

depth of its talent in risk and economic analysis of major disaster, advanced computation, and emergency response.”

Charles McQueary, the DHS undersecretary for science and technology, is establishing a handful of such centers to concentrate on different aspects of terrorism (see PHYSICS TODAY, July 2003, page 32). **JLD**

High- T_c Update folds. The newsletter *High- T_c Update* ground to a halt at the end of last year when its funding dried up. Founded by the US Department of Energy's Office of Science in 1987, during the early, heady days of high-temperature superconductors, the newsletter listed new preprints and provided commentary on advances in high-temperature superconductivity.

“The big discovery that got things going was in early 1987, of yttrium barium copper oxide. That has a transition temperature of about 90 K,” says Iowa State University's John R. Clem, the newsletter's science editor. *High- T_c Update* chronicled findings in cuprates, magnesium diboride, and other superconductors. “Bismuth strontium calcium copper oxide has turned out to be a wonderful playground for studies of vortex matter,” says Clem. In recent years, he adds, “the emphasis has been going more toward applications.”

High- T_c Update's electronic archives will remain available on the Web at <http://www.iitap.iastate.edu/htcu>. **TF**

SRU-ISTEC, TOKYO



Suspended: John R. Clem, science editor of the now defunct *High- T_c Update*, is magnetically levitated above superconducting YBCO disks.

WEB WATCH



<http://insideout.rigb.org>

Since its foundation in 1800, Britain's Royal Institution has been telling the general public about science. Among the institution's latest endeavors is **InsideOut**, a Web site aimed at schoolchildren and their teachers.

<http://www.norc.org/issues/docdata.htm>

Every year, the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago publishes its **Survey of Earned Doctorates**. The survey for 2002 is now available online and contains a wealth of statistical information, including the median age at graduation. Males who earned PhDs in physics and astronomy in 2002 were 30.6 years old on average when they graduated. Their female counterparts were almost a whole year younger.

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

CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology, promotes the accuracy and accessibility of data. Its latest set of recommended values of the fundamental physical constants has recently been incorporated into the **NIST Reference on Constants, Units, and Uncertainty**.

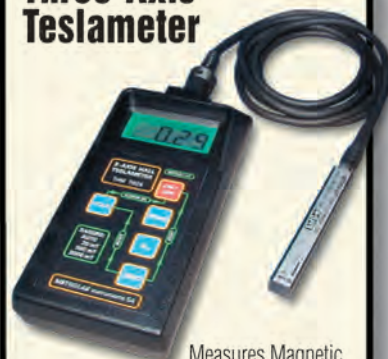
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To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit <http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html>.

Compiled and edited by Charles Day

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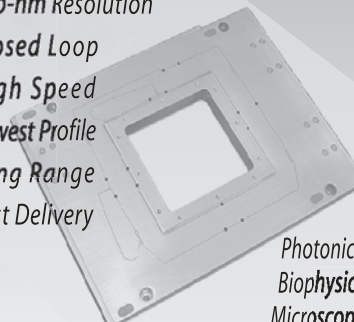
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