

Since 1971

Daniel S. Greenberg's
Personally Written Newsletter

SCIENCE & GOVERNMENT REPORT

Has Reported What's *Really*
Happening in Washington.
Independent, Authoritative, Concise
Read Worldwide, in Universities,
Government Agencies, and Industries

**"As soon as SGR arrives on my
desk it gets my attention...I count
on SGR to be lively, timely, and
usually a step in front of the break-
ing news."**

William D. Carey,
Executive Officer, AAAS

21 Issues Per Year

Subscribe now at the money-saving in-
troduutory rate of \$96 per year—\$48
off the regular institutional rate

Order now, you'll be billed later. (Add
\$25 for overseas airmail.)

Science & Government Report
PO Box 6226-Section A
Washington, DC 20015
For Telephone Orders: (202) 887-0250

Circle No. 121 on Readers' Service Card

ARE THE MEDIA FAIR TO SCIENCE? IS SCIENCE FAIR TO THE MEDIA?

Read *Reflections on Science and
the Media*, a provocative new
book by June Goodfield, author
of *An Imagined World*, and
decide for yourself.

REFLECTIONS ON SCIENCE AND THE MEDIA

128 pp. 1981
ISBN: 0-87168-252-4
Paper, \$9.00/AAAS member
price, \$8.00

Mail order to AAAS Sales Dept. SM6,
1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW,
Washington, DC 20005.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. All
orders under \$10.00 must be prepaid.

the issues in the Mosher case to become entwined with the concerns expressed by Doverspike.

Third, not only a faculty has the "right to decide who may study." The history of 20th-century academic life is partially at least a history of the democratization of that life. And democracy means precisely the adjustment and adjudication of the control of graduate programming and decision-making. This implies a role for the administration, the media, the courts, and, yes indeed, the relevant graduate students. Surely we have not come so far in the counterrevolution against the counterculture as to deny the elemental reforms that it brought about.

IRVING LOUIS HOROWITZ
*Department of Sociology,
Rutgers, the State University of
New Jersey, New Brunswick 08903*

Breeder's Rights and Germplasm Diversity

In his article "The international breeder's rights system and crop plant innovation" (4 June 1982, p. 1071), John H. Barton states that "there should be international legal requirements prohibiting any restrictions on the export of germplasm (but allowing import quarantines), encouraging or requiring the collection of native materials as part of the process of spreading new varieties, and laying down much stronger requirements for placing material into collections as part of any patent process." This is desirable, he argues, for purposes of the maintenance of germplasm diversity. However, one adverse effect of such a requirement would be to deny the country the possibility of benefiting commercially from the presence of unique genetic resources within its jurisdictional boundaries. In such a case the country has little incentive, other than altruism, to incur costs to protect unique species. Thus commercial pressures for deforestation and other activities that may result in the destruction of species are not balanced by incentives for protection resulting from the possibility of capturable commercial gains that might accrue to the country at some future date. Perhaps allowing for patents and exclusive rights to unique species is one way to effectively promote their preservation.

ROGER SEDJO
*Forest Economics and Policy Program,
Resources for the Future,
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20005*

Sedjo is quite correct that breeder's rights laws and flow restrictions on international germplasm could create a material incentive for nations to preserve unique species. Under current or likely laws, however, this effect is only indirect. Existing breeder's rights laws exclude natural species; the sensed need for novelty along with practical legal requirements for uniformity and identifiability make it hard to extend the law to cover such species. Conceivably the holder of a protected variety might be required to pay royalties to donors of major genetic sources of that variety; such an approach would create a major barrier to breeding research and is explicitly rejected in current law.

The free flow approach appears preferable. Flow restrictions would impose severe costs on research, and there are already strong altruistic motives and scientific traditions supporting germplasm preservation.

JOHN H. BARTON
*Stanford Law School,
Stanford, California 94305*

Longevity of Women

Apropos Constance Holden's article "Can smoking explain ultimate gender gap?" (News and Comment, 9 Sept., p. 1034), it is easy to believe that traditionally heavier smoking by men contributes greatly to the relatively greater longevity of women. But heavier drinking, too, must be considered.

Next in line of culprits, I propose the after-dinner nap. Think of the good cooks now enjoying sprightly later years who traditionally jumped up from the dinner table and spent up to 2 hours scooting around the kitchen cleaning up while hubby hoisted himself to his feet, lumbered into the living room, sank into his easy chair with his newspaper, or stretched out on the couch for an hour of shut-eye. No wonder Kannel finds that "women maintain the advantage" as regards cardiovascular mortality.

This, too, shall change! As women's smoking and drinking habits come to more closely resemble those of males, even the good cook will be piling the dishes hastily into the automatic dishwasher and dashing into the living room to join hubby in front of the television set, while the cholesterol accumulates equally in the sedentary vessels.

JULIA F. MORTON
*Morton Collectanea,
University of Miami,
Coral Gables, Florida 33124*