ergy areas (especially petrochemicals). However, many of the major energy producers have diversified into several nonenergy areas this decade, and not always with favorable results. Total energy R&D expenditures actually declined in 1985 by 2.3 percent, but have fluctuated since 1981.

More encouraging patterns can be seen in petroleum R&D funding, which was up 2.4 percent in 1985 and has risen every year but one since 1981. Most of this spending has gone to enhanced oil and gas recovery techniques, such as steam and CO_2 injection. While such expenditures rose a healthy 15.7 percent in 1985, R&D spending in the "other petroleum" category (for example, refining) dropped by 12.7 percent.

A different picture can be observed in nonconventional energy categories. R&D spending on synthetic fuels fell by 7.6 percent in 1985, mostly due to large declines in expenditures on oil shale projects. However, expenditures on coal gasification–liquefaction and tar sands actually rose in 1985. Renewable energy sources continued to fare well in 1985, in sharp contrast to recent trends in federal funding. Spending on solar energy, geothermal energy, and other renewable energy R&D projects rose by 43.7 percent in 1985. Finally, expenditures on "other energy" R&D, mostly conventional coal and nuclear energy projects, plummeted by 36.1 percent in 1985.

These data do not support the statement that the petroleum industry R&D activity declined sharply in the period from 1981 through 1985. Expenditures for the larger categories of activities, with the exception of synthetic fuels development, were stable or increasing in this period. Unfortunately, the data for R&D funding in 1986 are not yet available. Currently available data for the major energy producers in the United States indicate that there has been no precipitous fall in R&D activity, particularly for oil and gas recovery.

T. Crawford Honeycutt
Barry D. Solomon
Office of Energy Markets and End Use, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. When the FRS began in 1976, there were 26 reporting companies: Amerada Hess Corp., American Petrofina, Inc., Ashland Oil, Inc., Atlantic Richfield Co., Burlington Northern, Inc., Chevron Corp. (formerly Standard Oil of California), Cities Service Oil Co., Coastal Corp., E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. (Du Pont), Exxon Corp., Getty Oil Co., Gulf Oil Corp., Kerr-McGee Corp., Mobil Corp., Occidental Petroleum Corp., Phillips Petroleum Co., Shell Oil Co., Standard Oil Co. (an Indiana Corp.), Standard Oil Co. (an Ohio Corp.), Sun Company, Inc., Superior Oil Co., Tenneco Inc., Texaco Inc., Unocal Corp. (formerly Union Oil of California), Union Pacific Corp., and United States Steel Corp. Subsequent mergers between companies in 1982 and 1984 reduced the reporting companies to 22; Standard Oil of Indiana has changed its name to Amoco, while United States Steel Corp. is now known as USX.
2. *Performance Profiles of Major Energy Producers 1985* (DOE/EIA-0206, Energy Information Administration, Washington, DC, January 1987), p. 84.
3. *Ibid.* (1981–1985).

Locust Travel

I read the article "Going with the wind" (News & Comment, 3 Oct. 1986, p. 18) concerning locusts. On the evening of 28 November 1979 and on the morning of 29 November a much publicized "fallout" of dust occurred in Ireland. In a meteorological analysis of this fallout (*1*), I showed how the dust had probably been lifted by unstable dust-storm activity in the North African desert and advected to Ireland, where some of it was washed down by rain.

A live desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria–Sorskål*) was found near Cork on the morning of that "fallout." It was kept alive at the Zoological Department of University College, Cork, for some time and is now preserved there. It is not too farfetched to presume that this locust, like those mentioned in the article that "[wound] up in Scotland," made the same journey as the dust and may, incidentally, have survived subzero temperatures on route.

Cormac O'Connor
Meteorological Service, Cork Airport, Cork, Ireland

REFERENCES

1. C. O'Connor, "Internal memorandum 93/80" (Irish Meteorological Service, Dublin, 1980).

International Archaeological Congresses

Much has been made of the "great success" that attended the breakaway "World Archaeological Congress" held at Southampton in September 1986. According to information one of us has received from the chairman of that meeting, "over 1000 people registered from about 100 countries."

We feel it is important to place these figures in perspective. The attendance of 1000 contrasted sharply with the 2000 to 3000 which the organizers originally expected. Moreover, we would remind our colleagues that at the 9th Congress of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (IUPPS), held at Nice from 13 to 18 September 1976, which, in accordance with the constitution of IUPPS, was open to scientists from all countries, 3127 participants from 94 countries were present.

So, at the price of holding a meeting by sacrificing a major principle, the organizers gained five or six countries, lost 2000 participants and did grievous harm to British and world archaeology. Add to that the unprecendented split in British and world archaeology, the wedge driven between colleague and colleague, the stimulus given to a major cleavage and politicization of world science . . . and we cannot see that all this adds up to "a great success."

Henry de Lumley*
Institut de Paléontologie Humaine and *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 75281 Paris Cedex 05, France*
Phillip V. Tobias†
Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, and *Palaeo-anthropology Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa*

*Secretary General, 9th Congress, IUPPS.
†Member, Permanent Council, IUPPS.

Erratum: In Colin Norman's article "The dark side of SDI" (News & Comment, 27 Feb., p. 962), the affiliation of Caroline Herzenberg was incorrectly given as Brookhaven National Laboratory. She is a member of the staff of Argonne National Laboratory. The paper she presented at the AAAS symposium in Chicago on 15 February was based on research conducted independently, and not with laboratory funding.

Correction

In Deborah M. Barnes' article "AIDS commission bills proliferate" (News & Comment, 6 Mar., p. 1136), the AIDS commission proposals introduced by Senator Ted Stevens (R–AK) and Representative Jerry Lewis (R–CA) were incorrectly identified as being "along the lines of [those] recommended by the Institute of Medicine in its report ("Confronting AIDS") last fall." Instead, the IOM recommended the "establishment of a presidential or joint presidential and congressional commission that is independent and able to provide an ongoing critical assessment of needs—involving basic and clinical research, health care, public health, and other societal issues—as the AIDS epidemic develops," according to Roy Widdus, director of the IOM Division of International Health.

The congressional advisory panel on AIDS, described in a bill introduced by Senator Pete Wilson (R–CA), incorrectly identified its potential membership. It would be open to IOM members, not exclude them, as the article indicates.