

## IN BRIEF

The month of December has been included in this issue of the LLE Review to adjust the publication schedule to coincide with calendar quarters. This period from September through December, 1980 was highlighted by single beam ultraviolet target absorption experiments. These initial experiments, carried out using the GDL laser system, have shown target absorption fractions two to three times those in the infrared. Additional achievements include:

- Large aperture liquid crystal optical isolators demonstrated contrast ratios greater than 130:1 with damage thresholds greater than 2 J/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- Studies in the nonlinear evolution of the Raleigh - Taylor instability indicate that targets may be designed with higher aspect ratios than linear theory would have predicted.
- Zone plates for coded imaging of hard x-rays have been produced with thicknesses of 40  $\mu\text{m}$  and outer zone widths of 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- A new technique has been developed to produce laser pulses shorter than 2 psec by synchronously pumping a Rhodamine 6G dye laser.

Each of these achievements is described in this volume of the LLE Review.

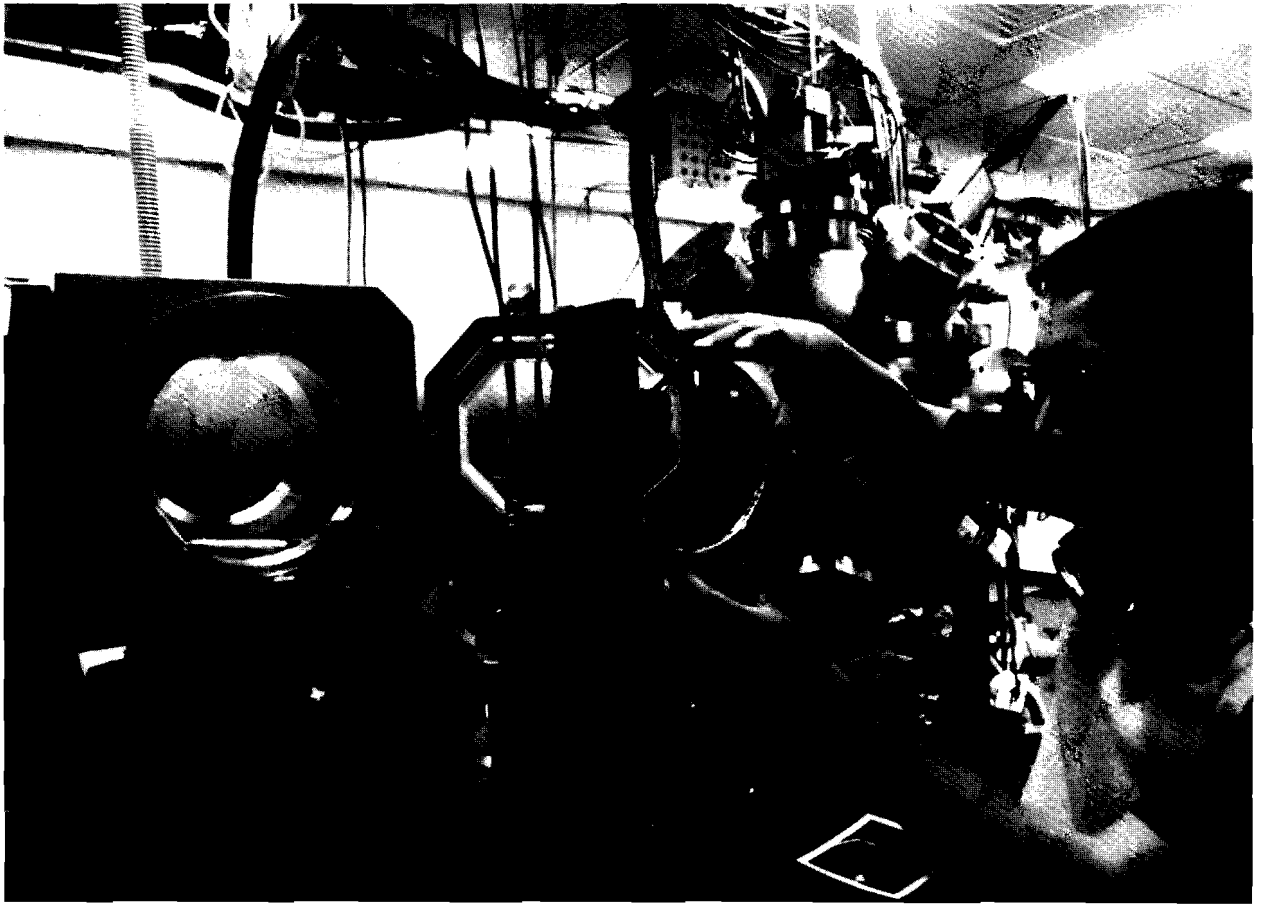
On January 22, Dr. Moshe J. Lubin resigned from his position as Director of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, a position held since 1970. Dr. Lubin has taken a position with the Standard Oil

Company (Ohio) as Vice President of Research, Development, Patents, and Licenses.

Dr. Jay M. Eastman succeeds Dr. Lubin as Acting Director of the Laboratory for Laser Energetics. Dr. Eastman previously served as the Deputy Director of the Laboratory and as the Director of the Division of Engineering.

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*Kazuo Tanaka adjusting a collimating lens for the ultraviolet alignment beam in the GDL target area. The pulsed beam and alignment beam are combined at this point on a beam splitter prior to the tripling crystals. The GDL target chamber appears in the background where absorption and laser plasma interaction experiments are being conducted in the ultraviolet.*