

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Board of Directors

THOMAS PARK, *Retiring President, Chairman*
PAUL M. GROSS, *President*
ALAN T. WATERMAN, *President Elect*
HARRISON BROWN DON K. PRICE
HENRY EYRING MINA REES
H. BENTLEY GLASS ALFRED S. ROMER
MARGARET MEAD WILLIAM W. RUBEY
PAUL A. SCHERER, *Treasurer*
DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

Editorial Board

KONRAD B. KRAUSKOPF H. BURR STEINBACH
EDWIN M. LERNER WILLIAM L. STRAUS, JR.
PHILIP M. MORSE EDWARD L. TATUM

Editorial Staff

DAEL WOLFLE HANS NUSSBAUM
Publisher Business Manager

GRAHAM DUSHANE
Editor

JOSEPH TURNER ROBERT V. ORMES
Associate Editor Managing Editor

ELLEN E. MURPHY, *Assistant Editor*

NANCY TEIMOURIAN, *Assistant to the Editor*

News: HOWARD MARGOLIS, DANIEL S. GREENBERG, PATRICIA D. PADDOCK

Book Reviews: SARAH S. DEES

Editorial Assistants: SUE E. BERKE, NANCY S. HAMILTON, OLIVER W. HEATWOLE, EDGAR C. RICH, JOHN E. RINGLE, CONRAD YUNG-KWAI

Staff Assistants: LILLIAN HSU, MARION Y. KLINE, KAY E. KROZELY

Advertising Staff

EARL J. SCHERAGO, *Director*

BERNICE SCHWARTZ, *Production Manager*

Sales: RICHARD L. CHARLES (New York, N.Y., PE 6-1858); C. RICHARD CALLIS (Old Bridge, N.J., CL 4-3680); HERBERT BURKLUND (Chicago, Ill., DE 7-4973); DILLENBECK-GALAVAN (Los Angeles, Calif., DU 5-3991)

SCIENCE, now combined with THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at National Publishing Company, Washington, D.C. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, see *Science* 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

Advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 1740, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address notification should be sent to 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 4 weeks in advance. Furnish an address label from a recent issue. Give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers.

Annual subscriptions: \$8.50; foreign postage, \$1.50; Canadian postage, 75¢. Single copies, 35¢. School year subscriptions: 9 months, \$7.00; 10 months, \$7.50. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.

Copyright © 1962 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"Willful Men"

The Cosmos Club of Washington has been much in the news lately. The first incident to attract national attention was the nomination of President Kennedy for membership and the discovery by an astonished public that he would have to wait his turn for election just like anyone else. Democracy in action! But the publicity of the last two weeks stems from an incident quite different in kind, one that reveals grave flaws in the mode of government of the club.

Unlike many private clubs, the Cosmos Club has no constitutional religious or racial qualifications for membership. Neither wealth nor position in "society" is taken into account for election. On the contrary, the prime requirements are that the candidate shall have done "meritorious original work" in science or the arts, or is "well known to be cultivated" in some field of the arts or sciences, or is "recognized as distinguished in a learned profession or in a public service." More than half of the members are scientists; the rest are lawyers, editors, writers, university presidents, painters, reporters and columnists, government officials, and so on. Admissions are passed on by a 12-man committee, and two adverse votes disqualify a candidate.

In view of the elevated intellectual and cultural aspirations of the club and of the fact that Negro guests are freely admitted, members and nonmembers alike were astonished and dismayed when the admissions committee turned down an apparently well qualified Negro, Carl T. Rowan, for membership. Although it is true that about one-third of all those proposed are rejected, the great majority of the members are reported to believe that racial prejudice was the ruling factor in this case. Mr. Rowan occupies a high position in government (he is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and was nominated for membership by his predecessor in that office), is a well-known reporter, and is the author of three books. The reaction to his rejection was immediate: some dozen members, among them John K. Galbraith, who was one of Mr. Kennedy's sponsors for membership, Jerome Wiesner, the President's science adviser, and Howard K. Smith, radio and television news commentator, resigned in protest. Others, no less opposed to the action of the admissions committee, hastily organized to attempt to make sure that no similar action would be taken in the future. An overwhelming majority of the members voted in favor of a declaration that "the exclusion of any person from membership on account of religion, color, race, or national origin is incompatible with the principles of the Cosmos Club." An informal committee polled the ten candidates for the five vacancies on the admissions committee for their opinions; the five who were elected were the five who unequivocally pledged that race would not influence their votes.

By these two actions the Cosmos Club took the first steps toward restoring its lustre as an intellectual institution. But if it is to retain its national status as a place for scientists to meet, it will have to devise a mode of election to membership that will not permit the wishes of the majority to be thwarted by what Woodrow Wilson, a distinguished former member, might have called "a little group of willful men, representing no opinion but their own."—G.DuS.