

Pacific Division Meets in San Francisco

Evolution, human sexuality, pets and people, Chinese medicine, and urban entomology were but a handful of the subjects presented and discussed at the 1984 annual meeting of the AAAS Pacific Division.

Meeting participants heard a lively debate, between Yale University paleontologist John Ostrom and Columbia University ornithologist Walter Bock, on the evolution of flight. Ostrom presented the theory that birds began as ground-runners and developed power as flyers. Bock insists that the primitive birds, living in trees at the time of dinosaurs, learned to fly by falling or jumping from trees. While neither school of thought convinced the other, it made for an interesting afternoon.

In two other sessions, attention was focused on two very different kinds of animals. "Pets and People" highlighted the medical and psychological benefits to be derived from having a pet—cat, dog, bird, even fish, while "Urban Entomology" featured such unwelcome companions as fleas, flies, lice, mosquitoes, and spiders.

The meeting's final session was a day-long retrospective on Jacob Bronowski. Jonas Salk, Clifford Grobstein, Gerald Holton, and others recalled their work with "Bruno," and described how Bronowski influenced their careers.

A highlight of the meeting was a standing-room-only public lecture by Linus Pauling. Pauling, a former president of the Pacific Division, discussed human nutrition and his personal adherence to a megavitamin regimen.

Other sessions included those on Cochlear Implants, Comparable Worth, El Niño, Sexual Differentiation of the Brain, Human Origins, and Chinese Medicine.

In its first such action, the Council of the Division endorsed a resolution expressing concern for the health and welfare of Andrei Sakharov and his wife Yelena Bonner. The resolution urges the Soviet government to end the isolation of Academician Sakharov and Dr. Bonner, to allow them to seek medical care of their own choosing, and to allow them to travel abroad.

More than 1100 people attended the 65th annual meeting of the Pacific Division, which was held on the campus of San Francisco State University, from 10 to 15 June. The 1985 meeting will be in Missoula, Montana, from 16 to 21 June.

Copies of the meeting program, including abstracts of most of the papers,

To Members in the Biological Sciences

Science Books & Films needs your help. For a special issue, *SB&F* will evaluate current biology textbooks for the middle to senior high school levels. If you would like to participate in the evaluations, to be published in the May 1985 issue of *SB&F*, please send a cover letter and your resume to: Editor, *SB&F*, 1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, by 15 September 1984. For further information call 202-842-9563.

are available for \$3 (plus tax for California residents) from the Division. In addition, audiotapes of the Pauling lecture and 12 symposia also are available for purchase. To purchase the program, or for further information, contact Alan E. Leviton, AAAS Pacific Division, c/o California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 94118.

JOAN WRATHER
Office of Communications

Renewable Resource Planning Reference Published

In one response to the worldwide need for more effective management of renewable resources, the AAAS this summer will publish "Resource Inventory and Baseline Study Methods for Developing Countries." The book is the result of a 2-year effort to review and report on methods for inventorying renewable natural resources and gathering environmental baseline data in the context of human use of those resources.

The book is addressed primarily to planners and managers concerned with economic assistance programs in developing countries. Its purpose is to explain, in a single volume, current methodologies for renewable natural resource inventories and environmental baseline surveys that are appropriate for strategy planning and project assessment.

It does not concentrate on how to do integrated planning, but rather how to fashion the building blocks which resource planning requires; that is, how to collect, compile, analyze, interpret, and present renewable resource information.

Thirty scientists were involved in the design and drafting of the 600-page volume. Participants were divided into five panels on aquatic ecosystems, soils, plants, wildlife, and synthesis; their approach throughout the study was multidisciplinary with each panel including biological, physical, and social scientists among its members.

The volume was edited by Francis

Conant, Hunter College; Peter Rogers, Harvard University; Marion Baumgardner, Purdue University; Cyrus McKell, Native Plants, Inc.; Raymond Dasmann, University of California, Santa Cruz; and Priscilla Reining, AAAS.

The book was prepared under the auspices of the AAAS Committee on Arid Lands with Agency for International Development funding, administered by the U.S. National Park Service.

Copies of the book are available, at \$22.95 (\$19.95 for members) from Marketing, AAAS, Tenth Floor, 1101 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Obituaries

Evan Kenneth Alban of Columbus, Ohio, member of Section O since 1967, 9 February 1984.

Ira C. Bechtold of LaHabra Heights, California, member of Section E since 1971, 14 April 1984.

Ronald F. Brown of Laguna Hills, California, member of Section C since 1948, 3 March 1984.

Harry R. Carns of College Park, Maryland, member of Section O since 1962, 18 April 1984.

John Walter Christopher of Pearl River, Louisiana, member since 1978, 18 April 1984.

Kenneth S. Cole of La Jolla, California, member of Section G since 1931, 18 April 1984.

Joseph B. Cooper of Pebble Beach, California, member of Section J since 1947, 28 February 1984.

Bradley Cozzens of Los Angeles, California, member of Section M since 1967, 2 February 1984.

William H. Crew of Tempe, Arizona, member of Section B since 1926, 31 March 1984.

Frederick M. Deuschle, professor emeritus of gross anatomy, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, member of Section M since 1952, 4 April 1984.

Erling Dorf of Princeton, New Jersey, member of Section E since 1934, 16 April 1984.

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