

Section O (Agriculture) points to two symposia they arranged which drew great interest outside the agricultural community—"The Use of 2,4,5-T in Viet Nam," presented in 1969, and "Energy and Food Production: Contemporary Technology and Alternatives," presented in 1976.

Coyt T. Wilson (Blacksburg, Virginia), secretary of Section O, maintains that his section's work in planning annual meeting symposia is important because, "agricultural scientists also need to communicate with those whose primary interests are in other disciplines, including natural resources, the environmental sciences, the social sciences, government, cultural anthropology, history, and economics. The symposia sponsored or co-sponsored by Section O at the annual meetings provide an opportunity for communication among these diverse groups. Section O also enhances communication among the agricultural and biological sciences represented by its affiliates. Finally, the symposia provide an opportunity for discussion of broad issues in which agricultural scientists and non-agricultural scientists share mutual interests."

The secretary of Section N (Medical Sciences), Leah Lowenstein (School of Medicine, Boston University Medical Center), says her section "organizes four to six symposia . . . on the advances in timely and important aspects of medicine and health policy. The symposia are also a means of reporting research that is at the interface between medicine and the scientific disciplines of other members of the AAAS." Recent Section N symposia include those on advances in gerontology, health policies for the 1980's, and endorphins.

Some of the most successful symposia presented at recent AAAS meetings have been those resulting from collaboration between sections. At the 1980 meeting in San Francisco, Sections L (History and Philosophy of Science) and N (Medical Sciences) sponsored "Ethical Issues in Human Reproduction Technologies: Analysis by Women." Section L also worked with Section B (Physics) to put on "Science and Pseudoscience."

One outstanding symposium, "Sociobiology: Beyond Nature-Nurture," at the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in 1978, was the work of seven sections: G (Biological Sciences), H (Anthropology), J (Psychology), K (Social and Economic Sciences), L (History and Philosophy of Science), Q (Education), and X (General).

Emphasizing this interaction and the interdependence of the scientific dis-

ciplines is a key element in the role of the Association. As they have since 1848, the sections continue to provide the vital linkages between the AAAS and the specific scientific and engineering disciplines.

Any member who is not currently enrolled in a section and would like to be should write to AAAS Member Records at the AAAS address.

JOAN WRATHER  
Office of Public Information

## **Science 80** **Goes Monthly**

Beginning with the anniversary issue in November, *Science 80* will publish ten issues per year (monthly, but with combined January/February and July/August issues).

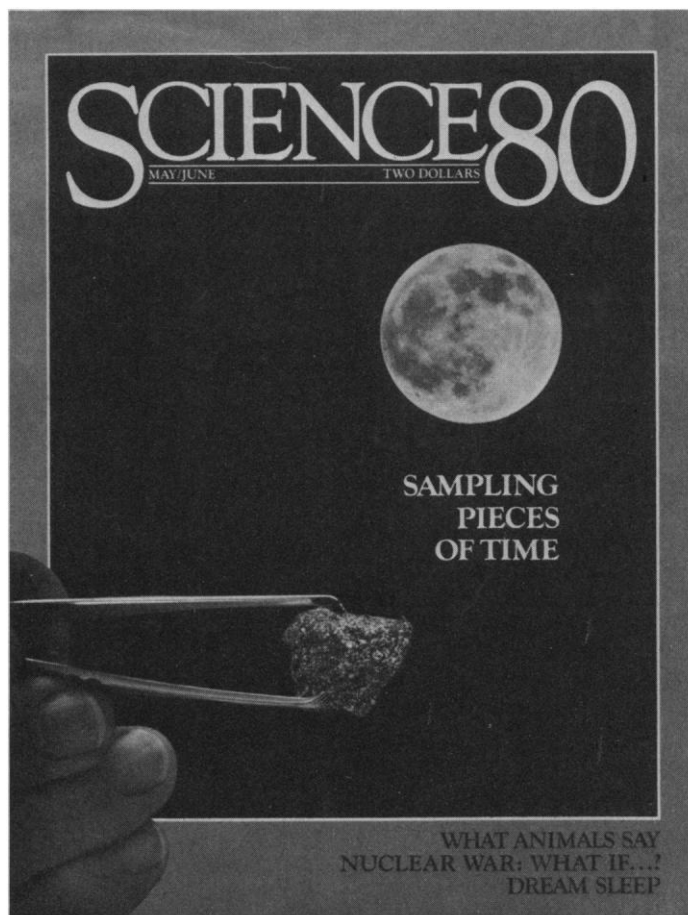
At its April meeting the AAAS Board of Directors approved the increase in frequency on a schedule slightly ahead of that originally contemplated, reflecting good experience during the first year of operation and growing editorial capability.

Reader response to the magazine has on the whole been extremely positive

during the initial year. Pay-up rates on credit orders and early renewal rates have both been very high compared to most general audience magazines, and editorial surveys of the readership find an equally high level of satisfaction among 80 percent of those surveyed. More than 400,000 copies of the magazine are now being mailed to subscribers, with each copy attracting on average between 3.0 and 3.5 readers. Readers report that they typically spend a couple of hours with the magazine, going back to it several times.

Some early problems were experienced in handling subscription orders at the fulfillment house, but performance there has improved. (Any AAAS member still having difficulties with *Science 80* subscriptions should communicate the details to Carol LePere, circulation director, at the AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.)

Reaction to the magazine has been favorable in other ways, too. The cover story in the July/August issue, reporting the finding of bacteria 3½ billion years old—the oldest proof of early life yet discovered—was picked up on the front page of *The New York Times* and featured in news magazines. Several other



stories have also been widely reprinted and have generated inquiries from Congress, federal agencies, and universities. The magazine is exceeding financial projections and its success has attracted major competition from the Time, Inc., and Hearst publishing groups.

## AAAS Symposium Volumes

AAAS News in the 6 June 1980 issue of *Science* calls attention to the new AAAS Symposia Series published by Westview Press containing papers presented at recent annual meetings of the Association.

The article implies that not until the 1960's were symposia published in book form in the United States. The two main exceptions to this were AAAS and Interscience Publishers. After publishing four symposia as supplements to *Science*, AAAS started a Symposium Series in 1938 with *Tuberculosis and Leprosy—The Mycobacterial Diseases*. The series ended in 1973 with volume 94 *Separation and Depression*.

Some of the titles are still available at AAAS; most can be purchased from Xerox—University Microfilms of Ann Arbor, Michigan—either in book form or on microfilm. A small number of books have been republished by other firms. A complete list of all 94 titles is available from the AAAS publications office.

A few examples include: *Science in Communist China*, 1961; *Sex in Microorganisms*, 1954; *Soviet Science*, 1952 (5 years before Sputnik); and *Psychopharmacology*, 1956. *Human Malaria*, 1941, received wide circulation during World War II; *Monomolecular Layers*, 1954, was reprinted in the Soviet Union; and *Tranquilizing Drugs*, 1957, was reprinted in Japan.

HANS NUSSBAUM  
Business Manager

## COAL Meets to Plan Future Activities

The AAAS Committee on Arid Lands (COAL) met 19-22 June at the Desert Experimental Range in southwestern Utah, adjacent to one of the proposed MX missile sites, to plan program activities for the next 3 years. The site provided a particularly appropriate backdrop for one of COAL's primary charges, identification of high priority issues in arid lands. Potential program activities

## AAAS Travelers

The AAAS has been invited to send a representative to the 68th session of the Indian Science Congress Association to be held 3-7 January 1981 at Varanasi, under the auspices of the Banaras Hindu University. The theme will be "Impact of the Development of Science and Technology on Environment."

AAAS members who plan to be in the area at that time and/or who know of colleagues on sabbatical in the region who might be able to attend should contact Denise Weiner, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address. Please include a curriculum vitae. No travel funds are available; however, partial support (per diem only) will be provided.

were summarized under three major headings: domestic, bilateral, and global.

Domestically, proposed resource development in the arid West raises a number of major issues that bear on the question of what level of impact is acceptable in an environment that does not have a great deal of resiliency. Projected population increases associated with large-scale development activities may go beyond the capacity of small isolated rural communities to absorb them. Demand for water in the West exceeds the supply available. Who will reap the economic benefits, and who will bear the environmental costs of development? What effects will energy development, hazardous waste disposal, and construction and implementation of the MX missile system have on the social structure, quality of life, and the arid environment? Are open spaces a national treasure in their present form, or should they be regarded as space available for development? What are the unique aspects of reclamation in the arid West that make rehabilitation of impacted western vegetation systems so different from reclamation in other parts of the country?

To address these issues COAL is planning a 3-year series of symposia at the AAAS annual meetings on the theme: "Development in the Arid West: Choices and Conflicts." The first symposium will address the unmet requirements of the Navajo Irrigation Project where the choice of capital investment for the Navajo is complicated by an inadequately developed infrastructure.

The second symposium will concentrate on the paradoxes posed by the need to use certain scarce western resources to make the area's more abundant resources available to meet national needs. The last symposium in the series will deal with the complexities of reconciling results from scientific models with real-time market decisions in food production.

Symposia are only one of the activities planned for the 3-year period. Other major program areas concern the bilateral efforts of the United States and Mexico to combat desertification through development and improved land management. The global perspective of arid land development problems will involve coordination with the AAAS Climate Project and providing an improved clearinghouse function for the private sector.

COAL also seeks an enlarged role in the area of project review, policy guidance, and advisory consultation on matters of arid land conservation and development.

CYRUS M. MCKELL  
(Institute for Land Rehabilitation, Utah State University), chairman, COAL  
PRISCILLA REINING,  
Staff representative, COAL

## Foreign Graduate Students Attend R&D Colloquium

A group of twelve self-sponsored foreign graduate students attended the fifth annual AAAS Colloquium on R&D Policy held in Washington, D.C., 19-20 June 1980.

They were invited under the combined auspices of the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the AAAS. The students, currently studying in United States universities were from France, Iceland, India, Iran, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Taiwan. Their fields of study include chemistry, oceanography, biology, aquaculture, poultry nutrition, education, anatomy, physics, anthropology, and pharmacology. This was the fifth time that a grant from the IIE has enabled AAAS to invite foreign graduate students to a major Association activity.

**For more information about the activities and publications described in AAAS News, write to the appropriate office, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, unless otherwise indicated.**