

The Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights

The Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights is a project of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. The Clearinghouse collects information on foreign scientists whose human rights and scientific freedoms have been violated. This information in turn is disseminated to individual scientists or designated representatives of the professional societies affiliated with AAAS for appropriate institutional or individual responses. The Clearinghouse also puts out a quarterly *Clearinghouse Report* on international science and human rights issues. Recent features have included the student and faculty deaths attributed to security forces in Guatemala, a protest by South African doctors over the death of Steve Biko while in official custody, and reports on the proceedings of the Helsinki Review Conference and the recent AAAS Workshop on Scientific Cooperation and Human Rights in the Americas. Case studies of imprisoned or detained Liberian, Uruguayan, Soviet, and Iraqi scientists and engineers have also been included in the report. To receive more information on the Clearinghouse or to be put on the mailing list for the *Clearinghouse Report*, please write to Eric Stover, project director, Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights, at the AAAS address or 202-467-5236. (The *Clearinghouse Report* is distributed free of charge.)

During their 3-week stay, the group visited Washington, D.C., New York, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Their major interest was in the field of science writing. The group met with colleagues to discuss the methodology, incentives, training, and social ramifications of science journalism. In addition, NASW hosted receptions in Washington, New York, and San Francisco. Site visits to television and radio stations, newspapers, and magazines were also arranged. A panel discussion on science writing was held at the AAAS office in Washington as well.

Public understanding of science was an important and related concern of the delegation. They were particularly interested in the communication of science and technology to a lay audience: Where and how do people learn about science? What role does the media play in science education? How do museums complement the formal education that takes place in school? What is the function of the elementary, secondary, and university educational system? In addition to media sites, the delegation also visited a number of museums and schools.

Research, financed both by government and industrial sources, was another significant part of the group's itinerary. An effort was made not only to demonstrate innovations but also to draw parallels with similar work being conducted in China. The delegation met with repre-

sentatives and researchers from government agencies, research hospitals, universities, and industry.

Agriculture was clearly of great interest to the delegation. They saw the progression of research being conducted at the university to the technology transfer through the county agent system directly to the farmer. In many cases, the delegation was able to meet with senior Chinese scholars conducting research projects in the United States.

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Division Meeting at Greeley Highlights the Unusual

Would you expect to find cities beneath the Mediterranean in Greeley, Colorado? Yes, if you were attending the recent meeting of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division (SWARM) of AAAS. This spring, the University of Northern Colorado was the host for the annual conclave of the SWARM division, and the meeting sparkled with unusual and interesting presentations and symposia.

A recitation of highlights can hardly do justice to the meeting, but a few impressions may serve to give a flavor of what went on in Greeley.

Speaking to a modest-size crowd on the opening night of the 4-day meeting, AAAS Board Member Anna J. Harrison detailed the scope of AAAS ventures and new programs. Harrison's presentation left an impression of a vital organization bursting with activities, growing better every year, and of many new programs bridging the gap between science and other professional and public service areas.

Several other AAAS "national headquarters" people attended the meeting, including F. James Rutherford, former assistant secretary of the Department of Education, and currently special adviser to the AAAS Board on science education, who attended for consultations with SWARM leaders on science education issues, and Phyllis N. Windle, one of the AAAS Science, Engineering, and Diplomacy Fellows for 1981, who gave an invited paper on science and technology in the U.S. Department of State.

Robert L. Hohlfelder of the University of Colorado gave the John Wesley Powell Memorial Lecture. Speaking on "Cities Beneath the Mediterranean: An Introduction to the Underwater Exploration of Coastal Sites," Hohlfelder informed and entertained a large audience that included many local residents.

At one point, showing a slide of an ancient coin retrieved from the ocean floor, which the unsuspecting viewer might guess came from some mysterious culture which thrived briefly along the Mediterranean, he led the audience through the steps that exposed the piece as a fake constructed by a long-dead and hopelessly illiterate forger. A mixture of science, exploration, history, and culture, Hohlfelder's lecture was for many the high point of the meeting.

Other outstanding sessions, too numerous to mention in detail, dotted the program. These included sessions in desertification, energy development, and science education, as well as those that are the bedrock of any SWARM meeting: the many technical presentations in aquatic biology, botanical sciences, microbiology, physical sciences, and history and philosophy of science.

A general poster session included ten presentations ranging from Navajo uranium operations to a Chinese brass water-spouting bowl.

Sam Shushan (University of Colorado) gave the SWARM presidential address on "The Hyphal Connection: The Fungi in Our Lives." Despite the fascinating color and variety of the fungi shown and Shushan's obvious enthusiasm for his subject, the evening's show was stolen