Briefings

edited by CONSTANCE HOLDEN

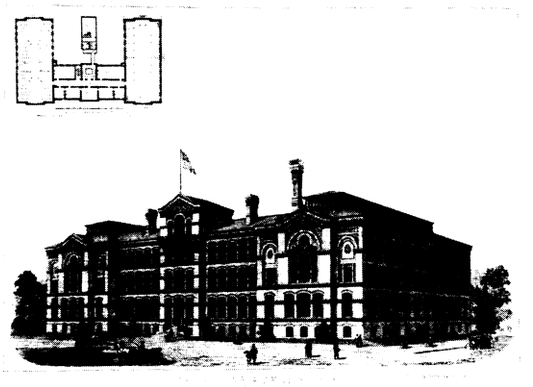
(Male) Chemists in Clover

Unemployment among chemists has hovered close to the 1% mark for 4 years in a row, "the longest such streak of low-level joblessness" since the American Chemical Society started collecting such data in 1971, according to the ACS annual salary survey.* The 9 July issue of *Chemical & Engineering News* reports that salary increases have been averaging 5% a year, keeping pace with inflation. The median salary for a Ph.D. chemist is now $55,000, with the highest mean salary—$71,300—reserved for those in the petroleum and natural gas industries.

Women still lag in compensation. Even when salaries are adjusted to reflect the fact that they are likely to have fewer years of experience, they earn 10 to 20% less than their male counterparts. And "the gap...has shown no sign of closing appreciably in recent years."

*Copies of "Salaries 1990" can be obtained for $170 from the ACS, Room 210, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. "Women Chemists 1990," based on survey data, will be available later in the year for $39.95.

Old Museum Seeks New Eminence



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"The Old Red Brick." *The Army medical library and museum stood on the Mall from 1887 to 1968.*

Once upon a time there was a museum on the Mall in Washington, D.C., that was so popular it attracted nearly 1 million visitors a year to gaze at horrifying exhibits of nature gone awry, as well as other, less upsetting objects related to health and medicine. But in 1968, the museum was razed to make room for the new Hirshhorn Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, and its contents were banished to relative obscurity on the campus of Washington's Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Now the National Museum of Health and Medicine is trying for a comeback. Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop is chairing a new foundation that will try to raise private money to make the museum the attraction it once was. A search for a new home on the Mall will begin later this summer.

In addition to being the repository of 325,000 historic artifacts, 17,000 anatomic specimens, and 2.2 million documents and photographs, museum director Marc Micozzi says the museum will also have timely exhibits on topics such as AIDS. He adds that human anatomy scientifically presented may be less upsetting to conservative legislators currently railing against "obscene" artistic efforts.

NIH's Top Ten

The National Institutes of Health, despite fears that it is losing its competitiveness with the private sector as an employer, still houses some of the most productive scientists on the globe, reports *The Scientist*. Or at least the National Cancer Institute does.

AIDS researcher Robert C. Gallo, chief of the NCI's Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, was the most referenced scientist in the world in the 1980s, garnering 23,232 citations according to a list compiled by the Institute for Scientific Information. But he is only one of 10 NIH researchers who rank among the world's 100 most cited researchers (almost all of them biomedical researchers) in the period 1981–88. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, racked up 10,617 citations. The other eight of NIH's Top Ten—all of whom range in age from 49 to 59—are:

- Ira H. Pastan, chief of NCI's Laboratory of Molecular Biology;
- Thomas A. Waldmann, chief of NCI's Metabolism Branch;
- Stuart A. Aaronson, chief of NCI's Laboratory of Molecular Biology;
- Michael B. Sporn, chief of NCI's Laboratory of Chemoprevention;
- William E. Paul, chief of NIAID's Laboratory of Immunology;
- Ronald G. Crystal, chief of the Pulmonary Branch of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute;
- John W. Daly, chief of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry of the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases;
- Steven A. Rosenberg, chief of surgery at NCI.

The second most cited scientist in the '80s is Stuart F. Schlossman of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, with 13,522 references. The single most cited paper of the decade originated in Japan: "The role of protein kinase C in cell surface signal transduction and tumor production," published in *Nature* by Yasutomi Nishizuka of Kobe University.

Free Software "Genius" Honored

Each year, the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation suprises around 30 individuals with 5-year "genius" grants of $150,000 to $375,000. Most go to recognized talents in science, public policy, and the arts, but the foundation also likes to include the occasional offbeat character.

This year's oddball choice is Richard Stallman, 37, a Cambridge, Massachusetts, programmer best known for writing a flexible and extremely popular text editor known as GNU Emacs—a program he gives away free to anyone who asks.

To Stallman, the success of GNU Emacs is just the first step toward achieving a much larger goal: the elimination of restrictions on the copying and redistribution of computer software. Five years ago, Stallman founded the Free Software Foundation, which is building GNU, a free alternative to the popular UNIX computer-operating system. There's no telling when GNU might be complete, although many pieces of the system are already available.

Simson L. Garfinkel

Richard Stallman. *$240,000 to a radical who thinks software should be free.*

Up to now, Stallman has been leading a monastic existence, living and working in an office donated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. "Since I haven't had to spend much time making a living," he says, "I haven't thought much about what I'll do" with the