

3. **Expansion of the *Journal for Politics and the Life Sciences*.** As the foregoing remarks indicate, there is growing interest in evolutionary biology within each of the social sciences. We need to keep our identity as a group of political scientists who study and teach biopolitics. At the same time, our journal is in financial trouble because there is an insufficiently large base within any one social science discipline for a self-supporting publication. I have long thought that there are two possible solutions we should consider: a cooperative agreement with another professional association with our general orientation that does not have a journal (Evolution and Human Behavior Society, International Society for Human Ethology, Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research); a cooperative merger with another journal which, like ours, has a subscription that is below the self-sustaining level.

1) **Cooperative Agreement.** Other groups like the Evolution and Human Behavior Society, the Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research, and The International Society for Human Ethology have membership lists cutting across disciplines. We would at least double the distribution of the journal by a cooperative agreement with any one of these groups. For some, an agreement might best be one in which each organization had control over a separate section of the journal — i.e., it could have “Departments” for articles targeted to its primary audience. Much, of course, would be common — general interest articles, book reviews, etc. An expansion of the length of each issue would be necessary, but could make the journal self-sustaining.

2) **Cooperative Merger.** Several journals now exist that may be interested in a merger. Combination with another journal, like a cooperative agreement between associations, would expand the journal’s subscription toward a self-sustaining level while permitting the Association to retain its identity. I know one University Press whose willingness to take over publication of PLS depends on an expansion of this sort.

Actions to Be Taken

It seems to me that the Association needs to explore options in a flexible way. With regard to a Faculty Seminar in Biopolitics, I would be willing to pursue negotiations with the Gruter Institute to see if a proposal can be made to the Council at a meeting in San Francisco — with the full understanding that APLS is in no way engaged by my so doing. Is this acceptable? On the Journal, I think we need to delegate authority to a small committee (Tom, Odelia and Jim) to propose options.

cc: Ad Hoc Committee

OTHER NEWS

European Sociobiological Society

The 13th meeting of the European Sociobiological Society (ESS) was held at the Department of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Tampere, Finland, August 10-12, 1990. The theme of the meeting was “Fifteen Years of Sociobiology: Retrospect and Prospects.” However, this theme attracted only eight papergivers to Tampere, and only a few of the papers directly concerned the general theme of the convention. The meeting of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, held only a week later in Los Angeles, probably decreased participation from Western Europe. In fact, most of the papergivers were from Eastern Europe and India, and this indicates the spread of sociobiological ideas to the East.

The following papers were presented at the ESS meeting in Tampere: Tatiana Chernigovskaya, Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Psychology, USSR Academy of Sciences, Leningrad: “Neuropsychological and Cross-Cultural Approaches to Cognitive Processes;” Vitaliy Egorov, Department of Psychiatry, Crimean Medical Institute, Simferopol, U.S.S.R.: “Sociobiology and Psychiatry: Toward a New Synthesis;” Valentina Leonovicova, Laboratory of Evolutionary Biology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague: “Sociobiology in Eastern Europe: Retrospective and Prospects;” R. Srinivasa Rao, Department of Education, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India: “The Positive Influence of Sociobiology on Human Development;” Pouwel Slurink, Faculty of Philosophy, Catholic University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands: “Sociobiology and the Perennial Problems of Philosophy;” A. Srivastava, Department of Zoology, University of Jodhpur, India: “Infanticidal Efforts by a Subadult Male Langur: a Fact Sociobiology Fails to Explain;” Tatu Vanhanen, Department of Political Science and International Affairs, University of Tampere, Finland: “Thirteen Years of Sociobiology in Finland;” and Jan Wind, Institute of Human Genetics, Free University, Amsterdam: “Some Sociobiological Reflections on the Sexual Dimorphisms of the Human Larynx.”

From the perspective of political science, Pouwel Slurink’s talk on his doctoral thesis concerning sociobiology and the perennial problems of philosophy was probably the most interesting. He argued that philosophy, as the perennial quest for truth about the human situation and about human destiny, has much to learn from sociobiology. He tried to

show that various sociobiological ideas can affect philosophical disciplines as diverse as epistemology, ethics, and even metaphysics. Philosophy can no longer be an a priori foundation of knowledge, nor a purely phenomenological analysis of the human situation, nor a linguistic analysis of our most fundamental concepts. Slurink rejected the popular opinion that philosophical analyses are not dependent on developments of natural science and concluded that "dualism must be dead and the vision of philosophers like Wittgenstein, who thought philosophy could develop apart from science, must be one big mistake."

The next meeting of ESS will probably be held in Prague in 1991.

Tatu Vanhanen
University of Tampere

Conference on Medical Care of the VIP

A conference was held in Washington, DC, December 6-8, 1990, focusing on the medical care of the elite patient. The George Washington University's Political Psychology Program and Department of Emergency Medicine sponsored the program which included lectures and panel discussions on topics such as: The pathology of leadership; the doctor's dilemma: ethical and role conflicts in treating the VIP; the ailing VIP and the media; the Reagan assassination attempt: the view from the inside; leadership under crisis-induced stress; and treating the VIP patient: pitfalls and pearls. This international conference was the first to focus on the issue of medical care of the VIP patient.

Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment

The Committee for the National Institutes for the Environment has opened a Washington office to spearhead efforts to establish a National Institutes for the Environment (*BioScience* 40(8): 567). The NIE proposal is an effort to greatly expand environmental research and education to direct environmental policy through a new funding agency. Of the \$9 billion in federal extramural support for science, 11% goes to environmental sciences broadly defined. This amount could be increased and the results of this research made more applicable to solving environ-

mental problems through an interdisciplinary agency, analogous to the National Institutes of Health. If funded the present proposal would set up a series of problem-oriented institutes that would support competitively-awarded mission-oriented environmental research. Legislation to request that the National Academy of Sciences study the NIE concept is still presently moving through Congress. The plan for the NIE is still in an early conceptual stage. Environmental scientists who are interested in having input in the process should contact Dr. David E. Blockstein, Director of the Washington office of the NIE committee. The office is housed at the American Institutes for Biological Sciences building, 730 11th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001-4521; phone (202) 628-4303; fax (202) 628-4311.

Conference - The Microbiologist and Biological Defense Research: Ethics, Politics and International Security

The objective of this conference is to scrutinize and clarify ethical issues facing researchers that are undertaking, or are considering to undertake, Department of Defense-supported research under the Biological Defense Research Program. The four sessions (and speakers) are: *A Historical Perspective on the Ethical Issues Posed by Biological Weapons* (James Poupard, Sheldon Harris, John Ellis van Courtland Moon); *The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Researcher* (Raymond Zilinskas, Charles Floweree, David Huxsoll, Zsolt Harsanyi); *Ethical Issues Facing the Researcher Performing Biological Defense Research* (Marc Lappe, Doug MacLean, Robert Sprinkle, Francis Boyle); and *Scientific Societies and the Ethical Issues Raised by Biological Defense Research* (Joel Dalrymple, Gail Cassell, Harlyn Halverson).

The conference will be held April 4 and 5, 1991 on the campus of the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), Catonsville, MD. It is sponsored by the Center for Public Issues in Biotechnology of the Maryland Biotechnology Institute, Center for the History of Microbiology, UMBC, American Society for Microbiology, and Physicians for Human Rights. Major Support for the conference is provided by the National Science Foundation. Persons interested in attending this conference may contact:

Raymond A. Zilinskas
Center for Public Issues in Biotechnology
UMBC, FA 519
Catonsville, MD 21228

Funds are being sought to support travel and expenses for a small number of graduate and undergraduate students and post-doctoral researchers. Persons interested in applying for such support may write:

Helen Zilinskas
ASM Archives, Library
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Catonsville, MD 21228

Book Review Opportunities

The *Southeastern Political Review* recently has changed its editorial personnel. The *SPR* is a refereed, general purpose journal of political science. Individuals who would be interested in serving as book reviewers are urged to contact the book review editor. As a general purpose journal, books and their reviews will cover a wide range of topics and methodologies. Interested individuals should indicate the areas or topics for which they could offer expert commentary. Potential reviewers are urged to indicate whether they would be willing to do review essays (more than one book in overlapping areas) and/or roundtable reviews (more than one person discussing the same book). Please contact:

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