Daniel S. Goldin

the choice of Vice President Dan Quayle's National Space Council, Goldin has spent much of his career in the classified world of spy satellites. Even spy expert Jeffrey Richelson, author of *America's Secret Eyes in Space*, concedes: "I've never heard of him."

Goldin, 51, is a New York native and a 1962 engineering graduate from the City College of New York. He has worked as a research scientist at NASA, and since 1987 has been vice president and general manager of the TRW Space and Technology Group in Redondo Beach, California, which develops secret payloads for the military as well as robot research devices for NASA. Projects in TRW's "black" portfolio are parts of the KH-11 imaging spy satellite, the MILSTAR satellite communications system, and the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization's "Brilliant Pebbles" anti-missile package. TRW also gets credit for its work on NASA's highly successful Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellites, and the still unfinished Advanced X-ray Astrophysical Observatory. Although his background is in robotics, Goldin is also said to favor programs that would send humans to Mars and beyond.

There is some concern on Capitol Hill about Goldin's lack of political experience. "This guy comes from a defense world where you don't talk about what you're doing or why you're doing it," says one congressional aide, adding that "the head of NASA needs to have a political profile, to be an advocate." Still, the aide says he anticipates no "overt opposition to the nomination."

Strange Bugfellows

What do you call it when a pest-control company sponsors a museum's display of insects? Cognitive dissonance? Or maybe just financial necessity. That's what led the Smithsonian Institution to accept the sponsorship of the Orkin Pest Control Co. for their popular insect zoo. The firm, whose motto is "We destroy them all," has given $500,000 to the museum for a much-needed renovation.

The Washington Post quotes Frank Talbot, director of the National Museum of Natural History, to the effect that "what we're doing is creating a public-private partnership," which, he says, is the only way to get things done "with the current budgetary crisis." And Orkin is happy for the chance to show its eco-side—"We share the philosophy that insects are a vital part of nature," says a spokesperson.

The newly named O. Orkin Insect Zoo will re-open in September 1993 with several new exhibits, including a Florida mangrove swamp habitat, a rain forest, and a desert habitat. Those won't be the only new features of the zoo. Also on show will be the Orkin corporate logo—breaking from the Smithsonian's old policy, which barred the display of corporate emblems in permanent exhibits.

Needleman Redux

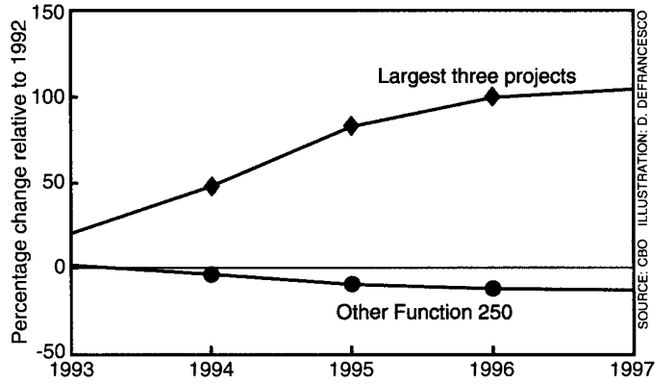
Psychiatrist Herbert Needleman of the University of Pittsburgh, widely known for work linking childhood lead exposure to lowered IQs, is back in the news. A university panel that has been looking into charges of scientific misconduct by Needleman has determined that a formal investigation is appropriate.

The charges relate to a paper by Needleman and colleagues that was published in the 29 March 1979 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Regarded as a landmark in the field, it showed that increased childhood exposure to environmental lead, as measured by lead levels in baby teeth, correlated with subsequent behavioral and intelligence deficits. Although the research results have been replicated, critics such as Claire Ernhart of Case Western Reserve University and Sandra Scarr of the University of Virginia have repeatedly raised questions about the criteria Needleman used to select his subjects and statistical methods used in the paper (*Science*, 23 August 1991, p. 253). Late last year, the NIH Office of Scientific Integrity asked the University of Pittsburgh to determine whether a formal investigation was necessary.

Needleman maintains that the allegations are purely the result of a lead industry effort to discredit his research. He has asked that Pittsburgh make public the typically confidential investigation process, and says he is confident that he will be completely cleared. While the preliminary inquiry concluded there may be methodological problems with the paper, Needleman says the inquiry determined that he did not "fabricate, falsify or plagiarize," when conducting the original research.

According to Jerome Rosenberg, research integrity officer for the university, the investigation should be completed by mid-May.

Small Science Squeeze



If practitioners of "small science" are looking for confirmation of their fear that "big science" is threatening their livelihood, they will find it in a staff memorandum prepared by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). CBO points out that the three biggest civilian science and technology projects—the space station, the Earth Observing System, and the Superconducting Super Collider—account for two-thirds of the Administration's proposed fiscal year 1993 increase in the budget category known as Function 250, which includes the National Science Foundation, much of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the general science programs of the Department of Energy. What's worse for small science devotees is that this year's proposal may be only the thin end of the wedge. CBO projects that the annual budgetary needs of the three mammoth projects will double between 1992 and 1997—yet the Administration's budget assumes flat funding for Function 250 beyond 1993. If those projections turn out to be correct—a big if—the result isn't hard to figure: Small science gets squeezed (see chart). Some relief would come from allowing Function 250 to grow. But, as CBO points out, there will be increasing pressure to cut total government spending to hold down the ballooning federal deficit, with the result that "by 1995, the cumulative cuts will be so large that Function 250 is unlikely to escape without any reduction."