



**Change at CERN.** In 1994 theorist Christopher Llewellyn Smith will take over CERN's long halls.

## CERN Names New Director

Europe's high-energy physics community can look forward to some calm after the storm: CERN's governing council has tapped Oxford University theorist Christopher Llewellyn Smith to succeed the volatile Carlo Rubbia as CERN's director-general. Rubbia will step down at the end of 1993.

"Strategically speaking, there won't be any change," says Llewellyn Smith. He confirms that CERN's long-term plan—centered on completing the \$1.66 billion Large Hadron Collider sometime after 1999—will remain the same. But many physicists predict a marked change in management style when Llewellyn Smith takes the reins.

Physicists argue that the biggest change will be the personality of the new director-general. Although an inspiration to the physics community, Rubbia "can be very destructive of his juniors," says a CERN user. In contrast, Llewellyn Smith has impressed his British colleagues as an administrator. When he took over as head of physics at Oxford in 1987, he merged five departments without apparently making many enemies. Physicists hope he can repeat the feat as he juggles the needs of the Large Hadron Collider with those of smaller projects that might get squeezed from CERN's budget.

## Astronomers Explore Equal Rights Universe

Fed up with sexual discrimination and harassment in their field, several astronomers have begun drafting guidelines on how to treat female colleagues fairly.

The idea for the guidelines—dubbed the "Baltimore Charter"—sprang from a recent meeting on the status of women in astronomy that was held at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "We wanted to show we were doing more than just sitting around complaining," says institute astronomer Meg Urry, who's serving on a committee that's devising the charter. And there seems to be plenty to complain about: In a recent survey, nearly 40% of female astronomers recalled being sexually harassed by their colleagues (*Science*, 21 June 1991, p. 1604). This has led some astronomers to charge that sexual discrimination might account for the paltry number of women in the field. (Women make up about 12% of professional astronomers.)

While committee members readily agreed on how to combat sexual discrimination and harass-

ment, Urry says, they have had a tougher time trying to gain a consensus on "the goal for equal representation." Some committee members are "put off" by programs that smack of quotas, but others (herself included) favor them.

The committee plans to send the document to U.S. observatories and university departments

early next year, Urry says. And with a star-studded panel that includes Sidney Wolf, president of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), and Riccardo Giacconi, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, Urry is hoping to see the AAS officially endorse the charter at the society's next meeting in January 1993.

## NAS Plagiarism Fight to Go Another Round

Victor Herbert, the scrappy nutritionist who co-authored the 9th Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA), a guide to human vitamin and food requirements and sued the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in 1990 for copyright infringement, suffered a one-two punch last month when two separate U.S. courts dismissed his cases. But Herbert got off the canvas last week and filed a similar suit in the U.S. Claims Court that promises to keep him in the ring a while longer.

In 1985, the NAS opted not to publish the 9th RDA after staffers and the guide's authors failed to reach a compromise on revisions (*Science*, 2 March 1990, p. 1022). Later that year, Herbert and other co-authors copyrighted their draft. The NAS then received a new contract from NIH to draw up and publish the 10th RDA, which it did in November 1989. Herbert claims that the academy plagiarized substantial portions of his copyrighted material in that draft.

Both the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. circuit and the U.S. District Court dismissed Herbert's cases for lack of jurisdiction. On top of that, the district court judge ordered Herbert to pay the academy's court costs, which an NAS spokesman estimates at \$48,000.

Now the legal fight moves to the claims court, where Herbert is seeking an unspecified amount of damages from the U.S. government.

## Dioxin's Health Effects Revisited

In what may be the most extensive effort to characterize any chemical's risk, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last month released for public comment a partial analysis of the effects of dioxin. But one thing's missing: an updated assessment of the risk that dioxin in the environment poses to public health. An EPA-appointed panel is working on this key section and expects to finish it early next year.

But the chapters EPA has already released show that the agency may be pre-

paring for a change of perspective: Dioxin may not be as deadly a carcinogen as assumed when people fled Times Beach, Missouri, 8 years ago to get away from dioxin residues in the soil. "At the exposures that people are re-

ceiving right now, there seems to be a low risk for cancer," says EPA epidemiologist David Bayliss, who co-authored the chapter on human data. But Bayliss cautions that some studies link dioxin exposure to rare cancers such as soft-tissue sarcomas. And the dose-response chapter states that "the human is a sensitive species for cancer response."

Of greater concern to the panel on public health issues are dioxin's potential effects on human reproduction. Dioxin has shown well-documented effects in laboratory animals, in which it acts as an estrogen-like hormone and can decrease fertility, litter size, and spermatogenesis. But the data on human effects are scant. "We're not saying there is a problem, but people should be extremely cautious about this substance," Bayliss says.



**Dioxin's past.** Cleanup at Times Beach.