

taking over, would be nearly eliminated from the 1982 budget.

DOE Beyond the massive cuts announced for the Energy Department on Feb. 18 — which tended to mirror Office of Management and Budget proposals announced a few weeks earlier (SN: 2/21/81, p. 116)—the only new policy offering announced this week was restoration of funds for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. This signals Reagan's aim to renew the nation's nuclear vigor, evidenced elsewhere in the budget with money to design an even bigger breeder and research funds to augment cleanup of the beleaguered Three Mile Island nuclear plant. The other big spending initiative would step up filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve — a project that would end up totaling 28 percent of DOE's budget. □

## Proposed cuts stir psychology lobby

Eight distinguished psychologists from across the country met last week at the American Psychological Association in Washington, but they did not assemble to discuss important research findings. Their designation was "Board of Scientific Affairs," and their purpose was to begin to formulate a plan of action (and reaction) to deal with the impending cuts in federal funds for the behavioral and social sciences. It was not an easy task for scientists unused to participating in political lobbying and persuasion. Their initial suggestions included a plan to mobilize APA membership, especially at the upcoming convention, to communicate the needs of psychology research and education to legislators, and a motion was made to pressure the National Academy of Sciences to more forcefully urge the appointment of a presidential science advisor. Scant mention was made of fortifying lobbying efforts on the Hill, but the Association for the Advancement of Psychology, a lobbying group that works on behalf of APA policy, is gearing up for rougher times. "We want to organize the community for an ongoing process," says executive director Clarence J. Martin, "not just encourage individual letter writing where responsibility stops after the letter is mailed."

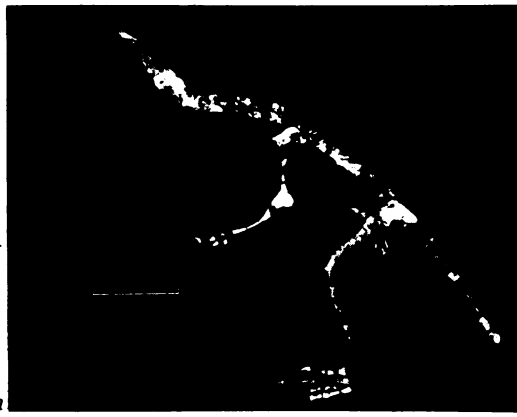
The AAP began its "research support network" last fall, and now has about 500 psychologists listed in a word processing system with descriptions of their areas of specialty, funding sources and agency contacts, and ways they are willing to become politically active. AAP officials expect to receive more applications for the network in the coming weeks. "I'm sure that lobbying for more appropriations will be the highest priority for psychologists," says University of Michigan psychologist Wilbert McKeachie. "But we haven't approached the level of organization of other scientific disciplines." □

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## Dinosaur dinner is new genus



Bones of 1.3m reptile (top right) were found beneath rib cage of another fossil skeleton (left) as marked by dashed lines. Reconstruction of ingested reptile at bottom right.



Chatterjee/Phil. Trans. R. Soc. Lon.

More than a decade ago, a pair of 180-million-year-old fossil skeletons of the crocodile-like reptile *Parasuchus hislopi* were found side by side in the flood plain deposits of central India. Remarkable for their close proximity, the fossils were soon found to be even more unusual: Beneath the rib cage of each *Parasuchus* lay a fossil skeleton of another reptile. Apparently, each *Parasuchus* had gobbled the same type of reptile for its last meal. And it turns out, as reported by Sankar Chatterjee in the Dec. 19 *PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON*, the identical prey may represent a new genus and species of eosuchian reptiles.

Chatterjee has named the newly found reptile *Malerisaurus robinsonae* for the Maleri geological formation in which it was found and in honor of Pamela Robinson, a paleontologist who studied extensively in the region. A member of the group

from which snakes and lizards are believed to have evolved, *Malerisaurus* is notable for its large hindlimbs, which the skeleton shows to be almost twice as long as the forelimbs. From this, Chatterjee, who is with the Department of Geosciences at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, infers that *Malerisaurus* was probably bipedal — ran on its hind legs. From other skeletal and geological evidence, Chatterjee concludes that the animal probably lived near the water's edge, was an insectivore and that each individual was mature — about 1.3 meters long — at the time of death. The cranial bones are "disassociated and jumbled," he notes, implying that the predator "... oriented its prey head first, like modern crocodiles, during initial capture and swallowed the body whole." As for why *Parasuchus* died so shortly after their last meal: "Perhaps the prey was poisonous to eat." □

## Mixed ruling in evolution trial

What began as a widely publicized court battle between evolutionists and fundamentalists ended last week when a judge in Sacramento, Calif., ruled that existing state educational policies did not violate the religious liberties of persons who believe in the biblical version of creation. But Superior Court Judge Irving Perluss also directed state education authorities to distribute to schools and textbook publishers a policy statement saying that Darwin's theory of evolution should be treated not as "dogmatism," but as "a conditional statement where speculation is offered as an explanation for the origins of man..."

At first, the case appeared to mirror the Scopes Trial of 1925, in which a biology teacher was found guilty of violating Ten-

nessee law, which prohibited the teaching of evolution. Kelly Segraves filed the California suit on behalf of his children to argue that they were being denied their right to be taught the biblical story of creation. He and his lawyers insisted that they were not advocating the teaching of religion in public schools, but wanted the presentation of another scientific version, what they called "scientific creationism." Their demands were tempered during the trial, and in the end they settled for a policy that requires science teachers to acknowledge the existence of other theories. Segraves, director of the Creation-Science Research Center, plans to continue his cause and has not ruled out an appeal. Both sides claimed victory after the decision was handed down on March 6. □