

"Report on Science" Reaches Millions with Daily Radio Broadcasts

To many people science is little more than test tubes, microscopes, and six-syllable words. But every day "Report on Science," the AAAS' radio news feature show proves otherwise. The program's subjects range from psychology to geophysics, but they all have one thing in common. They describe science as an ongoing process—a part of everyday life.

"Report on Science" is coproduced by the AAAS Office of Communications and the CBS Radio Stations News Service. The daily 90-second program began airing on CBS owned-and-operated stations (those in the major markets of Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and St. Louis) in March 1981. The program's audience continues to grow and it is now aired over WTOP (Washington, D.C.), WGST (Atlanta), KIRO (Seattle), WTTB (Westminster, Maryland), WTTB (Vero Beach, Florida), KXL (Portland, Oregon), and CKEY (Toronto), in addition to the CBS owned-and-operated stations.

Allen L. Hammond, editor of *Science* 82, is the on-air reporter/science editor;

Carol L. Rogers, head of the AAAS Office of Communications, is AAAS project director/producer; and Kathleen Johnston is the script writer/researcher.

Many of the programs are based on articles which appear in *Science* 82. Other items are taken from *Science* and other journals, meetings, reports, and publications.

Programs often look at a widely reported story from a different perspective. A story asked, "What's happening at Mount St. Helens now?" (Life is returning and gophers are helping. They might have been underground when the blast occurred; now they're aerating the soil and helping to revive the mountain.) When the medfly story was reported last summer, "Report on Science" did a program on malathion—the controversial pesticide used in an attempt to eradicate the pest. During Black History Month a show looked at the work of organic chemist Percy Julian. In her research for the program, Johnston found a contemporary of Julian's who described the excitement of scientific discovery during the 1930s and 1940s, and explained how Julian's major discoveries

are particularly remarkable when one remembers the rudimentary laboratory equipment in use at the time.

"Report on Science" often deals with subjects that scientists are still trying to understand. How did the moon form? How does our brain work? The program also sometimes tells listeners about the lighter side of science. Why do chickens drink carbonated water? (It helps make their eggshells harder.)

Researchers throughout the country help put "Report on Science" on the air. Scientists and engineers cooperate in offering new information about little-known projects, suggesting other sources of knowledge, verifying the accuracy of scripts, and explaining—in uncomplicated language—their own work.

Response to the program is enthusiastic. Listeners often write for more information about a particular subject. For example, one program, which described the possible health hazards to workers using video display terminals, brought an information request from a labor union leader. He wanted to find out how this potential problem might affect members of his union.

With an audience of several million, "Report on Science" is one of the major public understanding activities of the Association. AAAS also produces "Focus," a half-hour discussion program, for noncommercial radio stations.

If none of the radio stations in your area carry "Report on Science" and you would like to hear the program, please write to us. We will work with the CBS Radio Stations News Service to help bring "Report on Science" to a station in your area. Address letters to Carol L. Rogers, Office of Communications, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

JOAN WRATHER
Office of Communications

"Science: Woman's Work"



Should a young woman pursue a career in science? The women featured in the National Science Foundation (NSF) film, "Science: Woman's Work," answer with an emphatic "Yes!"

"Science: Woman's Work" features, among other women scientists, AAAS president E. Margaret Burbidge (photo on the left) director of the Division of Astrophysics and Space Sciences, University of California, San Diego.

The premier for the film was held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., 24 May. Co-sponsored by the AAAS, NSF, and TRW, Inc., a highlight of the showing was a question and answer session, moderated by NSF director John B. Slaughter, between the women scientists and the audience.

The film, "Science: Woman's Work," is available for showings free of charge. For further information write Modern Talking Picture Service, 5000 Park Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33709.

SWARM Holds Annual Meeting in El Paso

The 58th Annual Meeting of the AAAS' Southwestern and Rocky Mountain (SWARM) Division took place from 28 April to 1 May at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). It was the fifth time SWARM had met in El Paso, and