

NEWS & NOTES

● PSYCHOLOGY ON THE RISE:

A striking and unexpected increase in postgraduate psychology enrollments has been reported by the American Psychological Association (APA). Taking its figures from surveys by the American Council of Education, the APA says first-year psychology graduate enrollment in doctoral institutions increased 56 percent between fall 1970 and fall 1971. This amounts to an estimated increase from 7,600 to 11,900 in a year.

The figures are especially striking in comparison with enrollments in engineering and the physical sciences, which are still falling, and in other social sciences, where no special change has been noted.

Officials of the APA are not sure how to explain the dramatic increase. Alan C. Boneau, director of the office of programs and planning, says many new slots have opened up in at least 20 graduate schools that have new or expanded psychology graduate departments. But Boneau says many department chairmen are boggling over what to do with applications. Surveys last summer found this year's enrollments to be up 25 percent over last year, and some schools have as many as 30 applicants per opening—this despite decreased availability of financial aid.

So far, there doesn't seem to be much fear that the country will be swarming with unemployed psychologists a few years hence. Academic jobs in experimental and physiological psychology have been drying up, but opportunities are increasing elsewhere—in industry, schools, police departments, correctional institutions, community clinics, and mental hospitals, as well as in private practice.

● **WORLD OCEAN PACT:** Seventy-nine countries, including all of the world's major maritime nations, signed on 13 November an international convention aimed at curbing ocean pollution. The convention bans the dumping of oil, mercury, and cadmium compounds and wastes with high levels of radioactivity, and it sets guidelines for the dumping, from ships or aircraft, of substances containing arsenic, copper, fluorides, pesticides, lead, and zinc. Work on the agreement has been going on since 1970, when the Council on Environmental Quality recommended both national and international measures for controlling ocean dumping.

We've been careful not to embarrass the administration." But, she said, the soft-sell approach was getting them nowhere.

Several weeks later, Schlossberg reported that things were looking up. Why? Well, she says, "We got awfully damn mad." Commission members have recently held lengthy meetings with Wayne State president George Gullen and his vice presidents, and it seems a good deal of the problem has been lack of communication. Now things are moving on three fronts. The HEW-inspired salary equity study is complete, and recommendations for adjustments were made at the November board meeting. The university will probably fund an in-service training program for 120 placement and admissions counsellors, in an effort to make them sensitive to the needs of women. Also under consideration is a career conference for Wayne State students.

In addition, the administration is showing a new willingness to discuss the formation of a women's center (such as already exists at UM), and women are getting together with university lawyers to discuss how to bring about changes in the retirement plan (a nationwide plan for university employees). This is finally happening after 4 years of fuss over the plan, which discriminates against women by providing monthly retirement benefits that are as much as 15 percent less than those for men. The company's explanation for this is that actuarial tables show that men die sooner, so the total amount collected between retirement and the grave is actually the same for both sexes.

One of the basic problems at Wayne State, as in other, smaller universities, is that women have not yet succeeded in getting a grass-roots movement going. The real work is being done by a small core of activist women. Too many of the rest, says assistant dean Marie Draper-Dykes, still don't see "what the fuss is all about."

With the big push for women's rights coming on the heels of the black movement, it is interesting to see how the two relate to each other. A number of blacks now hold high administrative positions (including the presidency of MSU, held by Wharton), and the white males in power are beginning to take it all for granted. Women still have problems with the attitudes of men, whatever their color.

As John Kenneth Galbraith, speaking of the problems of women in eco-

nomics, recently said: "People are uneasy and a bit frightened when it comes to discrimination against blacks, but with women it is a rather good-humored thing that nobody really worries about. You can discriminate against women with a sense of security."

Women feel that the most common male blocking tactic is to play up divisiveness within the women's ranks and that an obvious ploy is to treat the demands of women and blacks as mutually exclusive. MSU board member Patricia Carrigan says that "some board members have tried to cast a black versus women perspective" on women's demands and that one reason the reorganization of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs was opposed was that the expanded department would be headed by a black, Joseph McMillan, who might be expected to give less than equal emphasis to women's problems.

Women think this is hogwash. Most of them have insisted that, despite the minimal involvement of black women in anti-sex discrimination activities, there has been little divisiveness along racial lines and that the two movements clearly reinforce each other.

In fact, although some black women have feared that the sex crusade would detract from racial progress, it is they who have been getting the promotions. Obviously, when black women were appointed to be affirmative action officers at both UM and Wayne State, the administrations were deliberately killing two birds with one stone.

The involvement of Michigan women in politics—particularly those from the southeastern part of the state—has unquestionably shaped their approach to changing the situation in higher education. Many politically active women have close ties to campuses and know better than to expect spontaneous efforts at self-enlightenment on the part of administrators. Most would agree with former Howard University law dean Patricia Roberts Harris, who has said, "... the producer and the refuge of the male intellectual, the university, [has] turned out to be one of the most sexist institutions in this country."

Thus, women are aware that it is not through addressing emotional appeals to the president or scaling the administration walls, but through the cultivation and exercise of power that they will make lasting gains.

They are working within the system and taking advantage of what it affords.