

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **PEACE CORPS RECRUITING:** Undated with requests from underdeveloped countries for technically trained volunteers, the Peace Corps is intensifying its recruiting effort. Chief among the now-understaffed fields are the health professions. Requests are piling up not only for doctors and nurses but also for technicians, dentists, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, health educators, sanitarians, and social workers. Other professional posts include some in geology—volunteers have been carrying out mineral-reconnaissance and mapping programs in Ghana and Tanganyika—and an array of opportunities in engineering. Both students with BA's and graduate students are being sought for secondary and college-level teaching posts in all fields. Mathematics and science teachers, however, to help these countries develop their own base of technically competent citizens, are needed most. Information is available from the Peace Corps, Washington, D.C. 20525.

● **SEA-GRANT COLLEGES:** Legislation authorizing a program of grants-in-aid to encourage colleges and universities to establish programs of research and education in marine resource development now seems virtually assured of enactment by the present Congress. The "sea-grant college" bills passed last week by the House and Senate differ in some particulars, but the differences are expected to be resolved in conference. The House measure would authorize a two-year, \$15 million program to be administered by NSF under policies set by the new National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development, the cabinet-level body chaired by Vice President Humphrey. The Senate measure would authorize a program of indefinite duration for which \$45 million could be appropriated during the first three years. A national sea-grant college council would be created under the Senate bill to advise NSF on the program's administration.

● **ACADEMY OF MEDICINE:** Reform-minded top officials of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare are quietly building up support within the medical profession for the idea of a National Academy of

Medicine. Last year's flurry of optimism about a government-AMA rapprochement has received several setbacks in the past few months, most recently during the AMA's convention in Chicago, when the doctors endorsed a resolution calling for direct billing of patients under Medicare. The new Academy would not exist solely to challenge the AMA—AMA leaders are among those involved in preliminary discussions—but it would supply the profession with another set of spokesmen and provide the government with a more congenial source of authoritative advice. Specific plans for an Academy have not yet crystallized, but it is probable that it would be established under the general umbrella of the National Academy of Sciences, perhaps along the lines of the National Academy of Engineering which was created last year.

● **CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS:** Ever since the United States introduced tear gas and defoliating chemicals into the Vietnam war, there has been concern among some scientists that the psychological and political barriers to chemical and biological warfare (CBW) were falling. This week, in a move designed to invoke the prestige of science, 22 of them—including 7 Nobel laureates and 15 members of the National Academy of Sciences—petitioned President Johnson to end the use of gas and defoliants and declare it U.S. policy to refrain thereafter from initiating the use of chemical or biological weapons. The appeal to the President, organized by a group of biologists at Harvard, called for a "White House study of overall government policy regarding CB weapons and the possibility of arms control measures, with a view to maintaining and reinforcing the world-wide restraints against CB warfare." The signatories are: Felix Bloch, Konrad E. Bloch, James F. Crow, William Doering, Paul Doty, Freeman J. Dyson, John T. Edsall, Bernard Feld, Irwin C. Gunsalus, Robert Hofstadter, Arthur Kornberg, Fritz Lipmann, Robert B. Livingston, Matthew Meselson, Severo Ochoa, Ray D. Owen, Keith R. Porter, Charles Price, Eugene Rabinowitch, E. L. Tatum, George Wald, Paul Dudley White.

News Staff Changes

John Walsh, a member of the News and Comment staff since 1963, has been appointed European correspondent of *Science*, succeeding Victor K. McElheny, who plans to remain in Europe as a freelance writer. Walsh will be based in England.

Bryce Nelson, a congressional affairs reporter for the *Washington Post*, has joined the News and Comment staff. Nelson, a Harvard graduate and Rhodes scholar, formerly taught political science at the University of Pittsburgh and was an assistant to Senator Frank Church, of Idaho.

Scientists in the News

Clifford A. Spohn, who recently retired from the Air Force, has been appointed director of operations in the Environmental Science Services Administration's national environmental satellite center. He had been commander of the 6th weather wing at Andrews Air Force Base, where he had been staff meteorologist to the commanders of the Air Force Systems Command, Office of Aerospace Research. Spohn succeeds **Arthur W. Johnson**, who has been appointed deputy director of the ESSA center.

Winston E. Koch, the first director of NASA's electronics research center, will become vice president and chief scientist for the Bendix Corporation, Detroit, as of 1 October. He will be succeeded at the Cambridge, Massachusetts center by **James C. Elms**, NASA deputy associate administrator for manned space flight.

Herbert L. Ley, Jr., will become director of the Food and Drug Administration's Bureau of Medicine, effective 19 September. Ley has been an associate professor of epidemiology and microbiology in the Harvard school of public health since 1963.

Erratum: In the review, by R. E. Norris, of Ruth Patrick and Charles W. Reimer's *The Dinosaurs of the United States Exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii* (16 Sept., p. 1369), there were several typographic errors in the third sentence of the fourth paragraph. The sentence should have read, "One wonders what sort of environment *Navicula contenta* var. *biceps*, described as a 'truly atmospheric species,' lives in."