



Admiral Grace M. Hopper receives AAAS award from Board member Mary E. Clutter at Association headquarters.

messages come in to control—one says that a valve is malfunctioning and, if left alone, the whole plant will blow up; the other message says that Joe Blow worked 2 hours overtime last week." If a way of valuing information is not established by its potential users, she warned, "a government committee will do it!"

To make "computer time" real, Hopper passed out pieces of wire 11.38 inches long—these, she said, are "nanoseconds." The wires represent how far light can travel in 1 nanosecond—a billionth of a second. She compared these "nanoseconds" to a 948-foot coil of wire which represented a "microsecond." Next, she said, we'll be dealing with "picoseconds"—one trillionth of a second, and too small to pass out.

Hopper said she is sometimes asked if there is a reason to build computers that can calculate in increments faster than nanoseconds. Certainly, she asserts, two problems alone—atmospheric modeling on long-range global scale and managing and distributing the world's finite supply of clean water—make more complex systems essential.

Hopper is very enthusiastic about the future and today's young people who are, she claims, "the best we've ever had." She called on people to challenge these young people to meet their full potential. When-

ever she has a particularly difficult problem, she said, she tells her young staff that "Everyone in the Pentagon says this is impossible—it works—they invariably have an answer within a few days."

Before her talk, Hopper was presented a AAAS award recognizing her major contributions in the field of computer science, mathematics, and education. Representatives from the Mid-Atlantic Center for Sex Equity also presented her with an award.

Reminder for Members

If you receive a membership promotion mailing from the Association in the next few weeks, we apologize. The Membership Office does its best to screen current members' names from the mailing lists we use during our promotion campaigns. However, if there is any variation in name or address, duplications will not be caught during the computer merge/purge.

Please return any mailing pieces you receive along with a recent label from *Science*. Also, we would appreciate it if you would include a listing of any other addresses, names, or spelling of your name by which you may be listed elsewhere. Send this information to: Gwen Huddle, Membership Office, at the

AAAS address. We will place your name on an additional suppression file so that you will not get future direct mail promotions. This information will be for internal use only.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Fall Meetings to Focus on Science Curriculum and International Security

The second National Forum for School Science and the first Colloquium on Science, Technology, Arms Control, and International Security will take place in Washington, D.C., this fall.

During a one and one-half day meeting, 14 and 15 November, Forum '86: The Science Curriculum, will examine factors affecting the school science curriculum. The Forum will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington.

Educators, scientists, and managers from government and industry will discuss The School Science Curriculum: What We Know, What We'd Like to Know; The Future School Science Curriculum; and Forces That Shape the Curriculum: Teachers, Texts, Tests, and Technology. A report, *This Year in School Science 1986: The Science Curriculum*, will be published in mid-1987.

For registration information, see pages 1098 and 1099 *Science*, or write National Forum for School Science at the AAAS address or call 202-326-6620.

The first annual AAAS Colloquium on Science, Technology, Arms Control, and International Security will be held 4 and 5 December. The event will bring together some 300 leaders from science, government, and business and from citizen groups to look at the future of international security. The Colloquium, to be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., will offer

a range of viewpoints on issues involving science, technology, and arms control.

The Colloquium will include plenary sessions on the role of science and technology in shaping national security policy, advances in weapons technologies and their impact on security, an evaluation of the strategic and technical merits of SDI (strategic defense initiative), the Five Continent Initiative, and the question of how science and technology can help us create a safer world. In addition, smaller group sessions will give participants an opportunity to talk with each other and with experts on a variety of timely issues.

For registration information on the Colloquium, contact the Committee on Science, Arms Control, and National Security at the AAAS address, or call 202-326-6494.

Call for Nominations, 1987 General Election

The Committee on Nominations will meet this fall to select candidates for the 1987 election. The Committee invites AAAS members to submit nominations, including self-nominations, for the positions of President-Elect and members of the Board of Directors.

Current Board members are listed on the contents page of *Science*. Candidates for terms to start on 20 February 1987 are listed in the 6 June 1986 issue.

Nominations should be sent to the Executive Officer, AAAS, no later than 3 October 1986. Each nomination must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the proposed candidate.

A Painful Decision

Faced with a continuing collapse in advertising revenue, the Board of Directors voted on 25 June to cease publication of AAAS's much-honored magazine, *Science 86*, and announced the purchase of its assets by Time Inc., publisher of *Discover*.

AAAS initiated its magazine in 1979 with the aim of reaching an adult educated readership with responsible and well-written features and columns designed "to bridge the gap between science and the citizen." The venture proved highly successful from the standpoint of circulation, which grew quickly to more than 700,000. A sensation in the publishing industry, the magazine was selected twice in a row for the coveted National Magazine Award for Excellence in its category. As AAAS turned attention to the endemic problems of precollege science education, the magazine also be-

came an asset to teachers and students.

"Everything worked beautifully," said AAAS Executive Officer William D. Carey, "until advertising sales in 1984 and 1985 went from bad to worse. We never thought to make a profit on the magazine, but after the first year or two of start-up it had to break even." According to Carey, advertising pages sold fell 50 percent from 1983 to 1985 while AAAS's losses mounted, and the first half of 1986 showed a 40 percent shortfall from the same period a year before. "For that matter," notes Carey, "all the general sci-

ence magazines were taking a bad beating on advertising sales, but the others were commercial publishers with resources to fall back upon."

Queried as to why AAAS had accepted an offer from Time Inc., knowing that *Science 86* would be folded into *Discover*, Carey said that the Board of Directors waited for other offers, but although several potential bids were expected to mature, in the end only Time Inc. submitted a firm purchase contract.

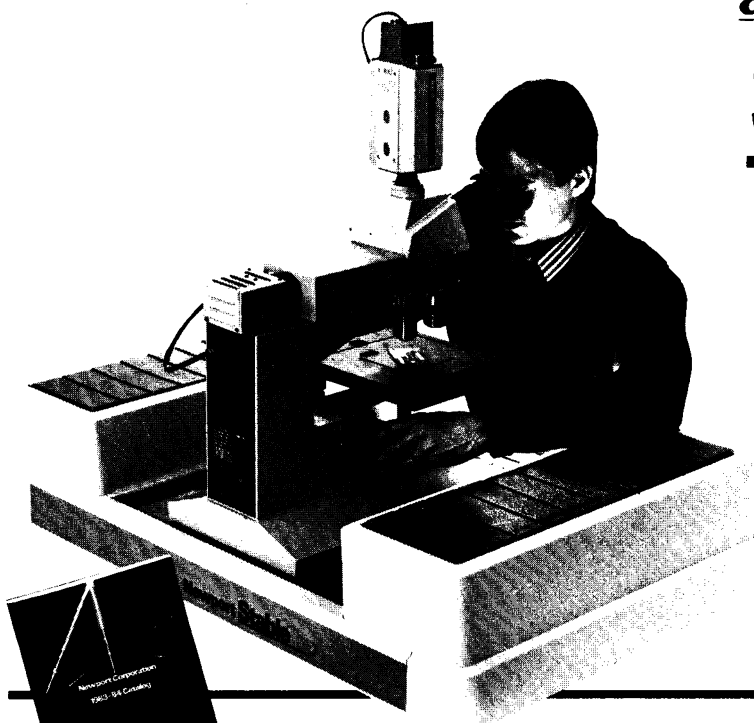
"The Board has an inescapable responsibility to protect the Association's assets," Carey said,

"and had it gambled on a white knight riding to the rescue later in the year, it could have had big trouble on its hands."

In purchasing the *Science 86* subscription list and licensing the trademark, Time Inc. submitted an offer approximating \$6 million. In addition, the buyer assumed the responsibility for unfulfilled subscriptions to *Science 86*. Under the terms of the purchase contract, Time Inc. warrants that it "will use its best efforts to maintain in each issue of *Discover* the high level of science journalism which has been recognized in past awards to *Science 86* and *Discover*."

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