

# behavioral sciences

## STUDENT UNREST

### New assembly to investigate problems

Acting on the problem of campus disturbance, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is establishing an organization to investigate the responsibility, function and purpose of colleges and universities.

The new organization—The Assembly on University Goals and Governance—will seek the cooperation of legislators, professors, administrators and both satisfied and dissident students.

The assembly plans to conduct work by policy councils. The papers and recommendations from the councils will be discussed at forums held throughout the country.

President Martin Meyerson of the State University of New York at Buffalo will be chairman of the assembly.

## URBAN IMPROVEMENT

### Long-range research programs

At the request of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, two committees of the National Research Council last week published reports indicating a need for more long-range programs of research and development to investigate the needs of the people and to solve the problems of the nation's cities.

One study concerned itself with social and economic aspects, the other with technological and cost-reducing techniques. According to the results, short-term projects must be developed, but emphasis must be on projects that will yield contributions over the long term.

The committees call for:

- Studies on population growth and change, economic and social characteristics, redistribution and demographic aspects.
- More efforts to study the operation of existing legal programs.
- Development of more effective information systems.
- Development of more appropriate measures for evaluating the improvement of the quality of urban life.

The Committee on Social and Behavioral Urban Research was headed by Dr. Raymond A. Bauer of Harvard University. Dr. James F. Young of the General Electric Co. was chairman of the Committee on Urban Technology.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### First American Indian college continues

The Office of Economic Opportunity has announced plans to continue support of the Navajo Community College at Many Farms, Ariz.

The college, opened in January, is the first in the country planned, developed and operated by and for Indians.

By awarding the grant, the OEO is attempting to prove that this type of college can be uniquely responsive to the educational and economic needs of a rural community.

The college serves as a laboratory for experimentation in the field of Indian education. It enrolls promising high-school graduates as well as high-risk youths and under-educated adults. Ned Hatathli, a Navajo Indian, is president of the college.

## SUICIDE

### Suicide prevention prediction

Four St. Louis researchers suggest that, by studying the people who call suicide prevention centers, prediction of actual suicide potential can be improved.

The researchers, Dr. George E. Murphy, Dr. James N. McClure Jr., Richard D. Wetzel and Mrs. Carolyn S. Swallow of Washington University School of Medicine, interviewed 55 people who called the suicide prevention center on their own behalf.

They found that the callers were mostly young and mostly female. Fifty-eight percent had histories of previous suicide attempts.

The researchers judged that 98 percent of the callers were psychiatrically ill—almost one-half had a history of psychiatric hospitalization, and nearly two-thirds had voluntarily consulted a psychiatrist at some time.

In most cases the calls were prompted by feelings of depression, confusion or fear, the investigators report in the September *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY*.

## GERONTOLOGY

### Successful center for the aged

Reporting on the progress of new programs used in the Philadelphia Geriatric Center, Mrs. Elaine Brody, director of the agency's department of social work, indicates that older people there have an increased sense of comfort and security.

Dr. Bernard Liebowitz, assistant executive director of the center, and Mrs. Brody, explained, at the 8th International Congress of Gerontology, that there has been considerable progress in linking investigations of social and medical problems of old age to advances in practical care and service.

Among the programs at the center are those that deal with the problem of overcrowding. The center is experimenting with old people living in their own quarters with some services from the agency and an assured place on the waiting list for admission in case of need. With this group the agency provides some housekeeping, a main daily meal and social work consultation.

## PALEONTOLOGY

### Conodont an invertebrate

Further fossil remains of the body of the conodont animal (SN: 6/15/68, p. 569)—until recently, known only by its teeth-like fossils—have been found, Dr. Harold Scott of the University of Illinois reports.

The knowledge of what has been called conodont, because all that was available was tiny tooth or jaw-like fossils, has been expanded by the discovery made by William Melton Jr. of the University of Montana, of five separate impressions of the whole animal in Montana's Little Snowy Mountains. This find presents the first substantial bit of evidence for description of the entire animal.

Preliminary examination of the fossil specimens at the North American Paleontological Convention in Chicago this month seems to show that the animal was an invertebrate.