

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Science serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Editorial Board

1977

WARD GOODENOUGH	DONALD KENNEDY
CLIFFORD GROBSTEIN	NEAL E. MILLER
H. S. GUTOWSKY	RAYMOND H. THOMPSON
N. BRUCE HANNAY	

1978

RICHARD E. BALZHISER	FRANK W. PUTNAM
JAMES F. CROW	MAXINE SINGER
HANS LANDSBERG	PAUL E. WAGGONER
EDWARD NEY	F. KARL WILLENBROCK

Editorial Staff

Editor

PHILIP H. ABELSON.

Publisher

WILLIAM D. CAREY

Business Manager

HANS NUSSBAUM

Managing Editor: ROBERT V. ORMES

Assistant Editors: ELLEN E. MURPHY, JOHN E. RINGLE

Assistant to the Editors: RICHARD SEMIKLOSE

News and Comment: JOHN WALSH, Editor; PHILIP M. BOFFEY, LUTHER J. CARTER, BARBARA J. CULLITON, CONSTANCE HOLDEN, DEBORAH SHAPLEY, NICHOLAS WADE. Editorial Assistant, SCHERRAINE MACK

Research News: ALLEN L. HAMMOND, Editor; GINA BARI KOLATA, JEAN L. MARX, THOMAS H. MAUGH II, WILLIAM D. METZ, ARTHUR L. ROBINSON. Editorial Assistant, FANNIE GROOM

Book Reviews: KATHERINE LIVINGSTON, LINDA HEISERMAN, JANET KEGG

Cover Editor: GRAYCE FINGER

Editorial Assistants: JOHN BAKER, ISABELLA BOULDIN, ELEANORE BUTZ, MARY DORFMAN, SYLVIA EBERHART, JUDITH GOTTLIEB, CAITILIN GORDON, CORRINE HARRIS, NANCY HARTNAGEL, OLIVER HEATWOLE, CHRISTINE KARLIK, RUTH KULSTAD, MARGARET LLOYD, JEAN ROCKWOOD, LEAH RYAN, SHARON RYAN, LOIS SCHMITT, YA LI SWIGART, ELEANOR WARNER

Guide to Scientific Instruments: RICHARD SOMMER

Membership Recruitment: GWENDOLYN HUDDLE; Subscription Records and Member Records: ANN RAGLAND

Advertising Representatives

Director

EARL J. SCHERAGO

Production Manager

MARGARET STERLING

Advertising Sales Manager: RICHARD L. CHARLES

Sales: NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036: Herbert L. Burklund, 11 W. 42 St. (212-PE-6-1858); SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. 07076: C. Richard Callis, 12 Unami Lane (201-889-4873); CHICAGO, ILL. 60611: Jack Ryan, Room 2107, 919 N. Michigan Ave. (312-DE-7-4973); BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. 90211: Winn Nance, 111 N. La Cienega Blvd. (213-657-2772); DORSET, VT. 05251: Fred W. Dieffenbach, Kent Hill Rd. (802-867-5581)

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE: 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phones: (Area Code 202) Central Office: 467-4350; Book Reviews: 467-4367; Business Office: 467-4411; Circulation: 467-4417; Guide to Scientific Instruments: 467-4480; News and Comment: 467-4430; Reprints and Permissions: 467-4483; Research News: 467-4321; Reviewing: 467-4443. Cable: Advancesci, Washington. Copies of "Instructions for Contributors" can be obtained from the editorial office. See also page xi, *Science*, 26 March 1976. ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE: Room 1740, 11 W. 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. Phone: 212-PE-6-1858.

The Denver Meeting: Afterthoughts

With the Proceedings Issue of *Science*, the recent Annual Meeting in Denver belongs to the history of the AAAS. At all such meetings, the symposium arrangers and participants, together with the local hosts, control the indices of satisfaction. Judging from the feedback, the Denver meeting seems to have been a thoroughly enjoyable affair, touched in no small degree by the warmth and friendliness of the community. To Maurice Mitchell and John McKinney, who chaired the local committee, and to their volunteer associates the AAAS owes much. As for the symposium arrangers and panelists, on whom the substantive burden of the meeting fell, any expression of thanks falls short of adequacy.

The predicament of Arthur Herschman, who must plan each annual meeting, is awesome. He must make hard choices if the meeting is to be representative of the range and diversity of contemporary science and technology, reflect a sensible balance of subjects and treatment, and convince members that they should attend. Somehow, justice is done and not too many friends alienated, and the suspicion here is that Herschman has found a way to clone Monte Carlo methods with psychology.

The function of an annual meeting is not to be taken for granted. In the case of the AAAS meeting, it has evolved as a process of interdisciplinary communication in science and technology and an instrument for public understanding. But this focus on the horizontal axis can be carried too far, at the expense of straightforward discussion of main directions in scientific discovery. In future meetings, this degree of tilt will be more carefully calibrated.

What might have been just a pleasant and useful week in Denver turned into something else at the midweek meeting of the AAAS Council. A classic AAAS family fight erupted when it was discovered that a controversial psychologist had been recommended for election as a Fellow. What needs to be said, and said firmly, is that scientific disputes are best handled through remedies that exist within the appropriate professional society, rather than by turning the AAAS Council into an inept jury. It must be added that the vote to accept one controversial scientist as a Fellow in no way places the imprimatur of the AAAS on theories that many members find unacceptable. Until now, the AAAS has had room for every shade and hue of opinion and has not presumed to judge who is right or wrong. It should beware of moral judgments taken when tempers are hot: they are a smoking gun that science does not need.

Aside from this, the Denver meeting met all expectations. More than 4000 attended, not counting throngs of Colorado citizens who came to the public lectures. Once again, good preparatory work enabled many physically handicapped scientists to participate—a marked change for the better. Women scientists and other minorities including Native Americans left their mark on the meeting. Foreign scientists, young and old, contributed to the proceedings generously, and prominent members of the house of science found time to rap with high school students. The Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division added a fresh element to the meeting by sponsoring contributed papers and poster sessions.

Time passes. This was the 143rd national meeting of the AAAS, and what we saw was good. Now the work begins so that when we meet in Washington, D.C., the tools of science and technology will fit the work of the nation. By this time next year the Carter Administration will be more of a known quantity and its approaches to national and international initiatives in science, technology, and human affairs should provide a bearing on future trends and issues. If the Denver meeting shed light on "Science and Change: Hopes and Dilemmas," the Washington meeting can be a catalyst for decisions.

—WILLIAM D. CAREY

Science

The Denver Meeting: Afterthoughts

WILLIAM D. CAREY

Science **196** (4287), 265.

DOI: 10.1126/science.196.4287.265

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/196/4287/265.citation>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.