

OF THE WEEK

Advances in southern sky	116
Breeder reactor promoted	117
Drugs cut cancer relapses	117
Hormones impede pregnancy	117
Evolutionary protein clock	118
Future electronic vistas	118
Reapproaching marijuana	119

RESEARCH NOTES

Biology	120
Behavior	120

ARTICLES

Magnetic monopoles revisited	122
------------------------------	-----

DEPARTMENTS

Books	114
Letters	115
Letters: Nuclear debate	121

COVER: The newly commissioned Anglo-Australian Telescope gives a much sharper view of such southern-sky features as the Magellanic Clouds, where it has discovered carbon monoxide. See p. 116. (Photos: Australian Information Service.)

Publisher	E. G. Sherburne Jr.
Editor	Kendrick Frazier
Senior Editor and	
Physical Sciences	Dietrick E. Thomsen
Senior Editor and	
Behavioral Sciences	Robert J. Trotter
Biomedical Sciences	Joan Arehart-Treichel
Biology/Chemistry	Janet L. Hopson
Science and Society	John H. Douglas
Space Sciences	Jonathan Eberhart
Contributing Editor/	
Mathematics	Lynn Arthur Steen
Copy Editor	Michelle Galler Riegel
Art Director	Dale Appleman
Assistant to the Editor	Susan Strasburger
Books	Margit Friedrich
Advertising	Scherago Associates, Inc.
	11 W. 42nd St.
	New York, N.Y. 10036
	Fred W. Dieffenbach
	Sales Director

Copyright © 1976 by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS is prohibited.

Editorial and Business Offices
1719 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Subscription Department
231 West Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$10; 2 yrs., \$18; 3 yrs., \$25. (Add \$2 a year for Canada and Mexico, \$3 for all other countries.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to be addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202-785-2255). Cable SCIENSERV. Telex 64227.

LETTERS

Plastic pop bottles

The Dec. 6, 1975, SCIENCE NEWS contains an article entitled, "Against Plastic Pop Bottles." While this brief article merely quotes material originating in ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION, you may be interested in facts concerning polymeric beverage containers rather than misrepresentations. For example, in an accelerated test employing the unrealistic exposure to 120°F temperature, we, Monsanto, were able to detect acrylonitrile in the food simulating solvent after 65 days. However, a carbonated beverage would never be subjected to these conditions. Further, 65 days at 120°F is equivalent to four years at room temperature. Obviously, the presence of detectable acrylonitrile under the conditions of the test has no practical significance. Neither the ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION article nor your brief summary pointed out this significant fact.

The article states, "The company manufacturing the bottles won't release relevant information concerning the long term effects of this contamination." This is simply not true if the company referred to is Monsanto. And I am confident no other company is refusing to release information on the toxicology of migrants from their containers. To obtain a regulation from the Food and Drug Administration permitting the commercial use of our bottle, data on both migration and toxicology of migrating species satisfying FDA chemists and toxicologists had to be provided. Incidentally, our studies show no detectable migration of anything from our bottle under standard FDA test procedures. The sensitivity of the test used ranged from 5 to 50 parts per billion.

F. D. Wharton Jr.
Manager
Environmental Affairs
Container Business Group
Monsanto Commercial Products Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

A word from Webster's

May we offer the following reply to Herbert L. Gross (SN: 1/10/76, p. 19) and John W. MacArthur (SN: 1/31/76, p. 67) on a topic which has caused more debate than is perhaps necessary?

Noah Webster himself showed in his dictionaries only second-syllable stress for the word *kilometer*. A son-in-law of his, Chauncey Goodrich, revised Webster's una-

bridged dictionary in 1847 and indicated both first- and second-syllable stress possibilities. The monumental Oxford English Dictionary, the relevant portion of which was published in October 1901, gives stress to the first syllable but appends a note to the effect that the lexicographers Webster, Craig, and Cassell marked the stress on the second syllable. Therefore, both pronunciation variants seem to have been in use for some time.

Quite a few years before the appearance in 1961 of Webster's Third New International Dictionary, our current unabridged, our pronunciation editors initiated an intensive listening program, and since 1940, plus or minus a few years, they have spent a good portion of their time transcribing and recording the speech of thousands of native speakers of English. The unique and extensive files resulting from this program comprise the primary evidence upon which are based the pronunciation respellings in current Merriam-Webster dictionaries. Turning to these files we find that 2.5 percent of the citations for *kilometer* are for second-syllable stress and the remaining 17.5 percent for first-syllable stress. For both variants we have citations from educated and well-respected scientists, statesmen, and journalists with nationwide television and radio exposure. Thus, from the evidence we have collected we can extrapolate that both first- and second-syllable stress are used by thousands, not to say millions, of people, and hence, both should be considered perfectly acceptable, whatever an individual's preference. Our recommendation is that a person should adopt whichever pronunciation feels most natural to him.

John K. Bollard
Assistant Editor
G&C Merriam Co.
Publishers of Merriam-Webster
Reference Books
Springfield, Mass.

'Jowl'—not jool

"Joule" was always pronounced "jowl" by the man who bore the name, and the only pronunciation given for it in the Oxford English Dictionary is "dzhaul." "Jool," now given as the preferred pronunciation by most dictionaries, is clearly a latter-day error. Is it too much to hope that informed usage might restore Professor Joule's honored name to his own pronunciation of it? It would have the added advantage of eliminating any confusion with "jewel," and the awareness of being correct ought to lend a little zest to the effort of pronouncing it properly.

Harry L. Arnold Jr., M.D.
Straub Clinic
Honolulu, Hawaii

SCIENCE SERVICE

Institution for the Popularization of Science founded 1921; a nonprofit corporation

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: **Deborah P. Wolfe**, Queens College of City University of New York; **Bowen C. Dees**, The Franklin Institute; **Athelstan Spilhaus**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Nominated by the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: **Gerald F. Tape**, Associated Universities; **Allen V. Astin**, Bethesda, Md.; **Glenn T. Seaborg** (President), University of California, Berkeley. Nominated by the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: **Gerald Holton**, Harvard University; **Joseph W. Berg Jr.**, National Research Council; **Aaron Rosenthal**, National Academy of Sciences. Nominated by the JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION: **Edward Bliss Jr.**, American University; **Julius Dusha**, Washington Journalism Center; **O. W. Riegel** (Secretary), Washington and Lee University. Nominated by E. W. Scripps Trust: **Milton Harris** (Treasurer), Washington, D.C.; **Edward W. Scripps II** (Vice President and Chairman of the Executive Committee), Edward W. Scripps Trust; **John Troan**, Pittsburgh Press.

Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr.; Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver; Business Manager: Donald R. Harless; Things of Science: Ruby Yoshioka.