

iffy. Last September, the Russian Academy of Sciences' president passed up a scheduled signing in St. Petersburg at the 80th anniversary of the A. F. Ioffe Physical-Technical Institute. Hoping to up its own profits, the Russian Academy of Sciences had wanted AIP out of the loop, says Zhores Alferov, who edits *Technical Physics Letters*, one of the six affected journals.

Cooperation with AIP has been "close and fruitful" for over 40 years, says Alferov, and has kept up the quality of the English translations, attracted authors from the West, and forged ties to the US physics community. Russian physicists agree: More than 100 of them wrote letters this spring in an e-mail campaign to retain AIP as a partner to the *Journal of Theoretical and Experimental Physics Letters*. Says that journal's editor, Vsevolod Gantmakher, the letter writers "believe that the Russian institutions are part of the international community and that the existing links must not be cut, but tightened. Such a campaign is something new for Russia."

It's unclear how much such lobbying efforts swayed the outcome, but in late spring, the Russian Academy of Sciences suddenly "had a change of attitude," notes AIP head Marc Brodsky. Under the new agreement, he says, AIP "gave up significant financial benefits and translation quality control. But we feel a commitment to our colleagues in Russia, and their future is through electronic journals that are integrated with the international physics community."

Although the journals' editors are relieved that an agreement has been reached, they are concerned about the quality and preparation of the translations. As Alferov puts it, "If we are working well, why carry out changes?"

IN BRIEF

Argonne's search. Argonne National Laboratory has been without a permanent director since July 1998, when Dean Eastman left to accept a faculty position at the University of Chicago. Two months ago, interim director Frank Fradin said that he too was stepping down, to resume his previous post as associate laboratory director for physical, biological, and computing sciences. In Fradin's place, Argonne has appointed Yoon I. Chang, associate laboratory director for engineering research. A pioneer in advanced nuclear reactor design, Chang holds a PhD in nuclear science from the University of Michigan. His term in the post may be brief, however. At press time, Richard Quisenberry, who's heading the lab's search committee, expected a new di-

rector to be named "within several weeks." The committee had hoped to wrap up its work by mid-July, added Quisenberry. "However, the large number of nominees and potential candidates to be considered—over 140—has prolonged our work somewhat."

GSI's New Head. Even as it awaits a new director, Argonne National Laboratory will soon lose another top scientist: On 1 October, Walter Henning, director of the lab's physics division, will assume the directorship of the Center for Heavy Ion Research (GSI) in Darmstadt, Germany. Henning, who will succeed Hans-J. Specht, will also be joining the physics faculty at the University of Frankfurt. At Argonne, Henning's research has included studies of nuclear structure using the lab's ATLAS accelerator, and work on explosive nucleosynthesis and other nuclear astrophysics reactions. Henning has also pushed for the development of new accelerator designs capable of producing exotic radioactive atoms. He is currently chairman of the American Physical Society's division of nuclear physics.

Trivelpiece retiring. Elsewhere in the Department of Energy's national labs complex, Alvin Trivelpiece announced on 21 July that he would be stepping down as director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory as of 31 March next year. Trivelpiece, who joined the lab in 1989, previously served as director of DOE's Office of Energy Research during the Reagan administration and then as

head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. DOE is already in the process of selecting a new contractor to take over the management and operation of Oak Ridge from Lockheed Martin Energy Research Corp, which said earlier this year that it would not renew its contract; once the new contractor is in place, Trivelpiece wrote in a memo to employees, "I will work with the selected contractor to ensure a smooth transition."

AIP education. On 1 August, Jack Hehn became manager of the American Institute of Physics's education division. Prior to joining AIP, Hehn was associate executive officer of the American Association of Physics Teachers and a program director in the National Science Foundation's division of undergraduate education. Recipient of a PhD in physics education from the University of North Texas, Hehn says one thing he is looking at "is the physics department itself, as an entity that involves many physicists . . . to see how their mutual interests come together and how they support each other, particularly in undergraduate education." Phillip (Bo) Hammer, who had been serving as AIP's acting manager of education since the departure of Dwight Neuenschwander two years ago, is now the institute's director of the Society of Physics Students and Sigma Pi Sigma and continues as assistant manager of education. ■

Web Watch

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/animation>

Part of Georgia Institute of Technology's Graphics, Visualization & Usability Center, the Animation Lab conducts research on how to depict the motion of characters—terrestrial or otherwise—in computer animations and virtual environments. Award-winning examples of the lab's work are featured on its Web site.



<http://sprite.gi.alaska.edu/html/sprites.htm>

The short-lived optical flashes in the middle and upper atmosphere known as **Red Sprites** are the subject of a Web site developed by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Red sprites (like their brethren, known as blue jets and elves) are caused by large cloud-to-ground lightning discharges.



<http://www.imedea.uib.es/~piro/PitchPage>

"Nonlinear Dynamics of the Perceived Pitch of Complex Sounds" is the title of a recent paper in *Physical Review Letters* (volume 82, page 5389) by Julian Cartwright, Diego González, and Oreste Prio. In their paper, the three researchers develop a nonlinear theory of how the brain perceives the pitch of sounds that contain more than one frequency component. On this Web site, they demonstrate their theory with audio examples—including the "Ode to Joy" portion of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

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

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