

submitted. It will contain the first requests for construction on the permanent site of the college, to be in Mount Vernon Square, in a borderline area between the ghetto and business districts of Washington. According to FCC vice-president for finance and administration Morris Kandle, construction will cost as much as \$40 million over 3 or 4 years. If funds allow, another branch will be built in the Fort Lincoln "new town" in the Northeast ghetto.

Federal City College, as President Farner puts it, seeks to "provide for the needs of the community." It serves the most basic need by providing higher education at minimum cost (\$75 a year for D.C. residents) to as many Washington holders of the high school diploma or its equivalent as it can handle. Close to 7000 students submitted applications this year, before the admissions office stopped accepting them. As originally planned, FCC would take 1600 full- and part-time students; with the additional money, it has taken about 650 more. In keeping with a policy of open admissions, those accepted were selected on a lottery basis, and FCC officials—primarily Farner and admissions director Luther McManus—have made efforts to place those FCC couldn't accept in other colleges around the country.

Next year McManus expects a significant increase in applicants, and Farner will probably request funds to take care of almost 5500 students. Eventually, when the permanent site or sites are completed—and the target is now to have the Mount Vernon site finished in time for the graduation of the first class in June 1972—FCC hopes to be able to take all D.C. high school graduates who wish to attend.

Congress recently made FCC a land-grant college, which means, according to FCC's dean of community education Eugene Wiegman, that "we have marching orders from Congress to work in the community." Exactly what form this involvement in the community will take is still uncertain, although survey meetings with community leaders have been going on all summer.

"I'm interested in the college's doing educational work only not advocacy," President Farner told *Science*. "I think we might, for instance, have people here teach others how to design a park, but we shouldn't actually build the park ourselves." Plans are to have FCC conduct adult education classes, sponsor institutes and workshops, and provide advisers to the community on any num-

ber of topics. The college will employ students and others from the community whenever possible, and will continually be looking for ways to work with and for the community.

FCC will award an associate of arts degree for its 2-year program, to which, college officials hope that any graduate of Washington's high schools will ultimately be able to be admitted. Students who want higher degrees—and FCC will offer both bachelor's and master's degrees when students reach those levels—will have to satisfy some sort of matriculation requirements, as yet undetermined. After 1 year, the college will become a formal candidate for accreditation. Farner, who is closely following all the rules for accreditation, says that the school cannot be accredited until this fall's incoming class has graduated in June of 1972.

For its first-year students—and over 90 percent of those admitted will be freshmen—the faculty will offer 11 so-called core courses. There will also be a small number of business courses, and various advanced courses of a more specialized nature for the transfer students. The core courses, which will be the heart of FCC's first-year curriculum, will be interdisciplinary, within three broad areas—social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities.

The five social science core courses all deal with one or more aspects of the urban environment. Most of them will include a good deal of fieldwork in the surrounding community, both to study the institutions and possibly to assist in changing them. Individual projects will be encouraged. There will be seminars in most of these courses to analyze and go over some of the problems that are studied firsthand in the "Laboratory" of Washington or brought up in the reading. A team of four or five professors—usually a sociologist, an economist, a political scientist, and maybe a psychologist or historian (although history is officially classed in the humanities at FCC)—will conduct these classes.

In all of the core courses, in all three fields, the emphasis will be on student participation and on discussion-type teaching. The traditional lectures in the humanities and social science courses will be replaced, as much as possible and desired, by movies, debates, discussions, and other types of "happenings," as they are termed at FCC. And always, the students will participate to the fullest in leading discussions, in proposing problems to be studied,

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **ESTUARINE STUDY BILL:** A bill providing for a study of the nation's estuaries to determine unspoiled areas to be purchased for inclusion in a National Estuary System was approved by Congress last month. The measure, introduced by Representative John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), will emphasize conservation of the nation's shoreline areas and will include an investigation of Great Lakes estuaries. The bill provides a total of \$500,000 for the survey and requires that the Interior Department submit by 1970 recommendations to Congress for the purchase of national and state estuarine areas.

● **FDA ANTIBIOTICS BAN:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed curtailing the use of oral antibiotics, such as streptomycin and penicillin, in animals up to 5 days before they are marketed. Food additive amendments to the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act require proof of safety of antibiotic residues or the lapse of sufficient time for them to be eliminated from animals' bodies before marketing. The proposal, aimed chiefly at drugs used in treating diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, would affect marketable swine, calves, turkeys, and chickens. The FDA proposal, which is expected to become a regulation this fall, would be enforced by the FDA and the meat inspection division of the Department of Agriculture. It follows an April FDA proposal to restrict certain injectable food additives and drugs in animals.

● **ANTI-HAIL AA:** A U.S. government-university consortium is testing a Russian technique to suppress hail. The Soviet method is to fire antiaircraft shells containing silver iodide directly into hail centers of storm clouds to prevent water droplets from coalescing into large, harmful hailstones. Soviet scientists report that in experiments this technique has reduced hail damage to crops by 80 percent. The new tactics will be tried in Colorado as part of a research program sponsored by the National Science Foundation and funded this year at \$600,000. The National Center for Atmospheric Research, the Environmental Science Services Administration, and Colorado State University are participating.