



Walter S. McAfee (photo courtesy of Mrs. Viola McAfee).

In 1942, McAfee joined the Army Signal Laboratory at Camp Evans (Ft. Monmouth). His calculations played a major role in the experiment on January 10, 1946 that bounced the first radar signals off the moon. Granted a leave of absence, he returned to graduate school at Cornell University, holding a Rosenwald Fellowship, and receiving a PhD in 1949 for work in nuclear physics with Hans Bethe. Monmouth University awarded him an honorary DSc in 1958; and he was the 1985 recipient of the Steven's Institute of Technology Steven's Award and a number of other awards and honors. McAfee was, in 1971, the first African-American employee of the US Army promoted to GS-16, a Civil Service "super-grade" status.

In 1956, President Eisenhower presented McAfee with one of the first Secretary of the Army Research and Study Fellowships, which he used for post-doctoral studies in radio astronomy and ionospherics at Harvard University. With colleagues Felix Lavicka and Ockle Johnson, he analyzed data collected during high altitude nuclear explosions over the Pacific in 1959–60, and they showed for the first time that such explosions could cause communication black-outs. McAfee held a number of research and supervisory positions in the areas of wave propagation, passive sensing, target acquisition, and battlefield surveillance up to his 1985 retirement. He also taught courses in atomic and nuclear physics and in solid state electronics at Monmouth University from 1958 to 1975. He maintained membership in AAS throughout these changing responsibilities and interests.

Walter McAfee is survived by his wife, Viola, and daughters Diane Mercedes McAfee and Marsha Ann Bera-Morris.

A more timely obituary appeared in the June 1995 issue of *Physics Today*.

Virginia Trimble

U California Irvine and U Maryland

From information provided by Joe Tenn, Viola McAfee, and the Ft. Monmouth Office of Public Affairs

ANDREW G. MICHALITSIANOS, 1947–1997

Andrew Michalitsianos, Chief of the Laboratory for Astronomy and Solar Physics (LASP) at Goddard Space Flight Center, died of brain cancer on October 19, 1997. He was 50 years old. Until his last days, he was hard at work on reorganizing and rejuvenating the Laboratory of which he had recently taken command, and on a proposal for a spacecraft to monitor temporal changes in the ultraviolet and X-ray spectra of stars and active galaxies. Because he changed his legal name in the early 1970's, his more than 100 publications are variously published under A.G. Michalitsanos (early) and A.G. Michalitsianos (later).

Andy showed early promise in science in New York City as the president of the Junior Astronomy Club, an organization of high school students whose earlier alumni included Malcolm Savedoff, Larry Helfer, Judith G. Cohen, and Stephen E. Strom. His activities there included leading a South American eclipse expedition. From New York, he went on to the University of Arizona in Tucson for undergraduate studies; there he also worked as a student employee in the Space Division at Kitt Peak National Observatory, where his duties included initial tests of the 50-inch Remotely Controlled Telescope. Graduating with a BS in physics in 1969 Michalitsanos moved to Churchill College, Cambridge University, where he completed a PhD in astrophysics on a theoretical topic in solar physics. While in the UK, he



Andrew G. Michalitsianos (photo courtesy of Susan G. Neff).