

ill have been organizing to offer each other emotional support, advice and referrals. This culminated in the creation, in 1979, of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, which now has about 300 member groups around the country.

The mentally ill—compared to the mentally retarded, for example, who have had a vigorous lobby since the 1950's—have been left out in the cold when it comes to public education and hence, political influence. But as the population ages, their numbers will increase and the nation may discover it can no longer afford ignorance.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

NSF Reorganization Boosts Education Programs

National Science Foundation (NSF) director Edward A. Knapp instituted several sweeping internal organizational changes at the beginning of October. The main effect of Knapp's actions is to put his stamp on the way NSF conducts its everyday affairs. Knapp also has moved to restore a science education directorate that was dissolved when the Reagan administration drastically cut back science education funding at NSF.

The reorganization consolidates more power in the director's office with the creation of a new position, staff director. Knapp has appointed Richard Nicholson, who has been the acting deputy director and executive assistant to the director, to fill it. This move extends Nicholson's considerable influence at NSF, officially making him the second in command. Knapp has given the staff director the responsibility for "all operations of the Office of the Director" and declared that all NSF operations will report to him through Nicholson. This raises a question of what the deputy director will do when one is appointed.

In response to what has become a nationwide outcry, Knapp is establishing a directorate for science and engineering education. This action reinstates to prominence an activity that had become relegated, figuratively, to NSF's back corridors. During recent months, however, several widely publicized studies, Congress, and President Reagan, have been voicing the

same opinion on this subject: Science education needs improvement. Thus Knapp's move to set up a directorate is at once politically wise and bureaucratically sensible. He has appointed Laura Bautz, previously in the astronomy division, as acting assistant director and Walter Gillespie, who has been active in science and engineering education matters, deputy assistant director of the new directorate. The people needed to staff this new directorate are being shifted from other NSF operations, some of which are being curtailed and others trimmed.

Knapp has abolished NSF's office of planning and resources management, a group that had assumed considerable influence over the years. Besides having responsibility for much of NSF's budgeting activity, that office had become what some have called a "shadow administration" for the foundation, in effect developing long-range policy thanks to its hold on the purse strings. Kent Wilson, who was director of this office, now is moved to become deputy assistant director of mathematical and physical sciences.—JEFFREY L. FOX

Mosher Loses Another Appeal

Steven W. Mosher has lost a second appeal regarding his expulsion earlier this year from Stanford University's anthropology department. On 20 September, vice provost Gerald Lieberman wrote Mosher upholding the dismissal.

Mosher, whose alleged misconduct while doing fieldwork in China prompted the controversy, can now appeal directly to university president Donald Kennedy. As yet, he has not submitted a request for a hearing, according to a spokeswoman for Kennedy's office. Eventually, he could take his case to court.

The exact reasons for Mosher's expulsion from the department still remain a mystery. Lieberman's letter to Mosher and the report of a hearing officer he appointed, associate dean Albert Gelpi, did not reveal any new substantive information about the reasons for Mosher's dismissal. Lieberman, like others at Stanford, contends that the release of the original report

of the investigation of charges against Mosher might endanger others. Mosher also has declined to make public the report.

Stanford officials have contended that Mosher was dismissed for engaging in a pattern of behavior in China that "involved a deliberate disregard for the law . . . a manipulative approach toward [research subjects], and a lack of candor" with the university and others. Mosher has contended that he was ousted for political reasons and for his disclosure of abortion practices in China. Stanford has denied the charge. (*Science*, 22 July, p. 348; 24 June, p. 1334; 13 May, p. 692).—MARJORIE SUN

Social Scientists Cry Politics

A social science group has complained to the Reagan Administration that it has established overtly political criteria to evaluate proposals for a major research project.

At issue is a request for proposals sent out by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for research comparing the effectiveness of publicly versus privately funded social services. The technical evaluation criteria state that the contractor must demonstrate an "understanding of the arguments on behalf of the movement away from governmental solutions to social problems" and an understanding of the Administration's "Private Sector and Voluntarism Initiative."

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) has written to HHS Secretary Margaret M. Heckler charging that the statement is "strongly political in tone," and "written so as to suggest that the political orientation of the proposal will influence the decision as to who receives the contract." COSSA director Roberta Balstad Miller also objected to the requirement that a responder must discuss his "perspective" on the social and policy context of the proposal.

The social scientists' complaint is the latest in a periodic series of protests by outsiders who believe research review procedures in this Administration have been unduly influenced by political considerations.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN