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## Letters

### Open to misinterpretation

Your recent report on superconductivity in organic compounds ("Superconductivity: Experts disagree," SN: 4/2/83, p. 212) was interesting and, for the most part, accurate. I think that some of the remarks of Dr. Jerome that you selected to print could be misinterpreted by readers who are not familiar with the background of research on organic superconductors. As you stated, in 1980 Jerome and co-workers found the first example of superconductivity in an organic compound. The transition temperature was 0.9 kelvin, but Jerome et al. claimed that "precursor" effects could be seen as high as 30 kelvin. After I received a preprint of Jerome's work, Dr. E. M. Engler of IBM Research, San Jose, Calif., synthesized the superconducting compound and we carried out further experiments. Our results [Phy. Rev. Lett. 45:1587 (1980)] showed that "precursor" effects were probably not present in these organic compounds. Our subsequent work in collaboration with Professor P.M. Chaikin, of UCLA, further confirmed this view. The experimental data obtained by Jerome's group and my collaborators are *not* different. Jerome has interpreted the data in a highly speculative and, as yet, unsubstantiated manner. I have interpreted

### This Week

- 308 Double Duty Cells in Human Immune System
- 308 Homing in on the Basin and Range
- 309 Help wanted: To seek an asteroid's moon
- 309 Oversight groups for supercomputers
- 310 Denying visas to stop technology export
- 310 Lubricating distressed lungs
- 311 Joggers' fever may be immune response
- 311 Satellite and earthlings discover a comet
- 311 Genetic engineering yields prenatal test

### Research Notes

- 316 Behavior

### Articles

- 312 Superweapon Software Woes  
Cover: Computer programs control most modern weapons systems, such as the Pershing II missile pictured. Unfortunately, errors in such programs are sometimes difficult to detect and can lead to expensive failures. (Photos courtesy of U. S. Air Force, U. S. Army)
- 314 Sounding Out 3-D Interiors



### Departments

- 307 Letters
- 318 Books

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the data with the conventional BCS theory. Clearly, the burden of proof is on Jerome to convince me and other superconductivity experts that a new mechanism or theory is needed for organic superconductors. So far, he has failed to do this.

Your article quotes Jerome as saying that I missed the opportunity to interpret his original data as due to a precursor of superconductivity. In reality, I missed only the opportunity to make some unfounded speculations. I chose to make what now appears to be a more reasonable explanation of the data. Certainly, there are still some interesting and unexplained phenomena which are present in the organic superconductors and these are at the focus of the current research in this exciting field. It would have been better if your article had mentioned these instead of quoting the rather disparaging remarks of Dr. Jerome.

Richard L. Greene  
IBM Research  
San Jose, Calif.

### A subtle point

Thank you for the report on our new study, *Acid Rain in Europe and North America: National Responses to an International Problem* ("Study criticizes U.S. acid rain policies," SN:

4/9/83, p. 231). I would like to make one subtle but important point concerning your generally excellent treatment. We do not, as you suggest, conclude that the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has impeded U.S.-Canada cooperation. Rather we take issue with the White House decision to force separate national reviews of joint U.S.-Canada scientific efforts, a precedent likely to lead to increasingly serious disputes over acid rain and other international pollution problems. This is not to say, however, that the scientific committee convened under the auspices of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to review the joint work has itself been culpable of obstructing progress. That committee, chaired by Dr. William Nierenberg of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is still in the process of deliberations.

Gregory S. Wetstone  
Environmental Law Institute  
Washington, D.C.

Address communications to  
Editor, Science News,  
1719 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036  
Please limit letters to 250 words.

MAY 14, 1983

307