

lees with whom I became acquainted in OEO's Work, Experience, and Training Program were friendly, most courteous, and grateful for the "pay" they got from their "jobs." The supervisors and administrators of the program were dedicated and competent. Many if not most of them were indigenous to Appalachia. They had been away to school and came back. They did not want to live or work elsewhere. I tried to recruit some of them without success. They were much related to each other and to the civic and political leaders. This was inevitable in view of their social and geographic isolation. I can't see how any extensive program in Kentucky Appalachia could operate without the relatives of its leaders. For the most part they are the only ones who are trained, who empathize with the people, and know how to deal with the complex interpersonal relationships in this isolated area. . .

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My feelings regarding the OEO's Comprehensive Health Care Program in Floyd County were misrepresented in Bazell's article.

I tried to convey in my interview that all persons involved in the program everywhere should forget all pride and power and come together in unity to formulate a good health care program.

I did not intend to place blame on any one individual or group of individuals for the present status of the program.

RUTH JAMES

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Santa Cruz: A Misunderstanding

In commenting on Carter's article (15 Jan. p. 153) about the University of California at Santa Cruz, W. F. Eberz (26 Mar., p. 1200) shows such misunderstanding that some correction—even one as informal as mine—seems useful in these columns.

1) UCSC does not select "those with the highest grades." As a campus of the University of California system, UCSC is bound to admission criteria adopted by the whole system. To select among the applicants to this particular campus, grades are used only as part of a much broader array of criteria. Selecting applicants would be immensely more informed if pass-fail, with written evaluations of students' work, were adopted in secondary schools and so available to us. If we now use grades to judge applicants' strictly academic schoolwork, it is because grades are all that most schools currently present.

2) UCSC does not "deny . . . distinction to those who accomplish the most" nor deny graduate schools or others the means of "selecting the most fitting applicants." Quite the contrary, we believe pass-fail, with written evaluations of a student's work, provides a far more comprehensible, just, complete, and explanatory "grade" than can a list of more familiar but simply opaque digits or ABCDF.

What the university has been trying to do since 1965 is to evaluate students' work and accomplishment, rather than merely to shell out coinage for courses "taken." The endeavor can be faulted on some counts-demands on faculty time, initial uncertainties as to how best to achieve the aims of the task, difficulties in evaluating students' work in large classes—but we are aware of these dilemmas and trying hard to resolve them. What pass-fail and UCSC's other efforts simply cannot be criticized for though is any such hypocrisy as Eberz's letter implies. TODD NEWBERRY

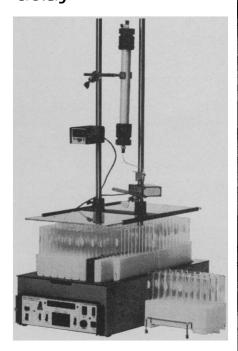
719 High Street, Santa Cruz, California

Calvert Cliffs Project

One of the crosses borne by a paleontologist is that of being called an archeologist. It happens all the time in the newspapers and we get pretty used to it, but it's a blow when it happens in Science (21 May, p. 826). This is not the only inaccuracy in Holden's article. The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company did not postpone construction to allow scientific excavation of the power-plant site. The company did, however, give excavation privileges at the site to the Maryland Academy of Sciences, which organized the Calvert Cliffs Paleontology Project with grant support from the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, the State of Maryland, National Geographic Society, Blaustein Foundation, and several corporate members of the Maryland Academy.

The project is mainly paleoecologic in nature, and is being carried out by

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4700 SUPERIOR LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68504 PHONE (402) 434-0231 TELEX 48-6453 paleontologists and sedimentologists from various institutions. The cliffs at the site are 100 feet high and consist of portions of the Calvert, Choptank, and St. Mary's formations of Miocene age. With cooperation from the construction companies involved, five giant steps were cut in a hill that is truncated by the cliff (visible in the right background of the power plant photograph). This allowed extensive sampling of the bedding surfaces thus exposed—a marked advantage over the usual sampling at the intersection of a bed with the cliff face. Two-cubic-foot samples were taken, and their invertebrate fauna was analyzed in detail as to identity, stage of growth, position, parasites, number of specimens of each species, and many other parameters. Sediment samples were taken for mineralogical and microfaunal analysis. Fossil vertebrates (mostly marine mammals) were collected wherever they could be found.

The field phase of the project is complete, and data analysis is under way. We hope that a useful paleoecologic report will result from this combination of a mass of data and the efforts of a group of workers in a number of specialties.

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Washington, D.C. 20242

Confused

I RED RWN's artikle on M-O R&D in the 2 APR issue (p. 29) & was fascinated, EVN if I did not DIG the meaning of all the LETR groupings. R&D, DOD (DoD?), AEC & NASA were not 2 hard, and HEW has been much in the public print lately. U.S., of course, I got immediately. NBS? GAO (General Acceptance Othority?) & NSF were harder. But I quickly appreciated Congressman Daddario's HSoSR&D. And I agree with RWN that people DO want to solve problems of ddt, sst, abm, 1sd, and SMOG and SO (so on). And how about that CSEA he mentions, and the "NIforR&AS" (my abbreviations, not his-how come he din't?). RWN writes good, and I enjoyed reading his piece. Wish I knew more about the things he was talking about—like I do about any abbreviations I don't happen to know about. They sure make me feel DUM.

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