

## AAAS and Science on the Air

Through "Report on Science" and "Focus," the Association is taking a wide range of science news and issues to the public. The two radio programs expose several million people to information on new scientific discoveries, controversies in the field, and issues of current interest involving science and technology.

"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 is now also aired in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Seattle, Portland, Oklahoma City, Salt Lake City, San Juan, Toronto, and a number of other cities.

Allen L. Hammond, editor of *Science* 83, is on-air reporter/science editor; Carol L. Rogers, head of the AAAS Office of Communications, is AAAS project director/executive producer; and Kathleen Johnston is the writer.

Many of the programs are based on articles which appear in *Science* 83. Other items are taken from *Science* and other journals, meetings, reports, and publications. Topics cover all of science and technology from exercise during pregnancy to new particle accelerators.

In a three-part series on science and mathematics education, "Report on Science" brought home the problems of poor mathematics and science skills. For the programs, Johnston interviewed college students who had found that what math and science they had learned in high school was insufficient to allow them to pursue in college the courses they would later need to get good jobs. The programs emphasized the role of parents and local school boards in insisting on quality science and math education for students.

New particle accelerators are larger and larger. A new circular accelerator at Geneva, Switzerland, will be 18 miles around when completed in 1987. The electricity requirements of the accelerator will be more than those of a city of

150,000. "Report on Science" described how some scientists are now examining alternatives, such as high-energy lasers, to permit high-energy physics experiments to be conducted in much smaller, more contained areas.

A recent program described the manatee's ability to regenerate and rotate its teeth. Researchers have discovered that the Caribbean manatee (sea cow), which eats a gritty diet consisting largely of sea grass, grinds down its teeth. As the teeth grind down they move forward in the manatee's mouth—pushing out front teeth—and allowing room for new teeth to form at the back of the mouth.

Does shouting help your child get the message? "Report on Science" reported that research at the University of Chicago indicates that for children 4 years old and younger, shouting does not help. These young children hear the alarm, fear, or anger in a shouted command but are better able to understand the message if it is spoken in a normal tone of voice. Older children, the research shows, are able to understand both the tone and message when shouted at.

Response to the program is enthusiastic. Listeners often write for more information on a particular subject. This is especially true when the program deals with medical research.

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 try to bring "Report on Science" to a station in your area. Address letters to Carol L. Rogers, Office of Communications, at the AAAS address.

"Focus" is a half-hour series of public affairs programs produced by AAAS and five other nonprofit organizations in Washington, D.C. (The Brookings Institution, The Conservation Foundation, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Overseas Development Council, and Resources for the Future). Some programs feature a panel discussion with three or four guests; other programs are made up of two unrelated 15-minute segments with one or two guests.

AAAS "Focus" programs have been far-ranging, from discussions on cancer in China to how congressional conduct parallels primitive tribal rites. The segments have been among the series' most popular and are often used as program reruns, and are replayed by local stations over a period of several months.

Joan Wrather is the AAAS producer for "Focus." The programs are taped and edited in Washington, D.C., and distributed by the Longhorn Radio Network at the University of Texas, Austin, to some 230 public radio stations across the country, many of them located in university communities. In addition, the program is sent, via the National Public Radio satellite, to larger NPR stations.

Recent "Focus" programs have included "Focus on Women in Science" with Margaret W. Rossiter, author of *Women Scientists in America, Struggles and Strategies to 1940*, and Shirley M. Malcom, head, AAAS Office of Opportunities in Science. Rossiter and Malcom discussed early efforts of women to pursue educations and careers in science, accomplishments, and barriers yet to be overcome.

R. Jeffrey Smith, writer for *Science*'s "News and Comment," told "Focus" listeners some of the things he had learned about the MX missile while researching and writing his award-winning series on the subject.

What problems arise when sacred items belonging to Indian tribes are used in museum displays? How can these items be best used? These questions were raised on a "Focus" program on Indian artifacts and museums. Rayna Green, scholar at Dartmouth College and the Smithsonian Institution, was the guest. The program was based, in part, on an article from *Science* 83.

The continuing controversy concerning what science is secret, openness in scientific research and publication, and the likely effects on science of closing down international communication were explored on "Focus" with Mary Cheh, professor at the National Law Center, George Washington University.

For further information about "Focus," including the listing of stations on which the program can be heard, write to Joan Wrather, Office of Communications, at the AAAS address.

JOAN WRATHER  
Office of Communications