

provide the kinds of assistance that a more concentrated effort in Houston, Texas has permitted.

Although California plays a pivotal role, SS&C is not just a "California program." With five project centers, including those in North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Iowa, Texas, and California, and total funding at \$10.6 million (\$8.6 million from the National Science Foundation and \$2 million from the Department of Education), this is a serious national effort.

The SS&C project has at its basis three fundamental features. Only *one* can be found in Soviet education. That same feature—"spaced learning" (studying a science subject area every year for several hours a week, rather than every day of the week for just 1 year)—can be found in virtually every industrialized nation except the United States. Two other features are far more important: (i) sequencing content from experience with phenomena to build concepts, and revisiting science topics at successively high levels of abstraction through 5 or 6 years of study; and (ii) greatly reducing coverage to increase depth of understanding in terms of How do you know? Why do you believe? and What is the evidence? These latter two features are missing from most European and Eastern block national educational programs, including the Soviet Union's.

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"High Risk" Anthropology

Ann Gibbons (Research News, 22 June, p. 1488) describes recent findings on indigenous development of complex culture in Amazonia, highlighting the research of Anna Roosevelt. Roosevelt's research has been funded twice by the Anthropology Program of the National Science Foundation. We frequently fund research such as Roosevelt's that is contrary to the consensus in the field. The NSF Anthropology Program now has a specific initiative, "Grants for Exploratory Anthropological Research," that is designed to encourage exploratory "high-risk," innovative study in archeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology. We applaud *Science* for choosing to highlight such iconoclastic scientific inquiry.

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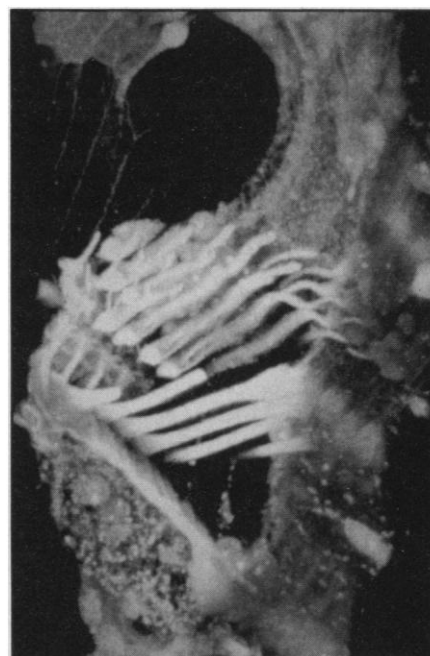
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