

Boost intercept study completed. After more than two and a half years of work, the American Physical Society's study group on boost-phase intercept systems for national missile defense has released a 396-page report on the scientific and technical aspects of intercepting an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during the first few minutes of the missile's flight. The study reaches six conclusions based on 17 findings about a boost-phase intercept system but, based on an APS mandate to take "no position with regard to the wisdom of deployment," makes no recommendations. Overall, the report says that developing an effective boost-phase interceptor system would be extremely difficult.

The federal government is currently spending about \$9 billion on missile defense; in his current budget proposal, President Bush has requested about \$626 million for development of a boost-phase intercept system. In a letter she wrote two weeks before the 15 July release of the report, APS President Myriam Sarachik told Representative Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, that the "technical analysis contained in the report should be of value to Congress, the Department of Defense, and other policy makers in shaping our nation's missile defense program. . . ."

Pre-release restrictions prevented an in-depth story about the study in this issue of PHYSICS TODAY. A full news story will appear in the September issue. **JLD**

Hadron Collider control center and of data from the accelerator.

"I am convinced that the Globe of Innovation will occupy an important place in passing the message of science," Swiss President Pascal Couchepin said when he announced the gift. An opening ceremony is planned for October 2004. **TF**

Community college physics. About 100 000 students a year take introductory physics at US community colleges, reports the American Institute of Physics in a five-year follow-up to its first comprehensive look at two-year colleges. Although many two-year colleges aim to serve as a training ground for technicians, applied and technical physics make up only

8% of physics classes. Instead, most two-year physics programs focus on preparing students to transfer to four-year degree programs.

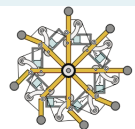
In 2001, 43% of physics programs at two-year campuses had only one instructor. Of those instructors, 64% were employed full-time and the rest were part-time. Women made up 14% of physics instructors, up from 11% five years earlier.

These and other data are presented in the report *Physics in the Two-Year Colleges: 2001-02*. Single copies may be obtained free of charge from AIP, Statistical Research Center, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740; e-mail stats@aip.org; Web site <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/hstrends.htm>. **TF ■**

WEB WATCH

<http://www.lhup.edu/~dsimanek/museum/unwork.htm>

As well as teaching physics at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Donald Simanek curates the online **Museum of Unworkable Devices**. With glee and zeal, Simanek dissects the failings of perpetual motion machines past and present.



<http://www.computerhistory.org>

Based in a new Silicon Valley home, the **Computer History Museum** offers online exhibits to supplement its extensive collection of computers. Current exhibits include histories of the Internet and microprocessors.

<http://www.newtonproject.ic.ac.uk>

"Irenicum, or Ecclesiastical Polity Tending to Peace" is the title of a 40-page treatise that Isaac Newton wrote in 1710. Thanks to the **Newton Project**, which is based at Imperial College London, you can read online this and other nonscientific works by Newton.

THE NEWTON PROJECT

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please phone the editor at (301) 209-3036. *Compiled and edited by Charles Day*



AIP State Department Science Fellowship 2004 - 2005

The American Institute of Physics and the U.S. Department of State are now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 Fellowship term, commencing in the fall of 2004. If you are a scientist with an interest in foreign policy, this program offers an opportunity to spend a year using your technical expertise to directly support the foreign policy work of the U.S. Department of State.

QUALIFICATIONS include PhD or equivalent in physics or related field, interest or experience in S&T aspects of foreign policy, membership in one or more AIP Member Societies, and U.S. citizenship. The Fellowship is contingent upon receipt of a security clearance.

A **STIPEND** of \$49,000 and other benefits are provided by AIP.

APPLICATIONS should consist of a letter of intent, a 2-page resume, and three letters of reference. Your letter should discuss your interest in and suitability for the position. Letters of Reference should be mailed directly to the address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on the program and detailed instructions on applying, please see our website at: <http://www.aip.org/mgr/sdf.html>.

ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2003 and sent to:

AIP State Department Science Fellowship
American Institute of Physics
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3843
ATTN: Audrey T. Leath

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OF PHYSICS

