

by a male-dominated society, she observed, though not unsympathetically, "The level of the discussion is not worthy of the people who are here." Earlier in the day, some participants had "liberated" the men's room of the academy. This was in part a symbolic gesture; feminists contend that women are barred from some major masculine strongholds (such as the floor of the New York Stock Exchange) on the grounds that toilet facilities for them unfortunately are lacking.

In the main, the workshop was conducted on an academic level. There was some discussion of the unresolved problems of birth-control technology, such as the question of the safety of the pill; but most of the participants seemed to believe that, for the first time in history, women have (or soon will have) safe, independent, and reliable means of preventing pregnancy. This, plus a belief that the nation will adopt the two-child family as the norm in order to cope better with the social and environmental problems associated with mounting population pressures, were among the workshop's underlying assumptions.

The point of view expressed most often by the participants was that many "masculine" and "feminine" behavior traits are products of socialization and do not represent innate sexual differences. However, Florence A. Ruderman, a sociologist from Brooklyn College, presented a paper generally in opposition to this view, holding for example that in both the Soviet Union and Israel, where significant attempts to equalize the sexes have been made (as in the Israeli kibbutz), the tendency has been to revert to traditional sex distinctions and family life. Her paper provoked numerous rebuttal arguments. One was to the effect that the tendencies to revert to old ways noted in Israel and the Soviet Union could hardly be avoided when the new system was not carried on long enough to bring up several new generations under it and thus overcome deeply ingrained traditional attitudes.

Some of the feminists' most fundamental complaints against the dominant male culture clearly have some validity. For example, the charge that males regard women simply as "sex objects" finds support in the thriving traffic in pornography and in the *Playboy* syndrome. In a paper prepared for the workshop, Catherine S. Chilman, a social psychologist formerly with the Department of Health, Education,

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **NSB WARNING:** In its second annual report to Congress, the National Science Board warns that U.S. leadership in science and technology "is being challenged not only by the Soviet Union but also by Western Europe and Japan." The board, which is the policy-making body for the National Science Foundation, states that "the United States scientific effort is currently threatened with possible mediocrity" because of cuts in federal research budgets. "It is clear there will be a day of reckoning for United States science and for the national well being," the board says. "That day may be very near." The report, entitled "The Physical Sciences," is available for 50¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

● **PRESCRIPTION FOR MEDICARE:** A Senate Finance Committee staff report analyzing the rapid growth in Medicare and Medicaid costs has detailed administrative laxities and widespread abuses in the two programs. The report recommends a schedule of fees for surgical and medical care, tightened management of the programs, and incentives to institutions for cutting costs. Congressional committees, starting with the House Ways and Means Committee in a few weeks, will investigate the programs. The report is available for \$2 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

● **U.S.-SOVIET EXCHANGES:** The National Academy of Sciences and the Soviet Academy of Sciences have renewed the 2-year scientific exchange program with only a few minor changes. The parallel cultural exchange program has, however, been expanded

● **NUCLEAR TEST PROTESTORS:** Opponents of the Amchitka, Alaska, underground nuclear test have formed a National Committee Against Underground Nuclear Testing. The group seeks to arouse the public's concern about the dangers of underground nuclear testing at Amchitka; to file a lawsuit preventing further testing at Amchitka; and to aid Alaskan state legislators in working against further tests. The nine-member committee is headed by Ernest Gruening, former Senator from Alaska.

● **NAS PHYSICS STUDY:** A slowing of federal support for science and changing public attitudes toward science are among the reasons which have prompted the National Academy of Sciences to commission a new survey of physics. Professor D. Allan Bromley of Yale University has been named chairman of a committee which will carry out the survey. The study will consider the disciplines of physics, its relations with technology and other sciences, and its role in the current national and social context.

● **BOWDOIN DROPS COLLEGE BOARDS:** The Bowdoin College faculty has voted to make college board examinations optional for entering students. According to a college official, the faculty expressed a feeling that test scores were over-emphasized in the selection of students, and that the standardized tests cannot escape cultural bias. "Bowdoin is eager to continue its tradition of educating a high number of low income and minority students. We wish to avoid requiring from any individual evidence which might be inherently misleading," said the admissions director.

● **FAIR HARVARD:** A group of Harvard's female faculty have requested that the dean of the college of arts and sciences appoint a faculty committee to examine the status of women at Harvard. The group pointed out that women represent 15 percent of Harvard's graduate students earning a doctorate, but are virtually unrepresented in the higher ranks of the faculty and administration. There are 725 faculty members in that college, of which 25 are women; there is one professor, one associate professor, six assistant professors, twelve lecturers, one associate librarian, one associate curator, and three assistant curators. A Harvard official was not able to determine how many women are included in the total faculty, which numbers 7357.

● **SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PRIZE WINNER:** Zick Rubin, assistant professor of social psychology at Harvard University, is the 1969 winner of the AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize. Rubin's winning essay is entitled "The social psychology of romantic love." This annual prize has a monetary value of \$1000.