

The Village Crier

national accelerator laboratory

Operated by Universities Research Association Inc.
Under Contract with the United States Atomic Energy Commission

Vol. 2 No. 35

September 3, 1970

THE RADIATION PHYSICS SECTION AND YOU - By Miguel Awschalom

The responsibility of the Radiation Physics Section that concerns the largest number of people is that of protecting people and the environment from nuclear radiation.



DR. M. AWSCHALOM

If one says "protecting...from nuclear radiations," one implies that nuclear radiations may be hazardous. Indeed, nuclear radiations may be just as hazardous as cooking gas, automobile fuel, electricity, smoking cigarettes, or the cleaning fluid one uses to remove grease spots from clothing.

In our modern society, one learns about the advantages of electricity and learns to avoid electrocution; one learns the convenience of driving cars and how to cross streets carefully as well as not inhaling too long the fumes from the exhaust.

In other words, one learns to trade some convenience for some risk. In fact, many people enjoy *smoking so much* that they are willing to pay for the "pleasure" with five to ten years of their life!

Nuclear radiations like almost all products of modern technology help make life better and more enjoyable. It is common practice to use nuclear radiations in finding bad teeth, helping set broken bones, search for malignancies in the bodies of the sick, cure or arrest cancer, correct overactive thyroid glands without surgery, etc.

However, nuclear radiations like a medicine, may do good in small amounts and harm in large amounts. Hence, a very important function of the Radiation Physics Section is to teach and help NAL personnel to live with radiation, making sure that neither exposures to personnel or visitors nor radioactivity released into the environment will cause any detectable change in the health of NAL personnel, visitors, or neighbors living just outside NAL's boundaries.

Recently a milestone was reached in the Radiation Physics Section when the first of a family of semi-portable, special nuclear radiation detectors was designed and built. This type of detector will permit anybody at NAL to detect nuclear radiations and know what to do to protect himself from it. Essentially, this detector will provide "radiation eyes" to personnel for seeing and avoiding radiation without the need for a "big brother" to be watching all the time. (See photos on Page 2.)

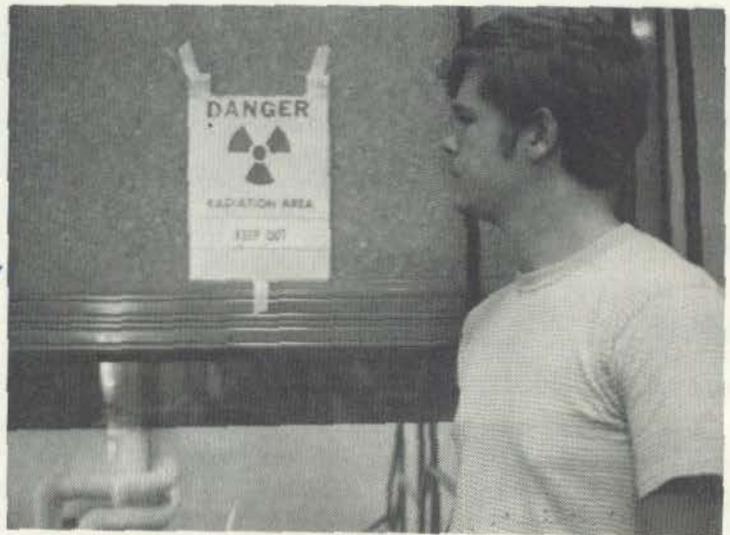
(Editor's Note: The device has been named the "Albatross" because of an ancient mariner's tradition that an albatross perched on a mast was a good omen. An early design of this new detector had the 19-pound polyethylene body "perched" on a stand. Now, this handy model can be carried around freely and easily.)

REMINDER: The Laboratory will be closed Monday, September 7, 1970, in observance of Labor Day. The swimming pool and other recreational facilities at the NAL Village, however, will be open during the Labor Day week-end. Present plans call for life-guards to be on duty at the swimming pool through Labor Day; after that, they will be there only on week-ends until the pool closes at the end of the day on Sunday, October, 11.



....Shown here is a semi-portable, special nuclear radiation detector built at NAL by the Radiation Physics Section. Tom Anderson, Elbert Smith and Chuck Zonick check it over....

....Bill Wickenberg, Linac technician observes sign warning of radiation hazard. If you have any questions about such signs, contact NAL Radiation Physics Section....



....WOMEN'S LIB DAY AT NAL: During her lunch hour Mrs. Sandra Rumple, of Geneva, who has been an NAL employee for nearly a year, marched with her sign in front of the Laboratory's Equal Employment Opportunity office Wednesday, August 26---Women's Liberation Day. Mrs. Rumple, who is known as "Sam" to her colleagues, donned a male suitcoat over her mini-skirt as she campaigned for equal opportunity for the distaff side. Mrs. Rumple frequently drives a truck to work at NAL to demonstrate that she is as skilled as men in her over-the-road activities. As for her platform, she plans to discuss it with her husband before next year's Lib Day....

(Photos by Fran Pisarek)

PLAN TO ISSUE FRINGE BENEFIT STATEMENTS

Early in September, every NAL employee will receive a two-page statement listing various benefits provided to him or her under the Laboratory's personnel fringe benefit program.

The statements are being prepared by staff members working under the direction of Chuck Marofske, NAL Personnel Manager. As a by-product, they have assembled some interesting statistics on the NAL "fringe benefit" program.

As of August 25, 1970, 817 employees were covered by NAL's basic life insurance and employee group health plans. This figure included summer, temporary and regular employees.

Of the total, 535 employees were signed up for the Supplement I group life insurance plan giving them about double their annual salaries in protection. The Supplement I coverage is only \$.25 per month for each thousand dollars of coverage. It is in addition to the annual salary coverage life insurance, which is paid for totally by the Laboratory.

Some 138 employees have elected Supplement II coverage which gives them approximately three times their annual salaries in protection. The Supplement II coverage is only \$.35 additional per month for each thousand dollars of coverage. It is in addition to the double annual salary coverage included in Supplement I and NAL's free-of-charge basic plan.

So, for all NAL employees, coverage of life insurance under NAL's basic and supplemental plans, totals \$19,562,600. Of this, \$3,567,500 represents basic coverage, \$9,759,000 comes from Supplement I options and \$6,236,100 is through election of Supplement II coverage.

Marofske explained that the fact that there only is a total of 476 family hospitalization plans in effect is indicative of the high percentage of single men and women on the NAL payroll. The recently-adopted family life plan now has 317 participants. "Assuming there might be, say, 476 potential family memberships," Marofske said, "the family life plan now has about two-thirds participation. This represents a fairly positive acceptance on the part of potential applicants."

Under the TIAA-CREF retirement contracts, 466 employees are covered. "This low ratio to total employees can be attributed to the youthful age of many NAL staff members since participation is not required until age 30 and the 80 to 90 persons classed either temporary or summer employees are ineligible to take part," Marofske said.

Among items to be covered in the NAL benefit statements, in addition to life insurance, travel accident insurance and hospital coverage, are long-term disability provisions, social security, workmen's compensation insurance, Illinois Unemployment Compensation, and the retirement plan.

NEW STUDY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED: DO-IT-YOURSELF

The Laboratory Personnel office announces that it has acquired a "strategic motivational management" training program. This non-credit course is a combination of tapes and reading aids to be used by supervisors in a home training program. It is designed to give supervisors additional insight into motivational techniques for themselves and their employees. Please call Bill Butler, Personnel, Ext. 397, to discuss the use of the program.



....NAL FIRE CHIEF LEONARD GRIMSTEAD proudly stands beside the latest addition to the NAL Fire Department - a new Deluxe Darley Champion Pumper that can pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute. It joins the two 1941 Seagrave pumpers which were acquired last year....

BOWLING SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 11

Sixty NAL employees signed up for Friday night league bowling at the Bowling Green alleys, on Alt. 30, west of Highway 59. The 12 NAL teams will start at 8:00 p.m. on September 11.

Although there are no openings for more regular bowlers, anyone interested in signing up as a substitute may call Marilyn Paul, Ext. 453 for further information.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE - 22-ft. Cruiser with good canvas and upholstery. Volvo engine, I/O drive, and tandem trailer. \$1500. Call (815) 722-9791.

WANT TO RENT - Mother looking for house or apartment to rent and someone to share expenses. Call Barb, West Chicago Main Ring, 231-4150.

WANTED - Ride from South Downers Grove to NAL daily. Will help pay gas. Contact Carl Pallaver, Ext. 242.

FOR SALE - 1969 Yenko Camaro. Excellent condition. \$3,000 or best offer. Call Sam, Ext. 351.

National Accelerator Laboratory

P.O. Box 500

Batavia, Illinois 60510

U. S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
PERMIT No. 204
Batavia, Illinois