

of which is that, despite being conducted by fallible and disputatious humans, the process of science yields an ever-unfolding increase in understanding.

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References

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Jensen's AAAS Fellowship

I regret the controversy occasioned by the election of Arthur Jensen as a fellow of the AAAS. The nomination of fellows in Section J (Psychology Section) does not "operate in mysterious, random ways" as implied by Philip M. Boffey in the 11 March issue of *Science* (News and Comment, p. 965). In addition to the procedures for nomination indicated in the *Science* article, our section committee reviews the roster of section members each year to identify potential candidates. Jensen's nomination was evaluated in accordance with our regular procedures.

Jensen's career as a research scholar goes well beyond the work which has aroused debate. Members of our section would not, I feel sure, support racist interpretations of his work, nor, I dare say, would Jensen himself. But to allow the threat of controversy to supersede consideration of scientific merit would be ignoble of the AAAS and of our section.

We trust that members who question Jensen's election will review, and read, his total list of publications to judge for themselves whether his election was appropriate.

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Arthur Jensen's election as a AAAS fellow is an insult and an affront to the minority members of the AAAS because it represents a carte blanche endorsement of his philosophies by the AAAS.

At the council meeting where the action took place, William Wallace of Harvard University sought unsuccessfully to read a brief statement—not "make a speech," as Boffey reports—on behalf of minority scientists. A press conference

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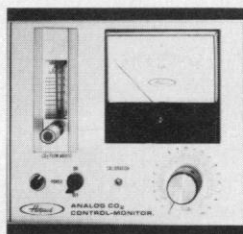
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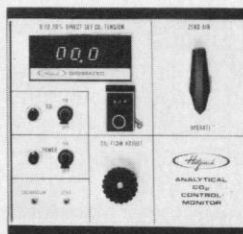
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held immediately after the proceedings was called by minority scientists of the AAAS, not by Wallace alone. Many of us were unable to attend the press conference because of inflexible travel arrangements. We did, however, jointly compose the statement which was read. This statement reflects not only the thinking of Wallace, but of many other minority scientists.

Boffey also incorrectly reports that "there was a vote on whether to remove Jensen's name from the list and refer it

back to the Committee on Fellows for further consideration." The proposal that was actually voted upon and which passed by one vote was one which *tabled* a proposal to send Jensen's name back to the committee. The council therefore never voted on sending Jensen's name back to the committee.

What is most significant is that the council not only disregarded the position of its many minority members concerning the issue, but it refused to let a representative be heard. Minority scientists

must therefore seriously question whether the AAAS respects or deserves our membership. Many of us think not.

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Naming Arthur Jensen as a fellow of the AAAS will have long-lasting effects upon minority and potential scientists. Jensen's work appears to suffer from a failure to give adequate recognition to the role of the environment, especially the nutritive factor, in determining the development of young humans during intrauterine life as well as during early childhood.

While it is fruitless to expect scientists to work without mistakes, they should design their experiments efficiently, taking full advantage of pertinent information available. Further, scientists should be sensitive to the necessity for adequate controls in their experimental designs.

That Jensen's work has been made the basis of a nomination of such honor makes one wonder about the quality of the nominating committee, to say nothing of the section and the discipline Jensen represents.

It is understandable that the AAAS was unable to prevent the nomination. However, it should take a serious look at the disciplines included in the AAAS, and where the kind of license observable in Jensen's activities flourishes, the discipline should not be considered a science.

The image of the AAAS now is not one which could be presented favorably to minority students in science. Technical training, with emphasis on the applied fields, may well become the outlet of choice for brilliant young blacks in the rest of the 1970's and the 1980's. This is some improvement over earlier circumstances, but a tremendous loss of potential will necessarily follow this reminder that the battle of minorities to survive, develop, and contribute in this country is far from won.

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When the election of Arthur Jensen as a fellow of the AAAS was announced, there was a feeling among a number of my colleagues at Brooklyn College that a

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LETTERS

(Continued from page 832)

reasoned response should be made by professional educators. At the same time, there was concern among some that a statement opposing Jensen's election would be an infringement of his academic freedom and First Amendment rights. Because of this concern, it was felt that the passage of a resolution in the name of the entire faculty would be an unfair imposition of majority rule. The outcome was the following statement, signed by 34 members of the faculty.

We, the undersigned members of the faculty of the School of Education of Brooklyn College, CUNY, deplore the recent action of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in conferring the honor of fellowship upon Arthur R. Jensen. Although we vigorously support Dr. Jensen's academic freedom to conduct research according to his lights and to publish his findings, we consider it inappropriate to honor him for his work. Despite extensive and competent criticism of both the methodology employed and the static genetic conception of intelligence inherent in his study, his findings relating to racial differences in IQ have had and may well continue to have serious social consequences. Whether or not it is the intent of the Association, the honor bestowed upon Dr. Jensen cannot fail to lend support and credence to those findings.

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Civil Defense and Nuclear Blackmail

Several points in Jay Orear's letter "Nuclear arsenals" (26 Mar., p. 1284) are puzzling. He considers the hypothetical situation in which the Soviet Union evacuates its cities according to civil defense procedures so that the United States could inflict less than 4 percent (estimated) losses to the Soviet population. If the United States were then presented with a nuclear blackmail threat unless it acceded to Soviet demands, it would have to either give in or risk the loss of almost half its population. We would prefer a situation in which our President cannot be confronted with such a choice, a situation obtainable through modest U.S. civil defense measures (1).

Orear implies that it would be safe to choose the second alternative because the Soviet Union would in no case risk the loss of its industrial installations, much of its fuel, and its transportation