

Briefings

edited by CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Population Is Environmental

Environmental groups now appear to be making serious efforts to get world population back on the environmental agenda—after 15 years of avoiding the issue as a political hot potato.

Population growth was a big issue in the early days of the environmental movement, but fear of alienating people in developing countries and fierce opposition to family planning by the American right-to-life movement caused activists to shy away from the issue. Population activists say they even had to pressure organizers of this year's Earth Day to get them to mention population in their literature.

In recent years, the Audubon Society has been the only major environmental group that has had a population program. But in January, the Sierra Club hired former marine activist Nancy Wallace as its first full-time population lobbyist. "We have reached the limit of what we can do in dealing with other parts of the environment," says Wallace. Barbara Bramble of the National Wildlife Federation says her group is now looking for money to hire a population person. And the board of the Natural Resources Defense Council has voted, for the first time, to list world population stabilization among its priorities.

Audubon is now organizing a coalition of groups to lobby for increased appropriations for the Agency for International Development's population program. The goal is to more than double the budget, from about \$220 million to \$500 million a year. As part of this push, Audubon's Patricia Baldi is seeking private funding to help form a network of population lobbyists within environmental groups.



Patricia Baldi. Audubon leading the way on population among environmental groups.

Despite continuing resistance by right-to-life groups and from within the Administration, observers believe the political climate is becoming more receptive to such initiatives. And the link between global warming and human activity is helping focus some attention on population growth. Two global warming bills now pending in Congress—introduced by Representative Claudine Schneider (R-RI) and Senator Timothy Wirth (D-CO)—both contain provisions on global population stabilization.

Faculty Salaries Flat

Faculty salaries have stayed almost stagnant over the past 2 years, according to a survey by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).^{*} Average salaries increased by 6.1%, slightly more than last year's 5.8% increase. But when adjusted for 4.9% inflation, the real increase is the same as last year, or 1.1%.

Data collected from more than 2100 colleges and universities show that the average salary for full professors is \$53,540. Associate professors average \$39,590, assistant professors \$32,970, and instructors \$24,890. Faculty at doctorate-granting private institutions fared best compared with last year. Institutions in the Pacific region offer the highest salaries—\$58,250 for the average full professor.

Gender imbalances are still pronounced: 72.6% of all full-

time faculty are men; 19.9% of women faculty members are professors compared with 53.6% of the men. Male full professors at research institutions earn nearly \$8100 a year more than their female counterparts.

The AAUP report says 10.2% of the 1988–89 faculty left their institutions the following year. "If this continues, institutions will face the equivalent of an entirely new faculty every 10 years."

Alaska OK's Oil Cleanup Chemical

As cleanup crews officially went back to the shores of Prince William Sound last week, Alaska conditionally approved the use of Inipol to help remove what remains of the Exxon-Valdez oil spill. Inipol, a chemical fertilizer, stimulates the growth of oil-eating bacteria when sprayed on oily shores. The state's Department of Environmental Conservation has been reluctant to use it because of its toxicity to small organisms, although Exxon

^{*}AAUP Report on the Economic Status of the Professions, available for \$30 from the AAUP, Suite 500, 1012 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Einstein Collection Available

Need to beef up your Einstein library? A private collection of memorabilia on Albert Einstein is now available for sale by a Baltimore rare book dealer. It was amassed over the past 15 years by plastic surgeon Manny H. Moser of Shillington, Pennsylvania, an amateur physicist and author of a book on relativity theory. It includes photographs, letters, first printings of books and papers, and an autographed manuscript of one of Einstein's five major papers on unified field theory.

Described by Stephan Loewentheil, owner of The 19th Century Shop, as "the finest private collection in the world of Einstein material in terms of scope," it is valued in excess of \$500,000. Moser is



Einstein on the beach, winter of '33.

interested in selling the collection now, says Loewentheil, because he has gone about as far as he can with it and "it's time for a change."

The last big sale of Einstein

material occurred 2 years ago when the original manuscript of the theory of relativity was auctioned at Sotheby's to an anonymous buyer for \$1 million.