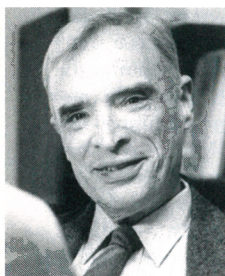


and philosophical questions, and so decided to go back to school to study religion, earning a theology degree at Yale University in 1956. He then took



BARBOUR

a joint position in Carleton College's physics and religion departments, becoming emeritus professor of science, technology, and society in 1986.

Barbour first gained international attention with his 1965 book, *Issues in Science and Religion*. "My concern has been to promote dialog about conceptual and ethical issues, not to merge religion and science," says Barbour. "I moved from having them in watertight compartments to finding fruitful areas of interaction."

"You can do physics without asking wider questions," he continues. "But if you start thinking, particularly in cosmology, it pushes you to ask fundamental questions: Why is there a world at all? Why does it have the structure it does? Religion doesn't necessarily answer the questions that science leaves open, but it can provide a reasonable framework in which to interpret things."

Barbour is also actively involved in discussions of ethical issues related to science and technology, including weapons control and, more recently, environmental issues, genetic engineering, and cloning. "Many scientists find that science raises questions that science itself doesn't answer," he notes.

Barbour plans to give \$1 million of his award to the Center for Theological and Natural Sciences, in Berkeley, California, to be used for academic activities.

The first recipient of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion was Mother Teresa, in 1973. Physicists who have previously won the prize are Stanley Jaki (1987), who is also a Benedictine monk, Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker (1989), and Paul Davies (1995).

TONI FEDER

Synchrotron Gets Green Light in Canada

A synchrotron light source will be built at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), an independent organization that funds research infrastructure, announced on 31 March.

The Canadian Light Source (CLS) will be the country's costliest scientific undertaking to date. Construction is

expected to total Can\$173 million (US\$114 million), of which Can\$56.4 million will come from the CFI. With the CLS, Canada will lose the dubious distinction of being the only Group of Seven (G-7) country without its own synchrotron light facility.

A third-generation machine, the CLS will produce radiation ranging from infrared wavelengths to hard x rays. Says project leader Dennis Skopik, a University of Saskatchewan physicist, "We had to do double duty with our design work. We built in the hard x-ray capacity for biology and biotechnology—the emerging growth areas for synchrotron studies, and came up with a design that will also serve [members of] the Canadian user community who desire lower energies."

The CLS will also get Can\$49 million worth of existing equipment, chiefly from the university's Saskatchewan Accelerator Laboratory, which will be converted into an injector for the CLS. Three beam lines now in Madison, Wisconsin, and owned by the University of Western Ontario, will be upgraded and transferred to Saskatchewan. The rest of the construction costs will be covered by the University of Saskatchewan, the city of Saskatoon, and other provincial, federal, and pri-

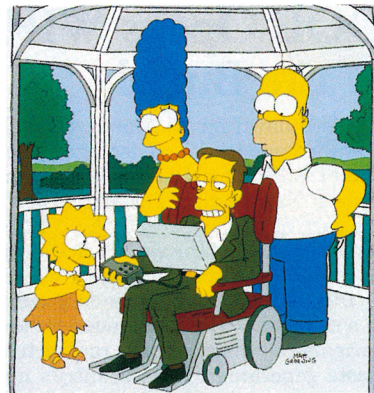
vate-sector sources.

Construction is set to begin this spring, and the first CLS beam lines are scheduled to begin operating in 2003, with all 15 beam lines expected to be running by 2008.

TONI FEDER

IN BRIEF

A character called Stephen Hawking will guest star in the 9 May episode of the animated Fox TV series *The Simpsons*. Dubbed with the real Hawking's synthetic voice, the character will sagely expatiate on the cosmos and the role of intellectuals in society.



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Web Watch

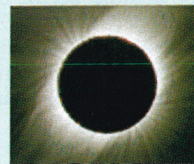
<http://www.lbl.gov/seaborg>

Two years ago, at the age of 84, Manhattan Project member and chemistry Nobel laureate Glenn Seaborg began to create a Web site to chronicle his life's work and, as he put it, "to share the lessons of my experience." The site not only covers the late Seaborg's distinguished career in science and government, but also offers snippets of personal information, such as his reflections on his favorite novel (Sinclair Lewis's *Arrowsmith*) and his wife's recollections of their wedding.



<http://www.eclipse.org.uk>

The millennium's last total eclipse of the Sun will take place on 11 August this year, but it won't be visible from the US. Beginning off the coast of Maine, the path of totality will cross the Atlantic Ocean, clip the southwestern tip of England, cross central Europe, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran, and end in the Bay of Bengal. For more information about the eclipse and its visibility, visit the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory's Solar Eclipse site and the other sites it lists.



<http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history>

The eminent Irish mathematician William Rowan Hamilton (1805–65) is only one of the 1350 mathematicians whose biographies appear in the *MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive*. Created by the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, the site also includes topical articles and a compendium of famous curves (famous, that is, to mathematicians), among them the exotically named Kampyle of Eudoxus, Freeth's Nephroid, and the Conchoid of de Sluze.



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

Compiled by CHARLES DAY