

## Nervousness at DOE's Other Accelerator Project

■ With all the furor surrounding high-energy physics projects, you probably haven't noticed that one accelerator supported by the Department of Energy (DOE) is moving along very smartly, on budget and on schedule for completion in late 1994. But DOE is showing a lack of enthusiasm for maintaining this surprising record.

The Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF), a \$271-million project in Newport News, Virginia, is now 60% complete and 75% paid for. But CEBAF managers complain that the project is on time only because DOE let the completion date slip a year. The president's 1992 budget request for CEBAF is \$20 million below what the Southeastern Universities Research Association, which manages the project for DOE, says is needed to finish the project by the original target date: the end of 1993. The Senate Appropriations Committee added \$12 million



*CEBAF, here rising from the green fields of Virginia, may be completed on time—depending on whose timetable you use.*

to CEBAF's 1992 budget last week, which would move the completion date closer to the end of 1993, but so far the House is sticking to the Administration's line.

These facts and the financial competition from the Superconducting Super Collider and a new accelerator at Brookhaven National Laboratory

have combined to make CEBAF supporters nervous about DOE's commitment to the project, despite its nearness to completion. David L. Hendrie, director of the nuclear physics division at DOE, insists that the department holds CEBAF in high regard. "We're doing everything we can to prevent budget shortfalls," he says.

## Letting the "Cops" Make the Rules for DNA Fingerprints

■ "DNA fingerprinting" has been hailed as the greatest advance in forensic science since the advent of fingerprint dusting, but its use has been marred by sloppy lab work and inconsistent criteria for a "match." That's why Senator Paul Simon

(D-IL) and Representative Don Edwards (D-CA), who chair the Senate and House constitutional subcommittees, will soon introduce legislation authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to set quality standards for DNA testing.

Unlike earlier legislation, this version will call for an outside group of experts to help the FBI set standards—most likely an advisory panel of top forensic scientists and geneticists, possibly based at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Labs that perform DNA typing would be tested regularly for adherence to these standards. The bill will address privacy issues as well by seeking to ensure that an FBI database of test results is only used for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Some defense lawyers and civil liberties groups are already planning to oppose the legislation, saying the FBI is less concerned with quality control than

## New Farber Chief

■ There will soon be some new faces in the top posts at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Next month the institute's board will decide whether to approve the selection of pharmacologist Christopher T. Walsh as its new president, replacing Nobel laureate Baruj Benacerraf, who has held the job since 1980. The board has already approved the appointment of David M. Livingston to replace Emil Frei III as director and physician-in-chief at the institute.

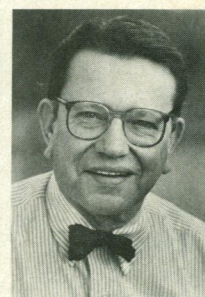
The choice of Walsh, who is currently chairman of the department of biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology at Harvard Medical School, marks a shift in emphasis for the Farber. Under Benacerraf and Frei the institute has emphasized immunology, with a lesser focus on some newer aspects of cell biology. Walsh's interests are closer to those of the cell biologists, so he is likely to lead Farber in that direction. But Benacerraf's influence is not expected to wane immediately, as he intends to continue on at the institute in some capacity still to be determined.

Livingston is currently vice president and chief of the division of neoplastic disease mechanisms. He starts his new job on 1 July.

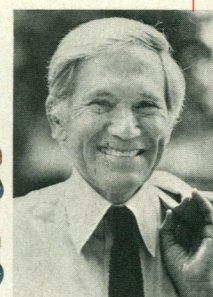
■ Bernadine P. Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health, may be the exception that proves the rule: There aren't many women at the top of the U.S. medical establishment—no medical school deans, no vice presidents for medical affairs, and only a handful of department chairmen. But there are moves afoot that should help at least a little in changing that.

In Congress, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues is preparing a report on promotion practices within NIH and the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration—motivated by situations such as that at the National Institute of Mental Health, where only one woman physician holds a senior position in the program, and where there hasn't been a woman physician promoted to such a position in at least a decade. Likewise, the current NIH reauthorization bill would require the NIH office of research on women's health to track the extent to which women are represented among senior physicians and scientists at NIH.

Another fledgling effort has begun in the private sector. With a \$60,000 start-up grant from the Pew Charitable Trust, the Association of Academic Health Centers has begun a program to identify appropriate female and minority candidates for the top positions in academic health, and then to help promote them when positions become available.



Simon



Edwards



with obtaining convictions. These critics say nothing short of a completely independent regulatory body will do. Congressional insiders, however, say they expect no great opposition to the bill within Congress.