



Professor George Gamow

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ica wildlands are less used, less cared for, and less able to contribute to the practical and spiritual needs of people than they were a generation ago—this despite the enormous publicity that is being given to the outdoor recreation “industry” and the statistics of “visitor trips.”

To sum up, I suggest that the formal “conservation movement” must give way to a far broader approach to the reestablishment of functioning, ecologically balanced human communities within the landscape.

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. . . I should like to call attention to a unique approach to conservation problems which originated in Massachusetts. In 1957 the Commonwealth authorized the establishment of municipal conservation commissions. The members of the commissions, appointed by selectmen or mayors, are concerned citizens who serve without pay to protect and develop the natural resources of their own communities. Conservation commissions have proved to be one of the most effective ways to combat conservation problems at the local level. Since its beginning in Massachusetts, the conservation-commission movement has spread into Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

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Abelson suggests that we “give over much of the areas of our parks to wilderness, letting nature take its course, while observing closely what is happening [and] and at the same time . . . devote limited areas to controlled experimentation.” Such projects might readily fire the imagination of many scientists. A joint field team in the earth and biological sciences might possibly be given a grant for an area 10 miles on a side. The chosen site might then be evacuated, if necessary, and isolated (much like the “reserves” in Huxley's *Brave New World*). If a restricted part, let us say a tenth, of this area were available for experimentation and the remainder were not entered but observed by long-range techniques, a tremendous study potential would be created.

Such a project would be a long-term proposition requiring the time of

many scientists and with cumulative expenses possibly comparable to those of the 200-GeV machine for high-energy physics. The problems of site selection and assignment of research facilities might also be as complex as those that have arisen with that machine (see *News and Comment*, 17 Dec., p. 1566). Unfortunately, the idea does not have a major government agency like the AEC behind it. Thus we may have to depend on the proliferation of inadequate projects to meet the need, unless on some common meeting ground—perhaps the AAAS—the applicable sciences can draw up a bolder scheme to make such a study on earth as feasible and productive as our efforts to strike out into the heavens.

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Prohyphen

If Morris Leider (“Antiunion,” 10 Dec., p. 1408) wants to found a Society for the Preservation of the Hyphen, I will promise to become a charter member. . . . If to accomplish clarity in scientific writing we must flout convention, I say flout it! What is to happen to “un-ionized” without its protective hyphen? I have nothing against an unhyphenated “subconscious,” but when it comes to “subunit,” my subconscious refuses to disassociate the word from buns. . . .

May I also put in a good word for the diaeresis? If our microbial friends are not to be allowed to be micro-organisms, may they not at least be microörganisms, to spare them from becoming mic-roor’ganisms? Unlike the hyphen, this at least requires no extra space.

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New Russian Journal in Genetics

The first issue, dated July 1965, of a new journal called *Genetika* (not to be confused with the Dutch journal of the same name) recently reached me from the U.S.S.R., having been sent me by one of the two assistant editors who is well known to me both personally



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and professionally, S. I. Alikhanian. Since it is clear from the contents that genuine scientists in the U.S.S.R. have officially reentered the field of genetics, the new *Genetika* will be welcomed by biologists and scientists in general in other countries and more especially in our own. The content of the articles ranges from fields of genetics that have long been worked to studies on a molecular scale, and from basic problems to useful applications. Included also are review and historical articles, an article paying tribute to Chetverikov, one of the early pioneers in population-mutation studies, and even two articles by Vavilov written in the late '30's. No attempt has been made to compromise with or condone the doctrines that were so devastatingly espoused by Lysenko and his group. Moreover, both the research contributions and the more general or historical ones appear to me to be of high caliber. Most of the articles have English summaries, and English titles are given for all in a table of contents.

The frequency of publication is given as 12 times a year, the annual subscription price as 18 rubles. The address is Journal "Genetika," Room 35, Osipenko Street 52, Moscow, Zh-127, U.S.S.R.

I have also received, after a year's delay caused by forwarding difficulties, the second issue, dated 6 May 1964, of *Researches in Genetics*, the first issue having appeared in 1962. It is not clear whether it will be continued, or whether it has been superseded by *Genetika*. (Its editor, M. E. Lobashev, is also on the editorial board of *Genetika*.) It too deals with actual genetics and contains English summaries.

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Academic Administrators: New Breed

Wolfe's editorial "Future administrators" (10 Dec., p. 1411) reveals a rather cautious attitude toward internships for young professors who openly "defy the academic mores by frankly aspiring to administrative careers."

However, consider the alternatives: the traditional trial-and-error learning of ex-professors who have just spent 20 years believing that "administrator"

is a dirty word; or, graduate programs that openly defy even stronger academic mores by "frankly aspiring" to train professional administrators.

The prototype of the internship program Wolfe cites—conducted by the American Council of Education under a Ford Foundation grant—is a 4-year effort by the Ellis L. Phillips Foundation of New York. As one of the 12 Phillips Interns currently assigned, allow me to vouch for the value of this experience. Not only do we observe and assist administrators in action, but we have the opportunity to think about, read about, and talk about administrative problems in a realistic and meaningful context.

It is to be hoped that this "new breed" of administrators will help meet the growing need for administrative talent in our colleges and universities.

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... Also worthy of note are the departments or centers of higher education which have been performing similar functions for some years. Examples in the Midwest are at Minnesota, Southern Illinois, Indiana, Ohio State, Michigan State, and (perhaps the best known of all) the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Michigan. At such places there can be added to the administrative-internship experiences the presence of organized studies in higher education.

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Erratum: Training Stipends for Foreign Biologists

As a result of a copy editor's change in the letter by Seymour S. Cohen in the issue of 17 December ("Biology worldwide," p. 1533), a sentence there includes the erroneous statement that a regulation of the National Institutes of Health "prevents the assignment of training grants to foreign applicants." The author's own sentence read: "... the regulation of the National Institutes of Health relating to training grants which prevents the assignment of scholarships to foreign applicants is a shortsighted policy." His protest is directed against the restrictions imposed in the past few years on stipend support for foreign nationals who wish to study in the United States for advanced degrees without being admitted for permanent residence.