

Feerst in Close Call

Irwin Feerst, constant critic and frequent candidate for the presidency of the 270,000-member Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) came in a very close second in the recent institute presidential election. Winner in a three-man field was Russell Drew, a former Navy officer and member of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy staff, who is president of Viking Instruments Corporation, Sterling, Virginia. The official count gave Drew 18,374 votes, to 18,132 for Feerst. A third candidate, Merlin G. Smith, a senior manager with IBM, Yorktown Heights, New York, got 15,828. Feerst, a former Adelphi University faculty member, is now an independent consultant and is editor and publisher of a newsletter devoted mainly to monitoring the IEEE and championing the cause of working engineers. For years, Feerst has hammered at IEEE for operating for the benefit of academics and industry executives at the expense of rank-and-file engineers. A recent target has been the recruitment here of foreign engineers at below-market salaries, a practice that he



Irwin Feerst

insists reduces employment and depresses the pay of American engineers. Feerst notes that he outpolled Drew by some 479 votes in returns from U.S. members of the international organization. With the near miss, Feerst acknowledges that the window of opportunity may have slammed shut. Both Drew and Smith were official candidates, endorsed by IEEE's board. Feerst, in his fifth run for the IEEE top office, got on the ballot via petition. The signals are that, in future, a single official candidate will be put

forward. In any event, Feerst says he has no intention of retiring from the fray. ■

J.W.

Stanford Branches Out

Stanford is cooperating with Kyoto University in establishing two new programs in Japan for students from the United States. A Stanford Center for Technology and Innovation (SCTI) at Kyoto will make it possible for 30 Stanford science and engineering students to spend 6 months in Japan, half in classes at Kyoto and the balance interning in Japanese industry. A Kyoto Program in Japanese Studies will provide opportunities for U.S. students with strong backgrounds in Japanese language and culture to spend two quarters at Kyoto furthering those interests. Stanford will administer the program for a consortium which so far includes Brown, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. Stanford president Donald Kennedy said students at SCTI "will be able to learn something of comparative technological developments, about the role of Japan in the global economy, about Japanese technology, and some very important binational comparisons that Americans in science and technology badly need to know." ■ J.W.

Human Values in Medical Schools

Progress is being made in incorporating human values into medical students' clinical education, but it is still an uphill struggle, according to a survey published in November by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The association sent questionnaires to 126 schools and received responses from 114. The report notes that a "piecemeal introduction" of human values courses "cannot offset existing encouragements for students to focus more on disease than on patients," so the aim was to identify programs "that have achieved a clinical focus and become integrated" into medical education. Of the respondents, 71 reported required human values courses in the first or second year of medical school, and 41 reported human values offerings designed specifically for residents. There are "large gaps in the human values education of residents, both in terms of patient care and self-care," says the report.

There are still many barriers to integrating such programs into medical education, including already-packed curricula, lack of interdepartmental cooperation, and the fact

that students "see fewer role models excited about and committed to the profession and more who fear the forces that are changing medicine," says the 37-page report. "In this era," it notes, only those physicians "with ethical decision-making abilities and good communication skills will be considered clinically competent." ■ C.H.

Peace Institute Grants

The United States Institute of Peace, established by Congress in 1984, has finally announced the first awards under its grants program for peace research, education, training, and information services. The fiscal 1987 grants budget is \$1.682 million, of which \$337,300 has been awarded in ten grants. The largest was \$91,400, which went to the James Madison Foundation in Washington, D.C., for analysts "reconsidering the basic religious and ethical questions regarding war and peace" and a survey of related curricula at theological seminaries. Eight additional grants were voted in December but have not yet been announced. Institute director Kenneth Jensen says that 117 grant proposals have so far been received.

The peace institute also gives money to resident scholars and in-house projects supervised by its board of directors. The first such project, allocated \$160,000, will involve the development of an "intellectual map" of the peace field by the information sciences committee of the board, headed by W. Scott Thompson, professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a founder of the Committee for the Present Danger. ■ C.H.

A \$300-Million LINK

The British government is planning to provide \$300 million over the next 5 years to support joint projects between the academic community and industry in key strategic areas of science and technology. The initiative was announced in the House of Commons last month.

Equal funding will be expected from industry for each project accepted under the scheme, known as LINK, which will involve all government departments with significant research and development spending. A list of 36 subject areas provisionally identified for early start, ranging from molecular electronics to underwater advanced robots, has been drawn up by the Department of Trade and Industry. ■ D.D.