

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication
Volume 134, No. 8, August 20, 1988

E. G. Sherburne Jr.	Publisher
Patrick Young	Editor
Laurie Jackson	Managing Editor
Wendy McCarren	Production/Design Director
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences
Christopher Vaughan, Stefi Weisburd	General Science
Carol Eron, Rick Weiss	Life Sciences/ Biomedicine
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Technology
Janet Raloff	Policy/Technology
Jonathan Eberhart	Space Sciences
Janice Rickerich	Assistant to the Editor
Laura Beil, Melissa Hendricks	Science Writer Interns
Jane M. Livermore	Books
Donald R. Harless	Advertising/Business Manager

Copyright © 1988 by Science Service, Inc.,
Editorial and Business Offices,
1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS
without written permission of the publisher is
prohibited.

Subscription Department
231 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43305

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$34.50; 2 yrs., \$58.00.
(Foreign postage \$6.00 additional per year.) Change of
address: Four to six weeks' notice is required. Please
state exactly how magazine is to be addressed.
Include zip code. For new subscriptions only call
(1) 800-247-2160. Printed in U.S.A. Second class
postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional
mailing offices. 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)
ISSN 0036-8423

This Week

- 116 Emotion-Immunity Link in HIV Infection
- 116 Enzyme eats self and lives to tell tale
- 117 Cold facts on diabetes
- 117 Stitch stops clot
- 117 Vents would scald a primordial soup
- 118 EPA proposes new rules to get the lead out
- 118 Environmentalism in the Space Age
- 119 Researchers eye retinal remapping
- 119 Some neurons predisposed to Huntington's

Research Notes

- 122 Biomedical Engineering
- 123 Energy
- 124 Biomedicine
- 124 Physics

Articles

- 120 Disarming Farming's Chemical Warriors

Cover: The verdant rice fields of Indonesia and other countries are threatened by overuse of pesticides. An integrated pest management program, designed to let beneficial insects control rice-eating pests, seems to offer a solution with many peripheral benefits. (Photo: FAO)



Departments

- 114 Books
- 115 Letters
- 126 Off the Beat

Science Service Institution for the public understanding of science founded 1921; a nonprofit corporation.
Board of Trustees — *President*, Glenn T. Seaborg; *Vice President*, Gerald F. Tape; *Treasurer*, Willis Harlow Shapley; *Secretary*, Hilleary F. Hoskinson; Joseph W. Berg Jr.; Edward Bliss Jr.; Bowen C. Dees; David A. Goslin; J. David Hann; Milton Harris; Elena O. Nightingale; O.W. Riegel; H. Guyford Stever; John Troan; Deborah P. Wolfe.

Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr.; Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver; Business Manager: Donald R. Harless.

Letters

Potato ponderings

In "Through the Eyes of a Potato" (SN: 7/2/88, p.12) Diane D. Edwards says the name spud may have come from the spade used to dig the tubers. You may be interested in an excerpt from Helen Hamlin's book *Pine, Potatoes and People* (Norton, 1948):

"Potatoes met a severe setback in England, where the wheat growers who feared the new, competitive diet staple organized the Society for the Prevention of Unwholesome Diet. It launched such a successful campaign that the initials for this society, S.P.U.D., are still

used as a nickname for the potato."

*Jim Minard
Everett, Wash.*

My wife tells me it now takes 50 percent longer than it used to to bring a baked potato to an acceptable state of softness for edibility. She rejects the suggestion that her oven may be responsible, pointing out that other things she roasts or bakes take the same amount of time as before.

Perhaps in addition to the question of how a potato tastes, potato scientist Raymon Webb might consider how much energy must be expended to bake it.

*Arthur J. Morgan
New York, N. Y.*

Hardhearted?

The idea that the American Heart Association has determined its name and reputation can be sold to food companies that can afford them ("Eat right and avoid loneliness," SN: 7/2/88, p.4) should stop hearts all over America — especially those of small independent food processors.

Maybe someday soon we can buy a can of beans for \$6 or \$8 approved by AHA (American Heart Association), ACS (American Cancer Society), PC (Poison Control), ADF (American Diabetes Foundation), AKF (American Kidney Foundation) and ETC (et-cetera).

*Stephen C. Brown
Inverness, Fla.*

AUGUST 20, 1988

115