

Museum Project Special Events Draw AAAS Members

ON 22 July, hundreds of New York area AAAS members and their families spent an evening exploring science and technology at a special preview opening of the New York Hall of Science. The event was part of the AAAS Science and Technology Centers Project—a program aimed at getting AAAS members nationwide more involved in their local science and technology centers.

The revitalized museum—first opened for the 1964 World's Fair in Queens, New York—has been closed and under renovation since 1981. It formally opens to the public on 7 October. What distinguishes the Hall of Science are its hands-

on exhibits. Visitors explore scientific phenomena such as light, sound, medical imaging, robots, and more at their own pace. Workshops, demonstrations, and even planetarium programs invite audience participation. For those who have their scientific curiosity piqued by the exhibits, the Hall also offers a Science Access Center, featuring "Exhibit Link," a unique computer guide keyed to each display and program topic. The system permits easy access to popular and intermediate level books, magazines, and electronic media so that visitors can promptly follow up an interest generated by any exhibit or program.

Last November, AAAS mem-

bers in the Chicago area attended a AAAS Member Night at the Museum of Science and Industry. The following day was designated "AAAS Day." AAAS member volunteers served as "working scientists and engineers" to discuss exhibits with museum visitors. Such "Member Nights" are one way of galvanizing the AAAS Science and Technology Centers Project at the various participating museums. A similar event is planned for the Cranbrook Museum, near Detroit, in mid-September.

The project, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, is one of many AAAS programs that address public understanding of science. Scientists who become involved with their local science and technology centers can contribute to an enhanced public awareness of science through a variety of outlets. Some museums will use AAAS volunteer scientists to explain or create exhibits. Others may have scientists give lectures, either in the museums or in nearby schools. In addition, some museums may benefit from AAAS volunteers who teach public workshops or "in-service" sessions for museum staff.

The AAAS project has named four more museums to participate in the program. They are the Buhl Science Center, Pittsburgh; The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; Museum of Science, Boston; and The Pacific Science Center, Seattle. This brings to 12 the number of science and technology centers participating in the program.

The Science and Technology Centers Project will continue to phase in more museums over the next 2 years. In making selections, an effort will be made to achieve geographic diversity as well as a balance of small and large museums. Persons interested in obtaining further information should contact Patricia S. Curlin in the Office of Public Sector Programs at the AAAS address.

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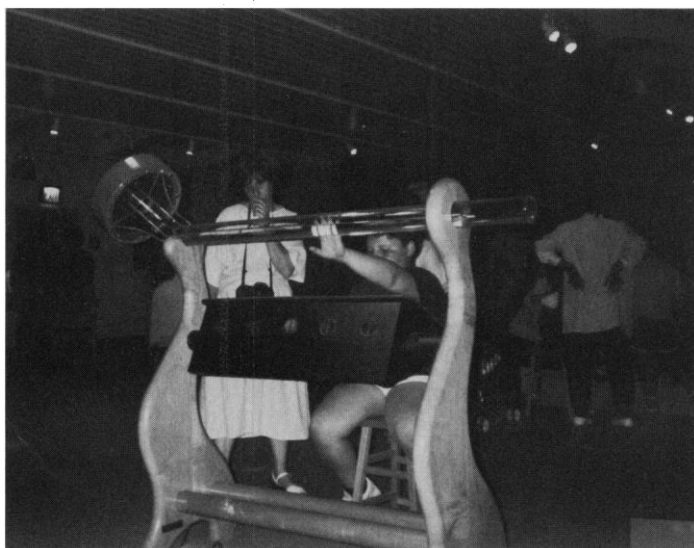
Report Details Human Rights in Guatemala

Under the last three military regimes, a large number of people from Guatemala's academic and scientific community were "disappeared" or murdered, apparently for political reasons, according to a new report issued by the AAAS. *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985* is the latest release of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (CSFR), which documents human rights abuses of scientists, engineers, and health professionals in foreign countries.

For 6 years, CSFR, through its Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights, gathered information on human rights abuses of scientists in Guatemala and appealed on their behalf to the military authorities. Now the Association and its Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility urge the newly elected civilian government of Guatemala to conduct an in-depth investigation of these cases.

The report, covering the last 5 years of military government, demonstrates that basic human rights violations against individual scientists entailed political killings and disappearances rather than mass internment or detention, involuntary expulsion, or travel restrictions. The report lists the names and circumstances of abuse or death of 201 Guatemalan physicians, scientists, engineers, university professors, and students from 1980 to 1985, with the overwhelming majority cited as dead or "disappeared."

In *Guatemala: Case Reports 1980–1985*, the Committee notes that responsibility for the violations is attributed largely to political violence that was sanctioned or tolerated by the Guatemalan military authorities. The scope of violations is indicated by estimates that Guatemala suffered some 100,000 political killings and 40,000 "disappearances," in a population numbering some 7 million, in



Young scientist tries the "wave machine" at New York Hall of Science's preview opening for AAAS members.