

Scientific Freedom and Responsibility and Science Journalism Awards

Winners of the AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award and the AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Awards received their prizes at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Detroit last month.

The Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award was made to Anatolyi I. Koryagin, Soviet psychiatrist, and Jose Federico Westerkamp, an Argentine physicist.

The two scientists, who shared the \$1000 prize, were honored for their exemplary actions in fostering scientific freedom and responsibility.

Anatolyi I. Koryagin was cited for his "courageous and responsible defense, at personal and professional cost, of the principle that medical knowledge and skills should under no circumstances be used for the purpose of suppressing political dissent."

Koryagin was given a 12-year sentence by a Soviet court in June 1981 for "anti-Soviet activities." Prior to his arrest and subsequent jailing Koryagin served as chief psychiatric consultant to Moscow's Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes.

While practicing psychiatry in the Soviet Union, he encountered instances where dissidents had been institutionalized by the government for political rather than genuine medical reasons. Concerned by this abuse of medical knowledge, Koryagin began working with the Commission. The Commission, all of whose members have been arrested and sentenced, documented several hundred cases of "political psychiatry" over four years.

Koryagin, who published the results of his investigation in the Western press, continues to call on the international psychiatric community to condemn abuses of the profession in the Soviet Union.

Jose Federico Westerkamp was honored for his "courageous and responsible defense, at personal and professional cost, of basic human rights for all and the right of scientists to work in a spirit of intellectual freedom without fear of intimidation."

Westerkamp, who attended the Detroit Meeting to receive his award, was dismissed without cause from the University of Buenos Aires in May 1980. The military junta, which came to power in Argentina in 1976, put in effect a "law of dispensability," which allows universities to dismiss employees without explanation.

The dismissal is a result of Westerkamp's involvement in human rights activities and his outspoken criticism of the military junta's intervention into university affairs. He has called attention to the "disappearance" of over 200 Argentine scientists and the dismissal of thousands of others.

Westerkamp, who is a founding member of the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), a human rights group, has been arrested, imprisoned, and released twice by the Argentine authorities. His son, Gustavo, was held in prison without charges for 7 years. He was released in July 1982.

The AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award was established in 1980 to honor scientists and engineers whose actions have outstandingly exemplified principles of scientific freedom and responsibility.

In addition to the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award, the AAAS Socio-Psychological Prize (see *Science* 8 April 1983, p. 187) and the AAAS-Newcomb Cleveland Prize (see *Science* 14 January 1983, p. 162) were also presented at the AAAS president's Public Lecture on Sunday, 29 May.

The AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Awards were given during the National Association of Science Writers' annual banquet on Saturday, 28 May. The awards of \$1000 each are given in recognition of outstanding reporting on the natural sciences and their engineering and technological applications, excluding medicine, in large and small circulation newspapers, general circulation magazines, television, and radio.

The 1982 winners and their entries are:

- For science reporting in newspapers with over 100,000 daily circulation—John Noble Wilford, for two articles, "Space telescope holds NASA's hopes

for grand discoveries in universe," published 5 January 1982, and "Halley's Comet: The long hello begins," published 26 October 1982, in *The New York Times*.

- For science reporting in general circulation magazines—Timothy Ferris, for an article, "Beyond Newton and Einstein: On the new frontier of physics," published 24 September 1982 in *The New York Times Magazine*.

- For science reporting on television—Robert Richter, Robert Richter Productions, for "Pesticides and Pills: For Export Only, Part I," aired 5 October 1981 on WNET-TV (New York City). Honorable mentions went to Don Herbert of the Mr. Wizard Studio for the nationally syndicated "How About . . ." series broadcast to over 120 stations during 1982; Linda Baldwin and Barry Stoner of WHA-TV (Madison, Wisconsin) for "The Great Violin Mystery," a NOVA program aired on the Public Broadcasting Service 11 October 1981; and Robert Zalisk of WGBH-TV (Boston) for "Life: Patent Pending," a NOVA program aired on the Public Broadcasting Service 28 February 1982.

- There were no first place winners in the newspapers with under 100,000 circulation or radio categories. An honorable mention for science reporting on radio went to Daniel Zwerdling of National Public Radio for a three-part series, "Chlordane," aired on NPR 14, 15, and 17 September 1982.

Desertification Volumes Offered

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