laboratory enterprise. Bromley added that under this arrangement the Japanese would also be responsible for some of the SSC's operating costs.

But William Happer Jr., the new director of DOE's Office of Energy Research, gave *Science* a different version of the proposal before he left for Japan. He said any management control ceded to Japan would "not be like equity ownership in a corporation." Rather, he said, DOE wanted to follow the model of Europe's nuclear laboratory CERN, which is jointly owned by its 16 member states. But that's not the end of the matter, either, since SSC director Roy Schwitters rejects Happer's version, noting that the United States would still hold sole title to the SSC. Japan would merely gain several seats on its board of directors.

All these competing models may turn out to be beside the point if Japan decides instead to contribute to an SSC rival, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. There have been informal discussions of that idea between CERN and Japan, and last summer a Japanese newspaper quoted a Ministry of Education official as saying that Japan has "no reason" to contribute to the SSC when the LHC represents a satisfactory compromise.

Packard Fellowships

Almost everything in life is subject to fads, and private foundation support for science is no exception: Many foundations these days are targeting young investigators (see *Science*, 13 September, p. 1200). In one of the latest and largest examples of foundation largesse, 20 young scientists and engineers have been named as recipients of the half-million-dollar Packard Awards from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation of Los Altos, California. That program, begun in 1988, is billed as the nation's largest program of unrestricted grants to young university researchers.

The recipients, from 20 different schools, range in age from 25 to 36. Their fellowships provide 5 years of research support, at $100,000 a year. The awards are concentrated in the physical sciences and engineering, with only three in biology. Somewhat surprisingly, in this age of affirmative action, only two of the 20 are women: Brenda L. Bass, biochemist at the University of Utah, and chemical engineer T. Kyle Vanderlick, of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mt. Wilson Staves off Interference

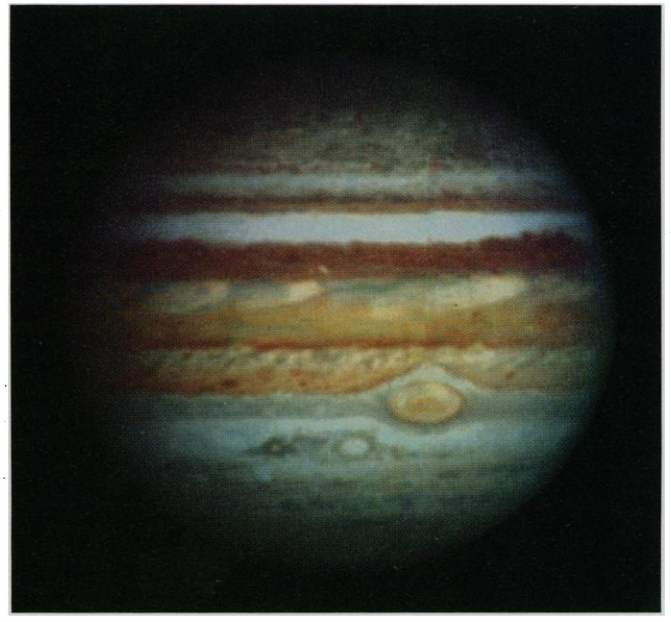
Astronomers at Mount Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, California are breathing a little easier these days. For 2 years they have lived in fear that signals from the stars would soon be drowned out by radio and TV broadcasts pouring from transmission towers under construction half a mile from the observatory. As planned, the broadcasts would have been powerful enough to interfere with instruments that measure cosmic electromagnetic radiation. The consequences were not trivial: Most research at the observatory would have been crippled, if not terminated, says Sallie Baliunas, chair of Mt. Wilson Institute's science advisory council.

But the skies are clearing as the result of some quick legal footwork. The Southern California Site Facilities, Inc. (SCSF), owners of the broadcast towers, have agreed to limit the power of signals aimed toward Mt. Wilson to less than 300,000 watts, and to shield tower lights from the observatory. "We could have sought an injunction if we had to," says lawyer Patricia Ostiller, whose firm negotiated for free for the scientists. But no litigation was necessary.

When Mt. Wilson officials signed the compromise agreement on 28 August, they joined a handful of other astronomers who have succeeded in protecting their telescopes' radio space from earthly interference (see *Science*, 15 March, p. 1316). The research done on Mt. Wilson could have been performed elsewhere, says Robert Jastrow, director of Mt. Wilson Institute; but with many observatories already booked years in advance and little money available for new telescope construction, the loss of Mt. Wilson, with its $50 million worth of specialized equipment, would have been "devastating," he says.

By Jove, It Works

Just to show that the Hubble Space Telescope can take striking pictures of planets as well as stars and galaxies, NASA has released this image, snapped last May, of the solar system's largest planet. The Voyager spacecraft took far more detailed images of Jupiter, but couldn't stick around to decipher why winds marked by different chemical compounds arrange themselves in belts and in vortices such as the Great Red Spot. The spot appears in yellow in the lower right quadrant of the picture.



NASA AND ESA

Microbiologists Look at Biowarfare

For 25 years, the American Society for Microbiology has adopted an ostrich-like posture toward biological warfare. It disbanded an advisory committee on the subject in the early 1960s because violent disagreements over whether and how microbiologists should cooperate with the government's biological weapons program persuaded researchers the subject was too hot to handle. Since then, nary a session has been devoted to the topic at the society's mammoth annual meetings.

But thanks to Iraq's Saddam Hussein, that has changed. This month, at the society's annual meeting in Chicago, a 3-hour symposium on biological warfare drew a crowd of more than 1000, and the society now intends to take a role in discussions of the subject. Saddam "jolted the society back to reality," said James A. Poupard of SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. "Biological warfare was the single most devastating threat of the [Gulf] war."

The society plans to include coverage of biological warfare in its newsletter; presentations on the topic at future meetings will be welcomed, and the Public and Scientific Affairs Committee may address whether the Department of Defense's biological warfare program—now entirely oriented to defenses against biological agents—should be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services.