

that many educators find unwelcome.

Even the extent to which the individual university will be allowed to set its own program requirements under the new law is ambiguous. The Ministry of Education retains its power to set uniform national standards for degrees, and the university's jurisdiction will necessarily depend on the flexibility of the national requirements. A lot, then, depends on the implementation of the new law. There could be confusion under the most harmonious of conditions. Understandably, conditions are not exactly harmonious.

Last spring's heritage is mixed. In Paris, the May demonstrations brought many students together for the first time; the university is more inviting today to students not only because they feel they have some control over their education but also because they simply know more people. But what was good for many students embittered others, and certainly embittered many faculty members. Last spring's crisis did not merely expose certain student grievances; it opened a major confrontation between (and among) faculty and students on the very nature of the university. The stakes are high, and many faculty members clearly feel threatened by the outcome.

Meaning of "Participation"

"Participation" (de Gaulle's word) is probably an inexact term for what the students—or, at least, the most militant of them—really want. They seek self-determination. They do not want simply to be consulted or informed. They want to decide, and, if it is impossible that the decisions should be theirs alone, they want it made clear that sitting down with deans is not merely a fancy formality for buying student cooperation.

Under the new law, students can control up to half the seats in the university's ruling assembly, which elects the president; their access to "power" will be reinforced by similar representation on departmental committees. There is, nevertheless, likely to be friction. One of last spring's major grievances concerned the traditional exams: students demanded the right to determine the kinds of exams they would be given. The new law reserves to professors all authority over exams. Many professors feel (and said so during the summer while the law was being drafted) that involving students in determining the nature of exams would be an unconscionable alteration of the professor's

NEWS IN BRIEF

● TRAILS AND SCENIC RIVERS:

Congress has passed two major conservation measures, which provide the first national system of urban and rural trails, and the first national wild and scenic rivers system. The trails bill will incorporate the Appalachian Trail in the East and the Pacific Coast Trail, stretching from Mexico to Canada in the West, into a system of national trails administered by the National Park Service. The aim is to preserve and extend present trails and to provide for new trails, which have historical and recreational value. The bill also provides for the study of 14 other trails for possible inclusion in the national trailways system. The Wild and Scenic Rivers System bill provides for the preservation of unspoiled segments of eight rivers and studies of 27 other rivers for possible inclusion later. The bill forbids the Federal Power Commission to license any dam or powerhouse that would infringe upon the river segments designated as scenic rivers or included in the study. Congress has authorized \$5.5 million for the national system of trails, and \$17 million for land acquisition for the wild and scenic rivers system. Both bills were signed by the President on 3 October.

● EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY:

Physical societies from 18 countries in Eastern and Western Europe have become members of the new European Physical Society (EPS). Founded on 26 September in Geneva, Switzerland, EPS has been formed to coordinate the advancement of European physics research efforts; to organize faculty, student, and research exchanges between countries; and to coordinate seminars, lectures, and the publication of physics journals in Europe.

● VASSAR TO BE COED:

Vassar College, a women's institution for 107 years, has announced plans to become coeducational. As a move in that direction, Vassar will participate in a student exchange program with Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., in January, and later with several other men's institutions. Vassar will eventually have men and women as part of the same institution with one faculty and administration. Last November Vassar rejected an offer to affiliate with Yale University.

● WHEELER WINS FERMI AWARD:

John Henry Wheeler, Princeton University professor of physics, is the 12th recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award. The prize, which consists of \$25,000 and a gold medal and citation, was awarded to Wheeler by the Atomic Energy Commission for his continuing contributions to nuclear science. The Enrico Fermi Award was first awarded in 1954 and is international in scope.

● NORTH CASCADES PARK:

Conservationists have won a major victory with the establishment of the North Cascades National Park in northwest Washington State (*Science*, 1 September 1967). The North Cascades Park bill, which sets aside 1.2 million acres of public and private land for the 35th national park, was signed on 3 October by President Johnson.

● MARS MISSIONS:

The National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) is attempting to interest scientists in proposing experiments for future orbital missions and unmanned lander flights to Mars, tentatively scheduled for 1973. In one of its first open solicitations, NASA invites scientists to apply for grants and contracts to develop instruments in such fields as physics, chemistry, geology, astronautics, geochemistry, and the optical sciences. Scientists interested in participating may attend a NASA preproposal briefing on 16 October in Washington, or request the briefing report at a later date. Inquiries may be sent to M. A. Mitz, Code SL, OSSA; NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20546. Applications must be submitted before 1 December 1968.

● COBB SEAMOUNT:

One of the most detailed U.S. explorations of an under-sea mountain will be conducted this month when the Commerce Department's Environmental Science Services Administration explores and maps the surface of Cobb Seamount, a submerged extinct volcano off the coast of Washington (*Science*, 19 July). The exploration will provide scientific data to be used in the eventual construction of a manned habitat on the surface of the seamount. The topography will be surveyed with electronic equipment from the *Oceanographer*, and teams of divers will explore the seamount surface.