

Sciences, provost's office, physics department, and Laboratory for Physical Sciences are jointly pledging \$240 000 a year, indefinitely and with no overhead, to launch the Condensed Matter Theory Center. The money will be used to bring in scientists and to hold occasional workshops. This fall, the new center will welcome five postdocs and a senior visiting researcher, says center director Sankar Das Sarma. For more information, visit the center's Web site at <http://www.physics.umd.edu/cmtc>. —TF

Sakharov in DC. Andrei Sakharov's head and hands grace the entrance of the Russia House at 1800 Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC. Dedicated on 29 April, this statue of the Russian nuclear physicist whose human rights activities won him the Nobel Peace Prize

was a gift from Russian-American sculptor Peter Shapiro to the Russia House, an umbrella organization for activities involving US-Russian business, education, science, and cultural cooperation. —TF

Societies win fraud settlement. The Los Angeles-based journal subscrip-

tion service Eastwood Books and its manager Jung Shin have paid the American Institute of Physics and four other scientific societies \$250 000 in a settlement of a civil action fraud claim; the Los Angeles Police Department and District Attorney are continuing a separate criminal investigation.

The company and Shin allegedly joined the societies under false pretenses to get individual rates on journal subscriptions and then resold them at higher prices to institutions in Korea. Because institutional rates can be up to 10 times the individual rate, the scheme cost the societies more than \$1 million in lost revenue.

The fraud came to light two years ago when a former Eastwood Books employee e-mailed 40 society publishers with details of the scheme. "We're the only one who noticed the e-mail," says AIP Executive Director Marc Brodsky, who contacted the other publishers about the claims. AIP, the American Physical Society, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the American Chemical Society then sued Eastwood Books and Shin. "We are more concerned with stopping this alleged activity than with lost revenue," says Brodsky, "and we hope that this expensive settlement will discourage others from considering similar tactics, which we now will keep watch for and vigorously pursue." —PKG ■

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<http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Constants>

If you need the value of a physical constant, then consult NIST's **Reference on Constants, Units, and Uncertainty**. The online reference has several search and display options and includes a handy converter for energy units.

<http://foia.fbi.gov/room.htm>

In its original version, the 1966 Freedom of Information Act exempted FBI files from public access. But in 1975, amendments to the act, in combination with the 1974 Privacy Act, allowed the public to examine investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes. Now, many of those FBI files, including those on Albert Einstein and Nikola Tesla, are available online in the electronic reading room of the bureau's **Freedom of Information Act** Web site.



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

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