

National News

U.S. faces severe shortage of scientists

The United States is facing one of the worst shortages of scientists in its history, according to a federal researcher.

The shortage is worse than it was in the late 1950s, when the Soviet Union took a lead with the 1957 launch of Sputnik, said Bassam Shakhshiri, assistant director of the National Science Foundation.

"The situation the country faces is more critical . . . than we faced in the post-Sputnik era," he told the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society in Los Angeles Sept. 26.

The country will be short about 400,000 graduates with bachelors' degrees in science and engineering by the year 2000.

Shakhshiri called for a "scientifically literate society" composed of citizens who can "distinguish astronomy from astrology."

NASA astronauts 'briefed' by rock star

The entire NASA astronaut corps was forced to listen to a "briefing" by rock singer John Denver the week of Sept. 19.

Denver is trying to get the Soviets to take him on a trip to the Mir space station. The Soviets said they will charge Denver \$10 million and require him to live in Russia for one year.

NASA officials, after consulting with the State Department, scheduled the briefing while Denver was in Houston to receive a space readiness physical, as requested by the Soviets.

All astronauts were required to attend. Most were reportedly extremely angry that on the eve of the most crucial shuttle launch ever, they and other NASA personnel were wasting time with Denver.

During the briefing, Denver, who said he was personal friends with Mikhail Gorbachov, said the Soviets have invited other Americans to go on the Mir. One disgrun-

ted astronaut yelled out, "Oh yeah? Who? Jane Fonda?"

Russians declare Dukakis debate winner

Michael Dukakis was the winner of his televised debate with George Bush, insists *Pravda*, the newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party.

Pravda reported that the Sept. 25 debate only touched on Vice President George Bush's attitude toward Soviet reform and on the personality of the Massachusetts governor. The debate focused, however, on domestic problems.

"And here, Dukakis . . . spoke more strongly, repeatedly reminding viewers of such 'achievements' of the administration as the gigantic budget deficit, millions of homeless people on the streets of American cities, and reductions of federal higher education aid to the poor," said *Pravda*.

Most viewers felt that neither Bush nor Dukakis had scored a "knock-out" in the first of their two planned television debates. "However, considering that Dukakis is lagging behind for today, even a draw can be deemed a victory for him," it concluded.

MK-Ultra victims go to court

Former mental patients who were victims of the CIA's "MK-Ultra" project will appear in a Washington, D.C. court in the first week of October, to charge that British-born Dr. Ewen Cameron, former president of the World Association of Psychiatrists, used them as guinea-pigs in the CIA's secret research project, Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* reported Sept. 25.

These patients, who were at Dr. Cameron's hospital in Montreal between 1957 and 1960, are each claiming \$1 million in damage from the CIA. The case, expected to last a week, "will embarrass the CIA," and challenge the entire practice of psychiatric medicine, the *Telegraph* commented.

Actually, the 1960s project, which involved experimentation with mind-altering substances, was conducted at the initiative of the British Establishment and British intelligence's "left wing," typified by such creatures as Bertrand Russell and the Huxley brothers.

Cameron, now deceased, was responsible in 1945 for advising the court in Nuremberg on the mental state of captured Nazi leaders. Ironically, in the upcoming case, witnesses for the plaintiffs will draw parallels between what Cameron did, and what Nazi doctors did at Auschwitz and other concentration camps.

According to the *Sunday Telegraph*, "Cameron's work was funded by the CIA as part of a secret project, code-named MK-Ultra, and received about \$60,000 in research grants through an intermediary organization called the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology."

Schmoke repeats call for drug legalization

Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, who spearheaded the Eastern Establishment's drive to legalize dangerous drugs in May, when he called for a "wide-ranging debate" on the issue at the National Conference of Mayors in Washington, has now called for outright legalization of marijuana in congressional testimony.

Testifying at hearings of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, Schmoke called for "a redefinition of the role of the criminal justice system in the fight against drugs," including immediate elimination of criminal penalties for possession of marijuana.

All other criminal statutes on drugs, he said, should be revised in accordance with the findings of a commission which would assess the "relative potential for harm which a drug possesses."

Schmoke also called for the expansion of methadone maintenance programs, and for other forms of narcotics maintenance, including cocaine and heroin maintenance. He recommended institution of a clean needle exchange program, as a way to reduce the spread of AIDS.

Allies sign space station agreement

The United States, Japan, Canada, and European nations formally signed an agreement to cooperate on the U.S. space station Freedom, in Washington Sept. 29. The space station is scheduled for launch in the mid-1990s.

Signed were Intergovernmental Agreements on the station—umbrella agreements for completing and delivering the foreign components and laboratories for the station, and which define the legal parameters under which the international facility will operate.

According to Margaret Finarelli of NASA, the station is the largest cooperative scientific and technological venture the United States has ever entered into.

NASA has given multiple briefings to the press on the space station program at the Kennedy Space Center, trying to increase public support for the program.

Congress has funded the station through March to the tune of \$400 million, with another \$500 million placed at the discretion of the next President. He must quickly decide whether to go ahead with the effort.

Without a space station, the United States cannot go back to the Moon, let alone consider a manned Mars mission in the decades ahead.

U.S. to lose storm tracking capabilities

Budget cuts may cause the United States to lose a large chunk of its severe-storm tracking capabilities, at a time of unprecedented weather phenomena globally.

At issue is the \$25 million cost of continuing to operate 12 specially equipped WC-130 aircraft in an active duty squadron at Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

Last year, all U.S. Air Force tracking of storms and typhoons in the Western Pacific was eliminated due to budget cuts, and this year, the Atlantic squadron may be eliminated.

Air Force Secretary Edward Aldridge, Jr. claimed that satellites are good enough to track storms, but Mark A. Zimmer of the National Hurricane Center in Miami argues that aircraft surveillance is essential for accuracy in certain forecasting situations, such as Hurricane Gilbert, this century's largest.

To make matters worse, one of the two key weather satellites over the United States, GOES West, is about to cease functioning, which will force its twin, GOES East, to be moved away from the Atlantic to provide cover for both coasts, much reduced.

Due to both budget cuts and the repeated failures of U.S. satellite launches over the past three years, the next GOES weather satellite is not expected to be launched and in operation for more than a year.

Should anything happen to GOES East during its orbital change, then the United States will be almost completely blind to the movement of air masses and storms in the adjacent oceans.

Canada won't guarantee New England power

Hydro-Quebec, the Canadian utility company that steadily supplied New England with electricity last winter, has announced that it cannot be counted on to do the same this year.

Last winter and this summer, the New England Power Pool barely had enough power to supply the needs of its customers. The Pool had to initiate rationing and power cutbacks at least 20 days last year, while Boston Edison cut its voltage 5% on numerous occasions to meet peak summer demand.

On one August afternoon, Edison had to cut off all power to four large office towers in Boston.

In the winter 1987-88, Hydro Quebec supplied roughly 3% of New England's total needs.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis has argued that the state does not need New Hampshire's Seabrook nuclear facility or any additional power, claiming that any increased demand due to growth could be met by conservation or by buying the power from Canada.

● **FATHER Junipero Serra**, the Franciscan monk who founded California's Christian missions in 1796 and is known as "California's first citizen," will be beatified by Pope John Paul II. "Serra has been honored in U.S. history with his statue in the Rotunda in Washington, D.C., representing the state. Now we see Church officials allowing him to take his place in Church history as well," said a spokesman of the Diocese of Monterey.

● **FYODOR BURLATSKY**, a top policy adviser to the Soviet KGB, told a select group at Harvard University Sept. 28 that Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis is "more in my heart," even though GOP candidate George Bush is "more in my mind." Dukakis, he said, is "more liberal—like me."

● **MIKE TYSON**, the undisputed heavyweight boxing champion, has "personal problems" which have been the subject of much press sensationalism, but *EIR*'s sources says the media coverage actually reflects a battle between organized crime groups for control of his contract, one represented by the late Roy Cohn's intimate, Donald Trump, and the other by the Jacobs brothers.

● **MARIO CUOMO'S** fundraising group in New York State, the Friends of Mario Cuomo, has announced that it plans a Nov. 30 dinner to raise \$2 million to add to his campaign war-chest for reelection as governor. The war-chest already contains \$3.5 million.

● **RAYMOND DONOVAN'S** case is not quite over. Bronx, New York District Attorney Paul Gentile said Sept. 29 that he was reopening the investigation of jury-tampering in the trial in which the former labor secretary and co-defendants were acquitted of fraud and grand larceny charges. The probe had been dropped by the FBI in May 1987.