Briefing:

Time Inc. Sells *Discover*

Even Time Inc. could not sustain the heavy financial losses forever. At the end of May, the publishing giant gave up its 7-year effort to save *Discover* and sold it for a reported $26 million to Family Media, a New York enterprise that publishes half a dozen special interest magazines. They include *Savvy*, aimed at successful women, *Health*, *World Tennis*, and *1001 Home Ideas*. Time's losses are said to exceed $50 million, though with the sale and tax considerations for its losses, it may come out some $10 million ahead.

A year ago, Time Inc. signaled its determination to keep *Discover* going when it bought out its major competitor, the AAAS's general circulation monthly *Science 86*, for $6 million, and subsequently purchased *Science Digest* from the Hearst Corporation. Part of the deal with AAAS included a commitment to maintain high editorial standards. But even though the combined readerships boosted *Discover*'s circulation to 925,000, and even though advertising revenues were up about 50% from a year ago, Time Inc. decided to bow out. Reginald Brack, Jr., head of Time's magazine group, is quoted as saying that "Given the special-interest nature of *Discover*, which differs from most Time Inc. magazines, we believe it will be advantageous to *Discover* to be part of a company with similar publishing properties, operating on a more appropriate scale." Family Media may be able to offer advertisers special package deals for ads in several of its magazines, for example, whereas Time Inc. magazines each exist independently of the other, with separate ad staffs and resultant high overhead.

As yet, no editor has been selected for the new *Discover*; nor have plans for editorial changes been revealed. ■ **B.J.C.**

Fredrickson Resigns From Hughes Institute

"The trustees of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at their annual meeting today accepted the resignation of Donald S. Fredrickson, M.D., as president, chief executive officer, and trustee, offices he had held since 1984," read a terse announcement from the HHMI board that was released on the evening of 2 June. In keeping with Howard Hughes' reclusive tradition, the board made no further comment on Fredrickson's departure. In a statement a month ago, HHMI did acknowledge that questions had been raised about Fredrickson's style of management at the institute's Bethesda headquarters, but more specific information has not been forthcoming, leaving the scientific community with only speculation. Much of it has centered on his wife's role HHMI affairs, which is said to have led to certain extravagances.

The June HHMI announcement stated that George W. Thorn, who has been associated with the institute nearly since its founding in 1953, will be acting president and chairman of a committee that will conduct a "national" search for a successor to Fredrickson.

Fredrickson told *Science* that it is time for him to go back to being a "physician and professor." ■ **B.J.C.**

NIH Dedicates Museum to DeWitt Stetten

As part of the continuing celebration of its centennial, the National Institutes of Health has dedicated its new Museum of Medical Research to DeWitt (Hans) Stetten, Jr., the museum's "muse".

Stetten, who at 77 is NIH deputy director for science emeritus, first joined the institutes in 1954 and was mentor to current

DeWitt Stetten. *Museum muse*

NIH director James B. Wyngaarden. Stetten has been the driving force behind the museum which already has a small but noteworthy collection of old scientific instruments, including a cylindrical slide rule and a Craig counter-current distribution apparatus, that Stetten describes as "a rather handsome piece of glass blowing equipment." Each was rescued from the trash for preservation in the museum which is housed in the NIH Clinical Center.

The idea of an NIH museum first came to Stetten 11 years ago when he came upon the diary of Joseph Goldberger, an early NIH scientist who the NIH *Record* describes as an "obscure investigator who set out to discover the cause of pellagra." Stetten says, "He approached it first as an infectious disease man. Then he realized it was a dietary deficiency. His diary covers the months during which he changed his opinion." Goldberger recognized that yeast prevents and cures pellagra. Finding the diary, which is now among the museum's collection, appealed to the historian in Stetten.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony on 21 May, NIH deputy director for science Joseph E. Rall spoke for Wyngaarden and said, "Many of us see this museum as an extension of the mind and heart of DeWitt Stetten. It speaks forcefully of his counsel that we can deal more effectively with the present, and plan more intelligently for the future if we continue to be mindful of the past." ■ **B.J.C.**

Issues to Continue

The National Academy of Sciences has hired an editor for *Issues in Science and Technology*, the quarterly journal whose demise seemed all but certain just a few months ago. Last minute help from the chancellors of the University of California's nine campuses, in the form of a grant for $150,000 a year for 3 years, was the impetus it took to save *Issues* (*Science*, 1 May, p. 516). Now, NAS president Frank Press is out raising additional funding, and Steven Marcus, former managing editor of *High Technology*, has been named *Issues*' new editor. He replaces Leslie Roberts who will join the News staff at *Science*. Marcus says he hopes to make modest changes in *Issues* to make it more accessible to the reader "in content and appearance." ■ **B.J.C.**

Vandals Hit Lindow Plot

Late on 25 May or in the early hours of the next day, vandals uprooted about half of the 4000 potato plants treated with a genetically altered strain of the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* at the University of California's Tulelake experiment station. But the test of researcher Steven Lindow's frost inhibiting bacterium, dubbed "ice minus," has not been unduly disrupted.

Lindow and his colleagues were able to replant about 90% of the uprooted plants, according a university spokeswoman. The researchers also were able to proceed as scheduled with the second phase of their experiment—spraying plants with the modified bacterium. Prior to planting, the seed potatoes were soaked in a solution containing the bacterium. ■ **M.C.**