



Scientists who have successfully campaigned for elected office served on a panel at a recent workshop. From left are Louis Lanzerotti, David Westerling, APS director of public affairs and panel moderator Michael Lubell, Jesse Jones, and Nancy Cline.

practical information to practicing scientists and engineers who might be interested in running for local office. That, plus [give them] the feeling there is a community of people who will support them as they go ahead."

"My presentation was about the steps to put a campaign together," says Dean Levitan of the consulting firm MSHC Partners. "The mechanics of a campaign include raising money and communications—advertising, websites, blogging, town hall meetings, door to door. It's 98% elbow grease, 2% creativity." Other presenters included Kevan Chapman, communications director for physicist and Representative Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), and Joe Trippi, who ran Howard Dean's and John Edwards's presidential campaigns.

"Scientists and engineers have a lot to contribute, with their logical thinking, seeking of facts, analysis, and ability to make decisions once the facts are known," says AIP governing board chair Louis Lanzerotti, who since 1994 has been a member of the township committee where he lives in New Jersey and is currently the mayor. On a panel at the workshop, he says, "I cited cases where bringing fact-finding to an issue was important. For example, here in my township we are looking at issues related to the possible installation of athletic fields. There is a lot of controversy over artificial turf—lead content, runoff, is it healthy for young children to rub it. . . . There are all kinds of questions that involve looking at data."

Another panelist was Baylor University chemist Jesse Jones, who served seven terms in the Texas House of Representatives until he was defeated two years ago. "It's important to have a prior interest in politics, or to have some burning issues that would kind of propel you into it," he says. "You can't apply the scientific method [to legislation], but there is an attitude that is common among scientists, and it does give us an edge."

"I don't know if I'll run for any office.

But [the workshop] did make me want to be more politically active," says Griselda Zuccarino-Catania, a graduate student in immunology at Yale University and president of her student chapter of Scientists and Engineers for America, one of the organizations that sponsored the workshop. **Toni Feder**

news notes

Nuclear forensics. Responding to recommendations issued earlier this year by a joint working group of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Senate committee in April authorized \$25 million to establish a nuclear forensics program in the US Department of Energy. The Committee on Armed Services included another \$5 million for fellowships to train scientists how to trace the origins of captured nuclear materials and to analyze radioactive debris after a

nuclear attack. The provisions were included in the annual bill that authorizes the Department of Defense and DOE nuclear weapons programs. On the House side, the defense bill approved by an Armed Services subcommittee included just \$5 million for nuclear forensics. But when the full House takes up the bill, newly elected Representative Bill Foster (D-IL), a former Fermilab physicist, is expected to offer an amendment to raise the amount to the Senate level. Appropriators generally adhere closely to funding levels specified in defense authorization bills.

In its report, the APS-AAAS working group said that the ability to trace weapons materials to the originating reactor or enrichment facility could well deter both states and weapons scientists from supplying the materials to terrorists. At least three to four people with PhDs in relevant disciplines are needed each year over the next decade to replace experts who are nearing retirement, the report said. In addition, specialized, automated, field-deployable equipment for measuring radiation near the sites of a nuclear incident must be developed and manufactured. **DK**

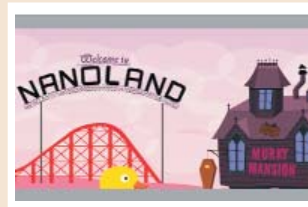
Yucca Mountain license. The US Department of Energy expects to submit an application this month for a license to construct and operate the long-stalled Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, but the schedule for completion of the facility will slip again, according to the pro-

web watch

To suggest topics or sites for Web Watch, please visit <http://www.physicstoday.org/suggestwebwatch.html>. Compiled and edited by Charles Day

<http://nanomediafinder.net>

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<http://computingnow.computer.org>



Computing Now is the newly launched website of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society. Much of the site's content comes from the 14 magazines published by IEEECS, including *Security and Privacy*, *Computer Graphics and Applications*, and *Computing in Science and Engineering*.

<http://www.quantum-physics.polytechnique.fr> <http://www.quantum-physics.polytechnique.fr/physics>

Manuel Joffre of the École Polytechnique and his collaborators Jean-Louis Basdevant, Jean Dalibard, and Jean-Paul Foing have created two sets of online tutorials, **Quantum Physics Online** and **Classical Physics Online**. Both feature java applets and are available in English and French.