

54 organizations representing various social and behavioral sciences reveal that 37 organizations voiced definite opinions, while 17 conveyed no preference. Of those registering an opinion, 20 organizations supported a new directorate and 17 were opposed.

While organizations within the social and behavioral sciences were generally more in favor of a separate directorate than were organizations within the biological sciences, several did not support separation. These included the American Anthropological Association, the Society for American Archaeology, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Society for Complex Carbohydrates, the Society for Research on Biological Rhythms, the Animal Behavior Society, and the International Society for Chronobiology.

An important reason to maintain the existing structure, cited by several of these organizations, is the intellectual "bridge" they constitute within the existing Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences Directorate. Disciplines such as anthropology and archeology, especially, share philosophical concerns and research methods with *both* the social sciences and the biological sciences. A separate directorate would sever these valued connections and work against the multidisciplinary foundations of our research.

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#### AIDS Research at NIH

"NIH: The price of neglect" by Rick Weiss (News & Comment, 1 Feb., p. 508) brings up some of the problems that impede or threaten to impede the work of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). However, a reference to the "AIDS funding bonanza" misrepresents the situation within the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Rather than "heady times," the DAIDS is experiencing a chronic inability to fill allocated staff positions, including those of several branch chiefs. At present, 20 (16%) of these positions are unfilled. Excluding eight that have been vacated within the last 6 months, these positions have remained unfilled for an average of 14 months each. There has been, for example, no chief of the

Medical Branch since December 1988. This has created a situation in which the DAIDS suffers from "enormous stresses on existing staff, creating rapid burnout and high turnover rates" (1). Those of us in the activist community can only be appalled by the toll this takes in human lives.

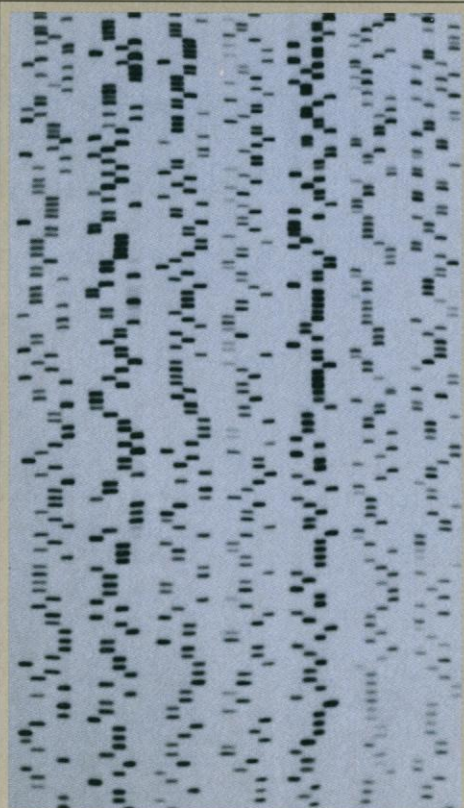
On a more positive note, the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990, when fully implemented, will enable DAIDS and NIH to solve their staffing problem. This legislation will raise salaries, provide recruitment bonuses of up to 25% of annual salary, and supply a variety of other financial remedies that will improve the situation of all "general schedule" federal employees (2). Prompt implementation of this legislation and congressional action to allocate necessary funds will surely enable NIH to jump start its sputtering engine.

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#### REFERENCES

1. D. Hoth, Director, Division of AIDS, NIAID, personal communication.
2. "Treasury Department and other agencies appropriations bill" (House-Senate Conference Report on HR 5241, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC, 1990).



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