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## APPLIED GEOMECHANICS

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regular follow-up meetings to evaluate progress in implementing the resolutions.

raduate student employees Jthroughout the University of California system have voted for union representation. In April, the UCLA union was the first to win, and by 18 June, the other seven campuses had followed suit. The eight unions, all affiliates of the United Auto Workers, represent nearly 10 000 student employees, 55% of whom took part in the elections; of those, 68% voted for unionization. The union expects to focus on such issues as workload, fee remission, health care coverage, wages and cost-of-living adjustments, and a grievance and arbitration procedure. Meanwhile, at the University of Minnesota, teaching and research assistants firmly rejected unionization for the second time in a decade. The Minnesota results, announced in mid-May, put the vote at 1248 in favor of the union and 1713 opposed, with a 73% turnout. (See Physics Today, May, page 57.)

In June, Bulgaria became CERN's 20th member country. Bulgarian scientists have participated in CERN research for decades, with about three dozen of them currently working on experiments on the Large Electron-Positron collider and the Large Hadron Collider's Compact Muon Solenoid. At a ceremony marking the occasion, Bulgaria's minister of education and science, Vesselin Metodiey, said, "One of the priorities of our government is to

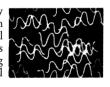
develop and maintain competitive science in Bulgaria. Our membership in CERN is an important step in this direction as it will enable many Bulgarian scientists, engineers, and technical staff to work at the leading edge of science and contemporary technologies." This year, Bulgaria's contribution will be \$319 000, or about 0.05% of CERN's annual budget, and it will increase in steps during the next two years. Romania and Slovenia are also considering joining CERN.

e have done our best to turn the tide . . . of testing every fact in science by a religious doctrine." So declared defense lawyer Clarence Darrow at the conclusion of the infamous Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925. With echoes of Scopes, the National Academy of Sciences has revised and reissued its Science and Creationism report, first published in 1984, which lays out its case against teaching religious concepts in science classes and analyzes the major arguments used by proponents of "creation science." The report, as well as the 150page Teaching about Evolution and the Nature of Science, can be purchased from the National Academy Press, 2102 Constitution Avenue NW, Lockbox 285, Washington, DC 20055. NAS has also set up a Web site, http://www4.nas.edu/opus/evolve.nsf, with links to other resources on evolution.

## Web Watch

## http://superstringtheory.com/

Belying its portentous name, The Official String Theory Web Site is, in fact, an entertaining, accessible compendium of information about strings and their role in theoretical physics and cosmology. Also featured on the site, which was created by Patricia Schwarz (who identifies herself as being with Superstringtheory.com), are interviews with several leading string theorists.



## http://www.ornl.gov/fed/mhd/mhd.html

From Oak Ridge National Laboratory's fusion energy division comes a Web site devoted to the Visualization of MHD Phenomena in Tokamaks and Stellerators. The computer-generated images show the configurations of fields and plasma in several experiments from fusion labs around the world.



http://www.birrcastle.com/birr/astronomy/astframes.html Built by the third earl of Rosse in the 1840s, the 72-inch Birr Castle telescope

was long the largest telescope in the world. The restoration of the telescope and its observatory, located on the grounds of Birr Castle in central Ireland, began three years ago and is nearly complete.



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