

## Briefings

edited by CONSTANCE HOLDEN

### Fauci Gets Softer on Activists

The ninth meeting of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) held in Bethesda, Maryland, last week differed from previous ones in an important respect: patient activists were invited to listen in and even participate "to some extent" as some 1000 delegates discussed the status and direction of the federal clinical research program.

The meeting came on the heels of a stormy session at last month's AIDS conference in San Francisco where a speech by Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis W. Sullivan was drowned out by members of the AIDS activist group ACT UP. They were particularly upset by Sullivan's stance on restrictions for foreign visitors who test positive for HIV. The secretary responded by saying he wouldn't have any more to do with ACT UP and that future government contacts would be limited to those that are "necessary and productive."

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, took a different tack at the ACTG meeting. He told participants that he "will promote the inclusion of AIDS constituency representation at every level of NIAID's process of clinical trials." He acknowledged that some scientists would feel inhibited by the activists' presence, but told them to speak freely and said he would back them up if they were unfairly criticized. In the case of valid criticisms, "I certainly hope that as scientists you would want to hear about them and make the appropriate changes," said Fauci.

### Comings & Goings

Former NIH director James B. Wyngaarden, after what turned out to be a transitional stint at the White House Office

of Science and Technology, this month began a 4-year term as foreign secretary at the National Academy of Sciences, succeeding William E. Gordon of Rice University. Wyngaarden will also be serving as the first foreign secretary of the Institute of Medicine.

On the society front, Michael J. Jackson, dean for research at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., will become executive director of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, starting 1 September.

### Leonardo's Secret: Cat Naps

According to legend, Leonardo da Vinci made time for his scientific and artistic endeavors by napping for 15 minutes every 4 hours, limiting his sleep to 1½ hours a day. Now a researcher at Boston's Institute of Circadian Physiology says the study of such sleep patterns may help people such as doctors or firefighters stay alert over extended periods of work.

The researcher, Claudio Stampi, has studied solo ocean racers and found that most take short naps throughout the day, averaging about 5 hours of sleep. But at a recent meeting of the Association of Professional Sleep Societies in Minneapolis, he described a more impressive accomplishment: he guided a

27-year-old male volunteer (a graphic artist) through a cycle of six 15-minute naps a day for 9 days. Although he occasionally overslept, he averaged 2.7 hours of sleep a day. Data from tests of memory, logical reasoning, and simple mathematical calculations suggested, Stampi says, that "overall performance was not significantly reduced." Surprisingly, the subject enjoyed the



Leonardo. Self Portrait

trial enough to volunteer for one lasting 2 months that will begin soon.

It's too early to say how many people could train themselves to sleep like Leonardo—assuming the legend is true. But Stampi doubts that everyone would jump at the chance to go on a sleep diet. He cites the case of the Italian artist who first got him interested in da Vinci's napping pattern 20 years ago. It seems the fellow had adopted

the da Vinci technique to enhance his own productivity, but he "stopped after 6 months," Stampi says. Why? "He didn't know what to do with all his free time, since he wasn't another Leonardo."

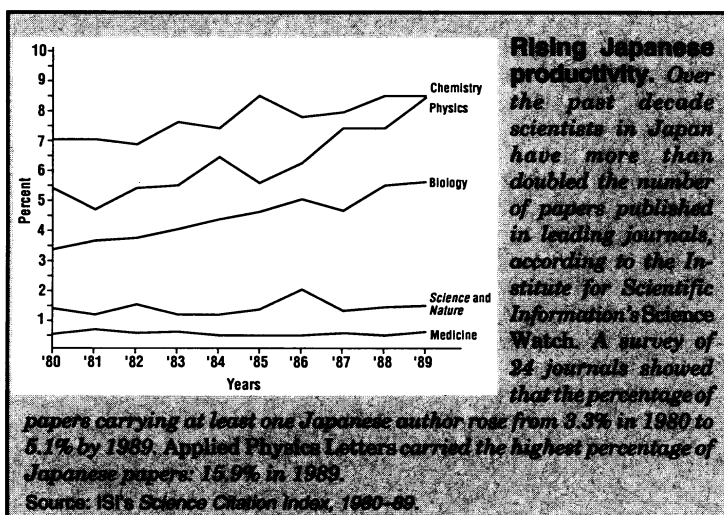
### North Carolina Goes "Soovie"

North Carolina State University is about to be admitted into the Chinese pig cartel, a select group of research institutions that owns every Chinese pig in the United States. NC State researchers have long wanted to study the animals, but the consortium that brought the pigs into the country last year—the U.S. Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Iowa State University, and the University of Illinois—has maintained a monopoly over them. NC State was formally notified in May that it couldn't have any pigs for at least 5 years (*Science*, 15 June, p. 1304).

Enter Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC). Helms, according to an aide, spoke several times with Agriculture secretary Clayton Yeutter and last week was informed that NC State would be admitted into the consortium. ARS administrator Ronald Plowman has told NC State that it can join if it comes up with one-fourth of the costs of bringing the animals into the country and agrees to a joint research program worked out among consortium members. NC State biologist Philip Carter says he has already raised \$350,000 from North Carolina pig producers to pay the entry fee.

### Use of Job Test Curbed

The Labor Department, grappling with the problem of finding a valid employment test that doesn't adversely affect minorities, wants a moratorium on the use of the General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB), the country's most widely used em-



ployment test.

In a 10 July statement, the department proposed that state employment services, which get most of their funding from the federal government, no longer be allowed to use the test to rank applicants for job referrals.

Use of the test has come under attack from several quarters. Minority groups say it is unfair, while others have opposed the method the U.S. Employment Service uses to try to get around the problem of low minority test scores. Called "within group scoring," it involves adjusting scores of minority applicants so they will be competitive with whites in job referrals. Among those who object are handicapped people, who want to be included in special score adjustments, and the B'nai B'rith, which opposes within group scoring.

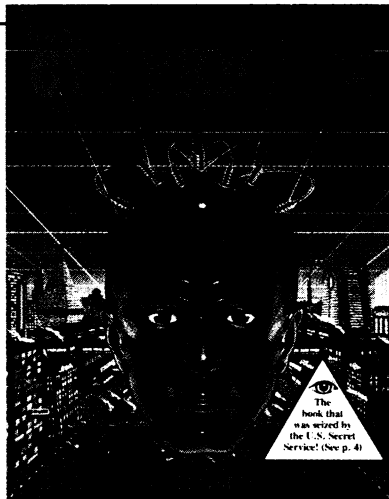
A National Academy of Sciences study conducted for the employment service and released last year (*Science*, 2 June 1989, p. 1036) said the test is valid and endorsed the scoring procedure, but said more research is needed.

The Labor Department intends to conduct a 2-year study to see how the test can be improved and to explore alternate ways of evaluating a worker's potential.

## East German Academy in Peril

While most Germans—East and West—are jubilant about reunification, there is trepidation among the 25,000-member staff of the East German Academy of Sciences, whose financial survival is threatened. The reunification agreement signed last month makes no mention of science or research, and although scientists at the Academy will now receive their salaries in deutsche marks, nobody knows how long the payments can be maintained.

Many of the industrial combines of the East, themselves struggling for survival, have canceled their R&D contracts with the Academy. The East German government has said it will make



**Hacker manual.** This was among materials seized by Secret Service raiders earlier this year.

tional rights apply just as firmly to digital forms of communication as to print media.

For the moment, the foundation will focus on the legal defense of two people targeted in the recent raids: Craig Neidorf, a college student who was charged with wire fraud and receiving stolen property after he distributed a copy of an emergency telephone manual that someone had lifted from Southwestern Bell's computer system, and Steve Jackson, a Texas computer games publisher who runs a bulletin board. Jackson's latest publication—a book called *Gurp's Cyberpunk* which describes fantasy hacker games—was seized along with computer equipment by the Secret Service in March. Agents later returned most of the materials, but Jackson claims to have lost \$125,000 in the process.

Kapor, who says he hopes to civilize the electronic frontier, has recruited two major donors to EFF: Steven Wozniak, a founder of Apple Computer, and an anonymous "Silicon Valley high-tech pioneer." Each has made donations in "six figures." The foundation, in turn, has given \$275,000 to a Palo Alto group, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, for the support of an ongoing civil liberties project.

## Crimebusters vs. Cyberpunks

In a series of raids dubbed Operation Sun Devil, the U.S. Secret Service entered homes in 14 cities earlier this year searching for evidence of computer crimes. Agents broke locks, seized computers, and took four people into custody. The main target was the "Legion of Doom," a group of young "cyberpunk" hackers who have struck terror into the hearts of computer network managers. The doomsters are accused of stealing passwords and illegally tapping into private data banks.

But the raids themselves terrified some people, and last week evidence of a backlash appeared. Mitchell Kapor, the Yale-educated computer whiz who created the Lotus 1-2-3 accounting program, called a press conference in Washington, D.C., to announce the birth of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), formed in response to what some see as overzealous enforcement of computer security laws. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the nonprofit group will try to "create new metaphors," Kapor said, to show that constitu-

good the losses and maintain the Academy's budget of 1.4 billion ostmarks until the end of this year, but will not commit itself further.

Berlin, with 35 of the Academy's 65 institutes, has the biggest problem. "There is a real risk that, in the face of uncertainties, the best institutes and research teams will disintegrate and migrate," says West Berlin's senator for science and research, Barbara Riedmüller. To safeguard the city's international scientific role, she has proposed a 2-year moratorium on budget cutbacks to give the institutes time to restructure. She has also called for peer review to see which institutes and researchers meet the high standards needed to survive.

But there are severe financial obstacles to the plan. Neither the East German government nor the future city-state of Berlin is likely to be able to afford the DM 3 billion (\$1.8 billion) that

each year of grace will cost. Riedmüller is looking to Bonn to pick up the tab, but West German officials have not yet commented on her proposal.



Stephen Hawking

## Hawking Appeals for Handicapped

Stephen Hawking, the theoretical physicist whose severe physical handicaps have not prevented him from becoming a

brilliant scientist and best-selling author, is helping open the door for other handicapped scholars. He is the chief patron of a fund-raising drive to build a hostel for disabled students at Cambridge University.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign, Hawking said he himself had to wait years for a wheelchair ramp to be installed at his department—not much to ask to help one of the finest minds in the world into the building. The department would do no more, it said, because there was no demand. "This is a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Hawking through his voice synthesizer. "If they don't provide facilities for the disabled, there won't be any disabled for whom they have to provide facilities."

The campaign hopes to raise £615,000 (\$1.05 million) to convert a disused hospital into residential and medical care facilities for handicapped students.