

Winner of Amateur Scientist Contest

The winner of the AAAS Amateur Scientist Contest held at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Denver (20-25 February 1977) was Chris Gilmore of Greeley, Colorado. Gilmore, a Greeley high school senior, built his prize-winning "Home-Made Atom Smasher" as a special project at Aims College in Greeley and exhibited it at the *SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL* exhibition of scientific books and instruments held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The prize, awarded by the AAAS executive officer William D. Carey, consisted of a cash award of \$75 plus a student membership in AAAS. This is the second year in which this prize has been awarded.

These experts will come from Africa, southwest Asia, and Central and South America.

A priority of the seminar participants will be to reach a consensus on a small set of critical indicators of the processes of desertification which will be applicable to antidesertification programs. During the 5-day seminar in Nairobi, the conferees will consider the best, simplest, and most efficient means of using available data and of acquiring essential new data in order to monitor the processes of desertification.

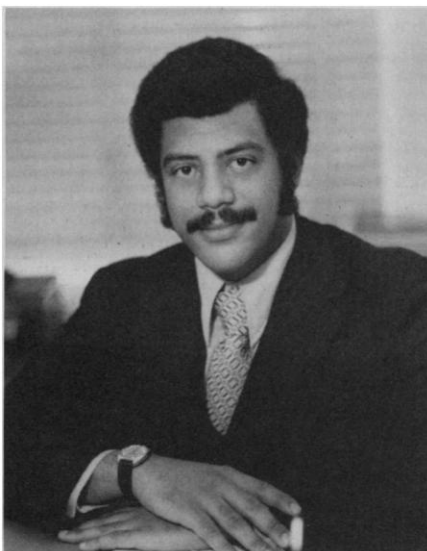
Because desertification is a worldwide phenomenon, three places are to be selected where field adaptations of the set of indicators are likely to be most useful both to local populations and regional administrators, as well as to the international scientific community. The field adaptations will be undertaken by three working groups of experts selected from the seminar participants, who will present a report to the AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in February 1978.

Resource materials for the seminar are being prepared by the cosponsoring science associations and consist of three types: (i) a preliminary draft of indicators of desertification, (ii) an overview and background papers prepared by members of the AAAS Advisory Committee on Desertification, and (iii) critiques of the "U.N. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification."

Since the seminar is designed to be of use to policy makers and citizens alike,

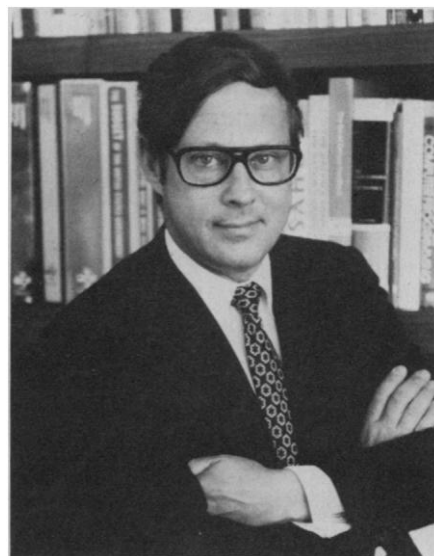
results from the sessions will be widely disseminated. In-depth briefings will be held for delegates to the U.N. Conference, which follows the seminar, as well as for other interested observers, including members of nongovernmental organizations. Some seminar participants will be national delegates, thus providing an additional means of ensuring that the views of the international scientific community are considered during the U.N. deliberations. Also, information will be made available through international media outlets to countries especially affected by desertification. For further information contact Priscilla Reining, Office of International Science, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

AAAS People



Bernard Robert Gifford, deputy chancellor and chief business affairs officer of the New York City Public School System, was appointed to the AAAS Board of Directors during its April 1977 meeting. He was selected by the Board to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Kenneth B. Clark of Clark, Phipps, Clark & Harris of New York. Prior to joining the New York City school system in 1973, Gifford was president of the New York City-Rand Institute for 2 years. As a biophysics doctoral student at the University of Rochester, Gifford was actively involved in the community organization known as FIGHT, which was successful in establishing one of the largest community-owned manufacturing enterprises in the country. He has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council's Commission on Sociotechnical Systems, the New

York Urban Coalition, the New York Regional Panel of the President's Commission on White House Fellows, and a number of other scientific, academic, and public service boards, commissions, and committees. Between 1973 and 1975, he served on the AAAS Committee on Environmental Alterations.



Edward E. David, Jr., AAAS president-elect, has been named president of EXXON Research and Engineering Co., Inc., in Florham Park, New Jersey. David, a former Presidential science adviser, was a private consultant to government, industry, and academia before assuming the EXXON post.



Ruth M. Davis, AAAS Board member and formerly director of the Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology of the National Bureau of Standards, was sworn in on 6 July as deputy director (Research and Advanced Technology), Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, U.S. Department of Defense.