

Frazier Honored by Psychiatrists

Psychiatrist Shervert Frazier, who was forced to resign from Harvard Medical School last fall in the wake of evidence that he plagiarized paragraphs in review articles more than a decade ago, received a special commendation for his lifetime contributions to psychiatry this week. At the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, psychiatry's leaders made it plain that they think Frazier's punishment in being stripped of a tenured position (*Science*, 2 December, p. 1239) was far in excess of his crime. The psychiatrists are not endorsing plagiarism, but APA president Paul Fink believes Frazier was too harshly dealt with by Harvard.

Frazier's colleagues at the McLean Hospital in the Boston suburb of Belmont clearly agree. The trustees of the Harvard-affiliated hospital voted unanimously in February to reinstate Frazier as a member of the hospital staff.

The feeling underlying the rally to Frazier's side is that Harvard's stiff retribution was prompted as much by fear of Congressman John Dingell as it was by justice. Harvard was trying to show Congress it could be tough in dealing with transgressors, Frazier's colleagues say. ■ B.J.C.

Koop Resigns in a Huff

C. Everett Koop, the colorful and highly regarded Surgeon General of the United States, sent a terse letter to President Bush last week announcing that he has decided to retire on 1 October, a month before his term of office officially expires.

Associates say that Koop was miffed because he had hoped to be selected as Secretary of Health and Human Services, and had informed the White House in February that he would probably not serve out his term.

A staunch opponent of abortion, Koop won plaudits from many who were his ideological opponents for his forthright handling of controversial issues. In particular, a 1986 Surgeon General's report on AIDS was widely acclaimed for its blunt advocacy of education programs and its message of compassion for the disease's victims. Koop also issued a hard-hitting report likening addiction to tobacco to cocaine addiction.

Louis Sullivan, the man chosen by Bush to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, last week sent a letter to Koop praising him for being "a voice of honesty, integrity, compassion, and plain good sense." ■ C.N.

Science Artifacts on the Block

London

How much would you bid for Stephen Hawking's very own model of a black hole for your Astronomy 101 lecture class? Or how about crystallographer Lawrence Bragg's microscope? Or some bits of wire used by Crick and Watson to build their first model helixes?

On Saturday, 20 May, you (or your representative) can name your price for any one of a 120-item assortment of artifacts once owned by some of the best known names in British science. This is all part of a science sell-a-thon for an unimpeachable cause—helping introduce blind and other handicapped children to the promise of science—that will take place at Bonham's, one of London's most prestigious auction rooms.

The sale is the brainchild of Paul Cook, professor of laser technology at Brunel University in Uxbridge, outside London, and both founder and president of the British Science and Technology Trust, a body set up 5 years ago with private funding to promote interest in and enthusiasm for science among young people.

"Never before has such an extraordinary collection of objects been put up for auction," claims Cook. They range in size from Peter Medawar's mug (given to the great immunologist by his loving Oxford students) to the desk used for 12 years at Imperial College, London, by hologram inventor Sir Denis Gabor.

The items are the result of many months of letter writing and digging through laboratory basements. The Watson and Crick mementos, for example, were tracked down with help from scientists, technicians, and administrators working for the Medical Research Council in Cambridge.

It was not always easy getting the objects Cook wanted. "Imperial College did not want Gabor's desk to go, so I had to put a bit of a squeeze on them," he says. The wife of a late Nobel prizewinner had to withdraw the offer of a silver tray after her children refused to let it go out of the family.

In most cases, however, Cook says the scientists he approached reacted generously. Stephen Hawking, for example, is one of his trustees, and contributed teaching models of both a black hole and the sun, while electronics entrepreneur Clive Sinclair contributed one of his own early personal calculators. And some of the objects, he adds, such as early experimental radar equipment developed during the World War II, may have an important historical significance.

Through his trust, Cook has for several years been arranging visits of handicapped children from around the world to U.K. science institutions, ranging from the Science Museum to the Cavendish

Laboratory at Cambridge. "I want to help them understand how the miracle of science promises to give them a better quality of life and a better standard of living," he says. "There is a lot of talk about getting handicapped children interested in science, but there is not much done about it."

The money raised from the auction will go toward establishing a permanent base where these children can be housed when they come to the U.K.

If next week's auction is successful, others may follow. "I feel I have only touched the surface," says Cook, adding that he would "love to go to some American universities" to see what types of objects could be coaxed from the depths of their storerooms.

■ DAVID DICKSON



London Picture Service

Paul Cook, holding a television camera tube that filmed the 1948 Olympics.