

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **ALVIN SALVAGED:** *Alvin*, the 23-foot-long Woods Hole research submarine which sank last October in 4500 feet of water 120 miles south of Cape Cod, was recovered last week. The recovery was made by the U.S. Navy after two earlier attempts to rescue the submersible had failed because of bad weather and technical difficulties. Navy officials say *Alvin* is the largest object the Navy's rescue teams have ever salvaged in water that deep. For the recovery operation, the Navy used the *Aluminaut*, a deep-diving submersible owned by the Reynolds Corporation, to locate *Alvin* and attach towing gear. The Navy research ship, *Mizar*, raised *Alvin* with special winches by means of a clump bar and towed the tiny submarine to land. *Alvin*'s rescue operation is estimated to cost in excess of \$100,000. The tiny research submarine, which cost \$1.5 million to build, belongs to the U.S. Office of Naval Research, but is presently on lease to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute.

● **NEW OIL LEASING RULES:** The Interior Department has released new U.S. Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease regulations that have stiffer requirements for well development, but skirt the long-debated question of whether the industry should provide the government with geophysical and geological research data before it grants preliminary permits for exploratory operations (*Science*, 2 May 1969). Interior's new standards require more detailed reviews by the U.S. Geological Survey of plans for well drilling, casing and cementing to prevent environmental contamination and also frequent testing of blowout equipment, prompt reporting and cleanup of oil spills, and suspension of any operation found by a regional U.S. Geological Survey supervisor to threaten the environment. The modified standards do not require, however, that oil companies provide the government with a preliminary geological and geophysical evaluation of offshore lands that the industry wishes to develop. The government has only limited resources (about \$1.2 million annually) to conduct its own geophysical research studies before granting permits, whereas a single oil company may spend an estimated \$10 to \$30 million a year gathering and interpret-

ing offshore data. The new regulations, which require oil companies to file research data before a permanent lease is granted, do not give the federal government the authority to release this data to the general public after the lease has been granted without industry's permission.

● **REPORT ON ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES:** The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has released its second major report on oral contraceptives, which says present benefits of pill use outweigh the risks. The report was compiled by the Food and Drug Administration's 15-member Advisory Committee on Obstetrics and Gynecology, which is chaired by Louis Hellman of the State University of New York in Brooklyn. The 200-page report, which is primarily a review of recent medical literature, includes task force studies on contraceptive utilization, effectiveness, and current investigations; blood clotting, cancer risks, and biological effects of pill use. "Second Report on the Oral Contraceptives" may be obtained at the end of October from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. The cost of the document has not yet been determined.

● **AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT LIMITS DDT USE:** Following a 30-day moratorium on the use of persistent pesticides in its pest-control programs, the Agriculture Department, on 15 August, permanently reduced the use of persistent pesticides in some of its programs and substituted less toxic, less persistent pesticides where possible. Agriculture Department officials say that the programs were examined on a case-by-case basis, and that the use of persistent pesticides was retained only in those instances where there were no effective alternatives. For most uses, chlordane, a less toxic, less persistent pesticide, will be substituted, particularly in the control of the Japanese beetle, the European chafer, and the white-fringed beetle. The Agriculture Department's action covers only U.S. Forest Service and federal-state pest-control programs administered by the department. It does not affect private use of DDT or other federally administered programs which authorize the use of DDT.

stasi, chairman of Fordham's psychology department, commented that she was "depressed" by some of the actions of the white radicals. "The blacks are much more constructive" she said; "we have more faith in their sincerity." Of course, the case of inadequate representation of blacks in psychology has been well documented. A report prepared recently by George W. Albee of Case Western Reserve University indicates that, out of 3767 Ph.D. degrees in psychology granted by the ten most prestigious psychology departments from 1920 to 1966, only eight were given to black psychologists.

The radical white psychologists were also a little bit more difficult to take seriously because of their often playful manner. When the most radical white psychologists, who call themselves the Psychologists for a Democratic Society, took over the stage in the middle of the business meeting, they carried such placards as "Up Against the Wall—APA" and "Produced and Directed by Harold Pinter."

CIA Spooked Away

Radical psychologists were not successful in getting their resolutions acted on by the APA council at this meeting. One of these resolutions involved initiating a committee to study the possibility of eliminating the APA's division of military psychology, and another concerned cutting off business dealings with firms which practice racial discrimination in employment; action on these resolutions was postponed until the APA's October council meeting. Threats by at least one radical psychologist were successful in persuading the APA leaders to ask the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to stop its recruiting at the APA meeting. According to APA executive officer Kenneth B. Little, telephone callers had threatened "to bust up the joint" if the CIA remained.

The Psychologists for a Democratic Society and the less radical American Psychologists for Social Action joined forces toward the end of the APA convention to march to the White House to protest the Vietnam war. (One observer asked, "What would a scientific meeting in Washington be these days without a march to the White House?") A couple of hundred marchers struggled through the rain to President Nixon's home. The march illustrated one of the difficulties of achieving relevance—the principal occupant of the White House was sunning himself on