exploration of the Universe," their AstroCappella Web site offers samples of their original songs, which are intended to teach schoolchildren about astronomy.



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<http://www.uspto.gov>
<http://smallbiz.findlaw.com>

Physicists who have visions of turning their bright ideas into wealth could benefit from a visit to the Web site of the US Patent and Trademark Office, which makes available not only information about applying for a US patent, but also a searchable database of all the patents awarded in the US since 1 January 1976. After securing their patents, inventive physicists could stop next at FindLaw's Small Business Web page. Part of FindLaw's larger set of on-line legal resources, the small-business page offers

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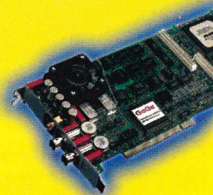
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