

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **HARVARD DRAFT POLL:** On the basis of a poll, the Harvard *Crimson* reports, "One out of every four seniors at Harvard is looking forward to either fleeing the country or going to jail in order to avoid induction if his application for [a draft] deferment is turned down." The *Crimson* added that 59 percent of the seniors would "make a determined effort to avoid military service." Forty-three percent of Harvard's senior class, 529 students, answered questionnaires on their views. Details of the poll revealed that 61 percent of the students would "serve" in the military if all their applications for deferment were rejected, that 11 percent would leave the country if their applications for deferment were turned down, that 11 percent would go to jail if their applications for deferment were rejected, and that 6 percent would take their cases to court if their deferment requests failed.

● **HEALTH SCIENCE ETHICS:** Senator Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.) plans to introduce a bill to create a Commission on the Ethical and Social Implications of Health Science Research and Development. Mondale stated that recent developments, such as heart transplants and the synthesis of DNA, raise a number of questions, including "what is life and what is death, who shall live and who shall die, whose genes shall be altered and for what purposes, how long and under what conditions shall we prolong life, how far shall we go in creating artificial life and what will be its status once it has been created?" The function of the commission would be to assess the ethical and moral questions raised by scientific breakthroughs.

● **EARTH SCIENCE EDITORS:** An association of Earth Science Editors (AESE) has been formed by some 35 editors of geological research publications. Among the projects under consideration by the new group are the compilation of a handbook for authors, publication of a style manual for earth science editors, and development of methods to obtain reports and documents not easily available. The association is accepting membership applications from editors, managing editors, and persons in similar positions on earth science publications. Information may

be obtained from Thomas Rafter, Secretary-Treasurer, AESE, % American Geological Institute, 1444 N St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

● **FIRE AT CEI:** A five-alarm fire destroyed the headquarters of the Committee for Environmental Information (CEI) in St. Louis on 6 January. CEI president Martin Schweig, Jr., and finance chairman Barry Commoner said that CEI would continue publication of *Scientist and Citizen* (*Science*, 25 Aug. 1967). CEI's temporary mailing address is Box 222, Clayton, Mo. 63105. Describing the \$25,000 loss as "a tremendous sum for us," CEI has made an appeal for contributions to its members and subscribers. Only "a minimal part of the loss" is covered by insurance, CEI officers said.

● **SOVIET EDUCATION:** Between 1967 and 1985, the number of Soviets with higher education will double, a new U.S. Census Bureau report predicts. According to the report, the total number of living Russians with higher education will reach 15 million in 1985 compared with 20 million Americans who are expected to have completed higher education by that year. The report also forecasts that by 1985 nearly 11 percent of the Soviet population will have completed specialized secondary education compared with 4.8 percent in 1959. However, the report states, "If these growth rates are realized, Soviet planners will fall short of their goal for 1970 of a ratio of one specialist with higher education to three to four specialists with specialized secondary education in the industrial, construction, transport, communications, and agricultural sectors of the economy." According to the study, Soviet "plans for school construction and teacher training have not been fulfilled in recent years. In addition, there are signs of student reluctance to continue school after the eighth grade. . . . School dropouts are a problem at all levels of education" as well as under enrollment and incomplete registration. Copies of *Estimates and Projections of Educational Attainment in the U.S.S.R. 1950-1985*, at 25 cents each, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

tation and assistance. Because of the cold, scientific tasks often take longer to complete than would be normal in a temperate climate. Scientists often find that they are able to get much more done during their second summer in Antarctica than during the first summer before they fully understand the demands and limitations imposed by the environment.

Although many U.S. scientists praise the Navy for rendering first-rate support, others wonder whether the large number of Navy personnel in proportion to scientists is necessary and healthy. Some are appalled by the urban sprawl of "metropolitan McMurdo" which reaches a summer population of 1100, mostly Navy; this is the largest settlement on the continent. While in Antarctica, it sometimes seems that the massive and admirable Navy logistics effort would carry on of its own momentum whether or not it was supporting scientists.

The summer headquarters for the U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica, are located in the more temperate New Zealand climate at Christchurch. The admirals who have commanded the Navy force, veteran Antarctic observers report, have tended to spend more time in New Zealand than "on the ice." The NSF officials praise most, but not all, of the admirals who have served here and speak highly of the present commander, Rear Admiral J. Lloyd Abbot, Jr., who assumed his post in February of last year.

Perhaps it is not so surprising that Navy people and those known as "USARP's" (civilians supported by the NSF's "United States Antarctic Research Program") often disagree, but, rather, that they get along as well as they do. Relationships between all kinds of men can become strained in the close living quarters of Antarctica, especially among those who winter-over at McMurdo, Plateau, Byrd, or the South Pole.

The Navy conducts psychological screening of both Navy personnel and scientists to eliminate those who are not suited for the demanding experience of wintering-over. Special care is taken to eliminate excessive drinkers and homosexuals from these groups. Navy doctors say that, to their knowledge, no homosexuality has ever been reported in the U.S. stations. (Also, there is no record of a murder at the Antarctic station of any nation.)

With its 5½-million square miles, Antarctica is a big place, and the rela-