AS NEWS & NOTES

edited by S. L. BYRAND

Election Results for AAAS Officers

Following are the results of the 1997 election. The slate and vote count are given for the president-elect and board members; for other offices, successful candidates are listed. Terms begin on 18 February 1998.

General Offices

President-Elect: Stephen Jay Gould (14.663); Simon A. Levin (7,125). Board of Directors: Michael J. Donoghue (7,086); Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (10,322); William A. Lester Jr. (9,426); Neena B. Schwartz (11,485). Committee on Nominations: D. Allen Bromley, Harold A. Mooney, Peter H. Raven, F. Sherwood Rowland.



Stephen Jay Gould

Section on Agriculture, Food, and Renewable Resources

Chair-Elect: James M. Tiedje. Member-at-Large: Robert G. Zimbelman. Electorate Nominating Committee: Larry Boersma, Mary Louise Flint.

Section on Anthropology

Chair-Elect: Dean R. Snow. Member-at-Large: Kenneth M. Weiss. Council Delegate: Karen B. Strier, Electorate Nominating Committee: Linda Lehman Klepinger, Steadman Upham.

Section on Astronomy Chair-Elect: Richard F. Green. Member-at-Large: Richard Tresch Fienberg. Council Delegate. Owen Gingerich. Electorate Nominating Committee:

Stephen S. Holt, William B. Hubbard.

Section on Atmospheric and **Hydrospheric Sciences** Chair-Elect: Ronald G. Prinn. Mem-

ber-at-Large: Barry Saltzman. Electorate Nominating Committee: David Halpern, Lynda Shapiro.

Section on Biological Sciences

Chair-Elect: Judith S. Weis. Member-at-Large: Mary D. Barkley. Council Delegates: Nina Strömgren Allen, William M. Kier, Robert A. Koch, Ann P. McNeal, Baldomero M. Olivera. Ann Sutherland, Richard B. Vallee, Peter C. Wainwright. Electorate Nominating Committee: Jerry L. Bryant, Sydney Anne Cameron.

Section on Chemistry

Chair-Elect: Ed Wasserman. Member-at-Large: Wilma K. Olson. Council Delegates: Charles P. Casey, Joseph B. Lambert, Robert J. Silbey. Electorate Nominating Committee: Scott E. Denmark, C. Bradley Moore.

Section on Dentistry

Chair-Elect: Martha J. Somerman. Member-at-Large: Deborah Greenspan. Electorate Nominating Committee: Arthur R. Hand, Mark C. Herzberg.

Section on Education

Chair-Elect: Angelo Collins. Member-at-Large: Mary M. Atwater. Electorate Nominating Committee: Thomas Michael Keating, Mary B. Nakhleh.

Section on Engineering

Chair-Elect: Martin C. Jischke. Member-at-Large: Gail H. Marcus. Electorate Nominating Committee: Richard J. Goldstein, David A. Hodges.

Section on General Interest

in Science and Engineering Chair-Elect: Thomas H. Moss. Member-at-Large: Lynn Edward Elfner. Electorate Nominating Committee: Sheila D. David, Susan J. Kafka.

Section on Geology and Geography

Chair-Elect: Donn S. Gorsline. Member-at-Large: Arthur L. Bloom. Council Delegate: Eldridge M. Moores. Electorate Nominating Committee: Sally P. Horn, Mary E. Savina.

Section on History and **Philosophy of Science**

Chair-Elect: Alan E. Shapiro. Member-at-Large: Sara Joan Miles. Electorate Nominating Committee: Angela N. H. Creager, Bruce V. Lewenstein.

Section on Industrial

Science and Technology Chair-Elect: Robert L. Stern. Member-at-Large: Charles F. Larson. Electorate Nominating Committee: Robert E. Noyes, Albert R.C. Westwood.

Section on Information, Computing, and

Communication

Chair-Elect: William Richards Adrion. Member-at-Large: Peter A. Freeman. Electorate Nominating Committee: Christine L. Borgman, C. William Gear.

Section on Linguistics and Language Science

Chair-Elect: D. Terence Langendoen. Member-at-Large: Susan Steele. Electorate Nominating Committee: Kenneth L. Hale, Lise Menn.

Section on Mathematics

Chair-Elect: Ronald G. Douglas. Member-at-Large: De Witt L. Sumners. Council Delegate: William Yslas Velez. Electorate Nominating Committee: James Lepowsky, Audrey Terras.

Section on Medical Sciences Chair-Elect: Priscilla A. Schaffer. Member-at-Large: Russell Ross. Electorate Nominating Committee: Diana W. Bianchi, Marie C. McCormick.

Section on Neuroscience

Chair-Elect: Richard W. Tsien. Member-at-Large: Alan D. Grinnell. Council Delegate: Shelley Halpain. Electorate Nomi*nating Committee*: Robert Desimone, Apostolos P. Georgopoulos.

Section on Pharmaceutical Sciences

Chair-Elect: John M. Cassady. Member-at-Large: Laurence H. Hurley. Electorate Nominating Committee: Gayle A. Brazeau, Deanna L. Kroetz.

Section on Physics

Chair-Elect: David N. Schramm. Member-at-Large: Glennys Farrar. Council Delegates: Anne Kernan, Paul S. Peercy. Electorate Nominating Committee: Bill R. Appleton, Miriam A. Forman.

Section on Psychology

Chair-Elect: R. Duncan Luce. Member-at-Large: Geoffrey R. Loftus. Electorate Nominating Committee: Michela Gallagher, Kathryn T. Spoehr.

Section on Social, Economic, and Political Sciences

Chair-Elect: Michael S. Teitelbaum. Member-at-Large: Richard (Pete) Andrews. Electorate Nominating Committee: Ronald J. Angel, Catherine E. Rudder.

Section on Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering

Chair-Elect: Jurgen Schmandt. Member-at-Large: Daniel M. Kammen. Electorate Nominating Committee: Rosa Haritos, Pilar Nicole Ossorio.

Section on Statistics

Chair-Elect: David R. Brillinger. Member-at-Large: Janet Wittes. Electorate Nominating Committee: Susan S. Ellenberg, Sue Leurgans.

Exploring the Ins and Outs of Web Anonymity

Giving access to ever-increasing audiences and databanks, the Internet has greatly magnified both the value of anonymity and its potential for abuse. To launch a formal discussion of the ethical, social, legal, and commercial dimensions of anonymity on the Internet, a AAAS conference gathered some 40 experts from a number of fields, including the social sciences, law, technology, philosophy, and commerce. "We brought together what we feel are some of the best minds with a diverse range of experience to examine the questions and concerns that anonymity raises," said Al Teich, director of AAAS's Science and Policy Programs, which organized the conference with funding from the National Science Foundation.

On 21 through 23 November at the University of California at Irvine, participants from such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Human Rights Watch gathered to share their perspectives on the uses and abuses of anonymous communications on the Internet. Despite a diversity of opinions, certain themes permeated the discussions: more consumer and public education is needed to create well-informed users who are familiar with the technologies available for surveillance and anonymity; private citizens should have the right to block unwanted anonymous communications; and any future steps to set policy in this area must be taken with great caution and must rely on the democratic process.

"It's very important not to move precipitously," said Philip Reitinger of the Department of Justice when offering his personal viewpoint after attending the conference. "Anonymity is a very complex issue that needs more exploration. This conference was a fabulous start." Reitinger, a trial attorney with the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division, added, "I can see how certain restraints on anonymity would restrict free speech more than they would aid law enforcement." Saying that a balance must be struck between the need to trace anonymous criminal speech and to protect people from human rights abuses, Reitinger added, "Any prescriptive or legal solutions have to be very narrowly tailored in light of the risks posed by anonymity and its values, and what the market and technology are able to provide."

John C. Cherniavsky of the National Science Foundation echoed the need "to urge legislators to go real slow in passing legislation restricting anonymity or its implementing technology public key cryptography." He ex-

Proactive Stance Against Database Protection

The AAAS Board of Directors recently adopted a "Statement on Intellectual Property Protection for Databases" and is asking other scientific and engineering associations to endorse it as well. The statement relates to an issue debated in the U.S. Congress and at the World Intellectual Property Organization: National and international proposals call for a new protection of databases that is independent of the rights already ensured by copyright laws. Congress has scheduled a second hearing in February 1998 on legislation that was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives this past October.

Describing the database proposals as "inimical to scientific progress," the AAAS statement explains how access for research and education could be severely restricted if the proposals are adopted, thereby impeding not only the full and open exchange of scientific data, but also the social and economic benefits that stem from scientific discoveries. Available at http://www.aaas.org/spp/dspp/sfrl/aaasdb.htm, the statement presents a set of principles for evaluating future proposals. For more information, contact Mark Frankel or Alex Fowler at 202-236-6600. plained, "We don't fully understand the potential economic consequences of such restrictions." Research presented at the conference showed that the biggest barrier to the Internet being used as a marketplace is consumers' lack of trust regarding privacy. Technology that ensures anonymity and pseudonymity could help alleviate their concerns.

"I'm afraid that the laws you'll need to pass to stop anonymity are going to have to be unbelievably draconian," asserted Lance Cottrell in a round-table session at the end of the conference. Cottrell invented and manages Mixmaster, an online service for sending anonymous communications. Cottrell discussed that he finds it worrisome that most people do not realize that their Internet activities can be monitored if they do not use anonymizing technology. "What we do today may come back to haunt us later," he warned, referring to how Senator Joe McCarthy ruined careers by dredging up his targets' past activities-which had not been illegal at the time. "I'm not willing to bet that we will not have a McCarthyist state in 50 years."

AAAS staff and Rob Kling, editor of The Information Society, will draw on the conference deliberations and other materials generated by the AAAS anonymity project to draft a report to help sort through the problems and possibilities that anonymity on the Internet raises. The report will be published in a special spring issue of The Information Society. The four papers that AAAS commissioned for the conference will also be included. Moreover, a symposium on anonymity on the Internet featuring several of the conference participants will be convened at the AAAS Annual Meeting in February. AAAS also plans to incorporate information from the conference into material for computer ethics courses and a policy briefing for U.S. congressional staff.



In View of Darwin

Niles Eldredge of the American Museum of Natural History was one of 18 speakers at a November conference on the Epic of Evolution. Co-sponsored by AAAS's Program of Dialogue Between Science and Religion and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, the conference combined presentations on the latest findings in evolutionary research with religious and philosophical reflections on those findings.

Eldredge reported that because of human-caused mass extinctions, life on Earth is now nearing the end of the Cenozoic Era that began about 65 million years ago. If humans are to have a future, said Eldredge, they must learn from recent research into the five previous global mass extinctions that have had a profound impact on the evolution of life. "Evolution did not fix things until the vector of extinction was eliminated," warned Eldredge. "We are now the vector and we are six billion strong. Unless we stop doing what we are doing, or unless we disappear, evolution will not be fixing anything."

In the meantime, the anonymity conference has already provided some more immediate results. Participant John M. Grohol, a psychologist and director of Mental Health Net, reported, "The conference has raised in my mind the need to elucidate clear policies on our Web site and to ensure that people who visit that site know those policies and how much privacy they can expect realistically." Mental Health Net is an online service that provides information and support regarding mental health issues.