

The Village Courier



fermi national accelerator laboratory

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DRAMATIC GAINS FOR ACCELERATOR DIVISION

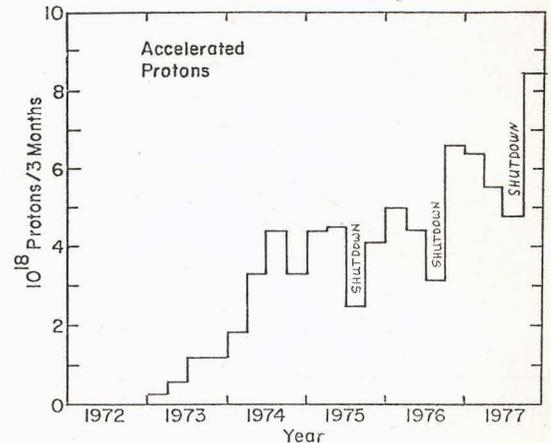
1977 was a record-breaking year for proton output by the Accelerator Division.

Don Young, associate head for operations, gave a progress report at the Jan. 4 director's meeting. In 1977's last quarter, he said, the number of protons accelerated hit a five-year high of 8.47×10^{18} . The peak compares to about 6.6×10^{18} achieved in late 1976. A larger number of protons from the accelerator means more opportunities for physicists to do varied experiments.

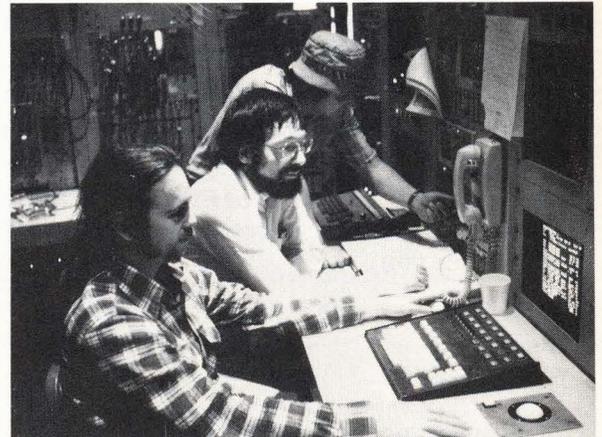
Consecutive peak intensity records were also reported for Dec. 30-31. On Dec. 30, 3.04×10^{13} protons were accelerated in the booster and 2.507 in the Main Ring. The crew on duty comprised: Bill Merz, chief; Jeff Elseth, Mark Koenig, Jim Crisp and Al Thomas. Their record was eclipsed the next day when 3.062×10^{13} protons were accelerated in the booster and 2.528×10^{13} protons were accelerated in the Main Ring. Personnel participating were: Duane Plant, crew chief; Larry Allen, Tom Miller, Wallace Andrews and Ed Rosenwinkel.

Congratulations to the entire Accelerator team!

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...Chart showing Accelerator Div.'s proton production...



...L-R, J. McCarthy, D. Kindelberger, B. Oberholtzer at MR controls...



...Main accelerator interior: Four miles in circumference; 1.24 miles in diameter...

MATERNITY/OBSTETRICAL BENEFITS INCREASED

The Laboratory is pleased to announce an increase in the maternity and obstetrical medical benefits at no additional cost to employees.

Female employees and enrolled dependents are covered for the new benefits if pregnancy begins while they are insured and after January 1, 1978.

The basic medical insurance plan remains the same, but additional expenses incurred will be covered under Major Medical if conception occurred on or after January 1, 1978. Major medical insurance pays 80 percent of the expenses incurred during a calendar year after payment of \$100 deductible. Pregnancies starting before the effective date will not be covered under the Major Medical for normal pregnancy.

The impact of this change essentially means that if, in an example case, hospital and doctor bills associated with delivery of a child exceed base plan benefits by \$800 the insured will receive an additional \$560 through major medical coverage. Under the prior plan, no added benefits were available. The \$560 represents 80 percent of the example case bills above base plan coverage after subtracting the \$100 deductible.

For more information, call the Employee Benefits Office at Ext. 3395.

SCHOLARSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE

Application forms for the annual URA Scholarship program for employee children are now available in Personnel, CL-6E.

To be eligible, the student must be starting a four-year degree program in the fall of 1978. The four-year scholarship pays up to \$1200 per year for tuition and required fees, providing the student remains in good academic standing. From 10 to 12 scholarships will be awarded based on A.C.T. (American College Testing) scores.

To apply for a scholarship, the student should fill out a brief application form, attach a copy of the official notification of scores and return them to Ruth Christ, 6E, by March 1, 1978. The applications will be forwarded to URA headquarters in Washington for selection.

Questions regarding the scholarship program may be directed to Ruth Christ, Ext. 3324.

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CAN COMPUTERS BE TRUSTED?

Get one authority's opinion on the topic Friday, Jan. 20. Speaking at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium will be Prof. Joseph Weizenbaum, professor of computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The free public program will be the fifth in the 1977-78 Science and Humanities Lecture Series. Prof. Weizenbaum helped develop the first computer bank deposit accounting system and has written and spoken widely on computer technology. After the talk, a reception will be held in the atrium. The lecture series is made possible by support from the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Tickets are available from the Guest Office, CL-1W (Ext. 3440).

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IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, Jan. 17 - NALREC Ice skate exchange, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., CL-1W.

Friday, Jan. 20 - Science & Humanities Lecture Series: "Can Computers Be Trusted?", 8:30 p.m., Auditorium. Free Tickets available from the Guest Office, CL-1W (Ext. 3440).

Sunday, Jan. 22 - NALREC Ice skating party, CL reflecting pond, noon- 4 p.m.

February 17-20 - NALREC Bahamas vacation excursion. \$249 per person double occupancy, air fare/hotel accommodations. For information, contact Keith Schuh, Ext. 4048/4444.

LABORATORY DIRECTOR MAY RESIGN

Fermilab Director, Robert R. Wilson, announced last week that he may resign his position as a result of the inadequate support which is being received by the Laboratory.

Speaking at the first quarterly Director's Meeting of 1978, Dr. Wilson confirmed published reports that February 10 is his personal deadline to decide his future. The Director said that he had communicated his intentions several months ago in a letter to Department of Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger. The letter, he said, led to a discussion with John M. Deutch, Director of DOE's Office of Energy Research.



Robert R. Wilson

Dr. Wilson stated that he had acted after concluding that Fermilab support was in a "precarious state" and that it would be irresponsible for him to give the impression that under the present conditions of under-funding he could continue to direct this Laboratory in the manner in which he felt such a laboratory ought to be directed. To continue as Director under such circumstances would be a deception to all concerned.

Dr. Wilson indicated that inadequate funding has created a hand-to-mouth operation of the present physics program. Furthermore, it has imposed a serious delay on the development of the Energy Doubler/Saver project.

Because of the lack of funding for present research, a pause of six months in the operation of the Meson Area has been projected. As a result, he said, good experiments are being curtailed and users are expressing their displeasure. The general dollar shortage is also reflected at the 30-inch bubble chamber where further research has been postponed by a full year.

He feels that \$35 million is needed in fiscal year 1979 to complete doubler construction by that year's close. If construction is slowed by underfinancing, he said, the project cost will rise considerably due to fixed labor overhead. He added that some drive and enthusiasm will be lost with the loss of momentum.

The Doubler project is crucial to Fermilab's future he feels. One reason he cited is competition from CERN, a physics research facility in Geneva, Switzerland. With a budget more than twice that of Fermilab, CERN can provide bigger and better equipment for users and do so on a relatively short time scale. He cited examples of advanced neutrino and muon experiments underway at CERN.

Fermilab could compete in the world physics arena with the Energy Doubler, Dr. Wilson said. The Doubler will provide higher beam energies, colliding beam opportunities and save an estimated \$3 million annually in electric bills.

Dr. Wilson said he will base his decision on government commitments which should be announced by the beginning of February. He indicated that he will inform Fermilab employees/users and the Universities Research Association Trustees (operator of Fermilab under contract with the DOE) of his decision by February 10. If no substantial budget increase is indicated, "I would do you a disservice if I didn't resign," he told the Director's Meeting audience.

He added that, "a certain amount of hell has broken loose" since his letter to Schlesinger. In addition to meeting with Dr. Deutch, the director also was invited to outline laboratory budget problems and the Energy Doubler to the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel of the DOE. Copies of his letter sent to Illinois Congressmen have generated some support from Senators Charles Percy and Adlai Stevenson and Representative John B. Anderson, Dr. Wilson said.

After his presentation, about 30 minutes long, a questioner asked if time was available to add physics funds to the proposed budget. Dr. Wilson answered, "If somebody in Washington wants something to happen, it will happen." He ended the discussion with, "I hope this will not be my last Director's Meeting."

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INTER/NATIONAL FILM SOCIETY
presents
"THE TALL BLONDE MAN WITH ONE BLACK SHOE"

8:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 13

Fermilab Auditorium

Yves Robert directed this 1973 French production that satirizes Watergate-style intelligence gathering operations. The main character, a young violinist, becomes a decoy in a battle between political spies. They turn his life into total mayhem, but through it all he remains a naive and lovable modern day Buster Keaton, escaping peril at every turn. 88 minutes/French subtitles. Rated PG.

Admission: Adults, \$1.50; Children, 75¢

FERMI MUSICIAN PERFORMS SUNDAY

Daniel Kaplan (right), a graduate student from SUNY-Stonybrook working on E-288, will be the featured cellist in a trio concert Sunday (Jan. 15). Kaplan will perform at 3 p.m. in the "Sunday Afternoon at Cantigny" music series. The program will include Trio D minor, Opus 120 by Faure and Trio in C major, Opus 87 by Brahms. The series is free to the public. The Cantigny estate is at Roosevelt and Winfield Roads, west of Wheaton.

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PLAYGROUP PLANNING MEETING TODAY

A planning session is set for 7:30 p.m. today (Jan. 12) to get the next six-month session of children's playgroup underway. The meeting will be held in the second floor lounge of Central Laboratory. Playgroup is a cooperative program for employee/user children ages 18 months to kindergarten. Sessions meet at the White Farm on Eola Road three times weekly for two and one-half hours each. Separate groups for children ages 18 months to three years and three years to five years are conducted. Mothers of children attending assist one morning per week with the group's activities. Fees are \$20 per child per term. Observers are welcome. For more information, call Barbara Jonckheere at 879-1283 or Janice Roberts in the Guest Office, Ext. 3440.

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LAST CALL FOR 'CRIER' NAME IDEAS

5 p.m. Friday (Jan. 13) is the deadline for suggestions in our rename-the-Village Crier appeal. Many employees have submitted creative contributions since the call went out about a month ago. Suggestions will be welcomed right up to the deadline. Put your idea in writing, add some rationale and submit it to the Public Information Office, CL-1W.

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RECYCLE OLD TOYS

Don't condemn old toys to the trash heap! NALWO's toy library needs new additions. Toys outgrown or displaced by new models last Christmas are being sought for visiting children who cannot bring their favorite playthings with them from the faraway places that are their homes. Bring them to the Guest Office, CL-1W (Ext. 3440).

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