

agencies profit from (and contribute to) that resource by having laboratories of their own on campus. These facilities include, for example, the Alaska Water Laboratory of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (FWPCA) and the Public Health Service's Arctic Health Research Laboratory.

Much of the credit for the university's rapid growth since 1960 goes to President William R. Wood, who assumed his present office in that year, and coming to Alaska from the University of Nevada where he had been academic vice president. Wood generally has been effective with the state legislature in Juneau (though he encountered some shoals there last winter), and, on the federal scene, he seems to have been a capable grant swinger.

But there are some at the university who believe that, during his first years as president, Wood was more interested in keeping federal funding agencies happy and in building up the university's research program than he was in respecting academic freedom. The case most often cited in point is that of William O. Pruitt. Pruitt, a mammalogist, was employed by the university during 1959 and 1960 under an Atomic Energy Commission contract to make a study of the ecology of terrestrial mammals in the Cape Thompson region of northwest Alaska, where the AEC was planning to conduct Project Chariot to excavate a harbor by means of a nuclear explosion (a project later abandoned).

In articles, letters to newspapers, and other ways Pruitt tried to raise an alarm about radiocontamination of the lichen-caribou-Eskimo food chain of tundra regions from nuclear blasts. At the termination of the AEC contract, Pruitt (who, since leaving Alaska, has spent most of his time in Canada and is now at the University of Manitoba) was dropped from the biology department and not given the regular faculty appointment that he had expected. Moreover, his research report to the AEC was heavily edited by his department chairman, though not all references to radiocontamination of the food chain were deleted.

Some present and former faculty members think the administration's unwillingness to retain Pruitt was due partly to a belief that, if Pruitt stayed, the AEC and possibly other federal funding agencies would be offended. Albert W. Johnson, who is now dean of the College of Sciences at San Diego

NEWS IN BRIEF

● GEOLOGIST PLANS TO QUIT

APOLLO PROJECT: Eugene Shoemaker, principal investigator of field geology for the Apollo program, has announced he plans to quit the space program because of his dissatisfaction with national space goals. He said the Apollo program is developing "another big transportation system that has no identifiable scientific purpose." He said that the scientific data which was obtained from the manned moon landing could have been gathered with unmanned systems at one-fifth the cost about 3 years ago. Shoemaker, who is chairman of California Institute of Technology's Division of Geological Sciences, said he would continue with NASA's moon flight program through the third manned landing, as his contract stipulates. The geologist is just one of several scientists who have quit the space program recently over space priorities.

● **DRAFT RULE CHANGE:** President Nixon has announced that draft-eligible graduate students will be allowed to delay induction until the end of the academic year. Under the terms of the old policy, which was announced last October after considerable outside pressure from educators and after considerable delay by the Selective Service headquarters, graduate students were allowed to delay induction only until the end of the semester in which they were currently enrolled.

● UCLA ACADEMIC FREEDOM

ISSUE: The UCLA Faculty is challenging a University of California Board of Regents' decision to bar Angela Davis, a 25-year-old Communist and black militant, from teaching a course for credit at UCLA. The Regents decision has been criticized by faculty members who feel the Davis dismissal proceedings are a violation of principles of academic freedom. The Faculty Academic Senate has demanded that Miss Davis, who is reportedly being dismissed by the Regents because she said she was a Communist, be permitted to teach a course for credit, which was assigned to her by the dean of the UCLA Philosophy Department. Miss Davis, a graduate of Brandeis who did her graduate work under Marxist philosopher Herbert Marcuse at the Uni-

versity of California at San Diego, has said, "I can't and won't keep my politics out the classroom." She was scheduled to teach a course in "Recurring Philosophical Themes in Black Literature." The University of California has maintained an anti-Communist ban since 1940 and has barred Communists from assuming faculty positions since 1950.

● MIAMI SNAIL CONTROL:

The State of Florida on 1 October initiated an intensive control program to destroy thousands of fist-sized snails, *Achatina fulica*, found in a 13-square block area in Miami. A corn meal bait, which contains calcium arsenic and metaldehyde, is being spread by the Florida State Agriculture Department to kill the snails. The origin of the snails in the Miami area is still unknown, but U.S. Agriculture Department officials cooperating in the program believe that several of the snails were brought from Hawaii 3 years ago by a child as a gift for his grandmother. The snails, which multiply hermaphroditically, reach adulthood in about 30 days.

● KAPITSA VISIT:

Pyotr L. Kapitsa, noted Soviet physicist, said last week that he is in favor of "anything that brings the Soviet Union and the United States closer together." Kapitsa was visiting the National Academy of Sciences, in Washington, D.C., roughly the half-way point on his 3-week good will trip through the United States. Although he favors increased scientific cooperation between the United States and the U.S.S.R., Kapitsa said that competition in space was good for both sides. He also feels that antiballistic missile construction is a waste of money.

● SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

REPORT: The Office of Science and Technology has released a report that surveys solid waste management. The report recommends that the federal government initiate a broad program for research, development, and demonstration in solid waste management. *A Comprehensive Assessment of Solid Waste Problems, Practices, and Needs* may be obtained for \$1.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.