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Cover: Scientists sponsored by the U.S. military are seeking ways to defend against biological weapons. As this research increasingly involves genetic engineering, military officials are forced to address whether defenses developed in the test tube are more likely to ensure the nation's safety or imperil it. (Illustration by Randy Fletcher)



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Diane Edwards receives MS Society prize

Diane D. Edwards, our former Life Sciences/Biomedicine writer who departed SCIENCE NEWS last summer to help



Susan Arns

her mother construct a tepee at the family ranch near Big Sandy, Mont., has won a first-place prize in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 1988 Public Education Awards Contest. The nonprofit group honored her in the medical/science print category for "Still Stalking MS," an article in the Oct. 10, 1987, SCIENCE NEWS.

Multiple sclerosis, a progressively debilitating central nervous system disorder caused by the deterioration of the protective sheath covering neurons, affects an estimated 250,000 people in the United States. Its cause remains unknown, although increasing evidence suggests a virus or some other environmental "trigger" activates an immune system malfunction in people genetically predisposed to the disease.

In her award-winning article, Edwards chronicled a series of recent studies aimed at understanding MS' cause and finding an effective treatment for the disease.

Judges awarded Edwards her prize based on the article's accuracy, clarity, writing quality and contribution to the public's understanding of multiple sclerosis, says MS Society spokeswoman Denise C.L. Lundborg.

Edwards currently serves as a lecturer in microbiology at Montana State University in Bozeman and as coordinator of AIDS education for the Area Health Education Center, a state-wide, federally funded program dealing with Montana's rural health-care needs.

A representative of the MS Society's Montana chapter presented Edwards her prize, a plaque and a \$1,000 check in Bozeman on Dec. 5. — Patrick Young

Time's Arrow, Time's Cycle

Myth and Metaphor in the
Discovery of Geological Times

By Stephen Jay Gould

This work is both an account of geology's greatest discovery and a philosophical commentary on the nature of scientific thought. Science, it argues, is not so very different from other forms of learning, led not by the brute force of inductivism but by the use of all the curious tools of inference that the mind encompasses. Gould follows a single thread through three documents that mark the transition in our thinking from thousands to billions of years: Thomas Burnet's four-volume *Sacred Theory of the Earth* (1680-1690), James Hutton's *Theory of the Earth* (1795) and Charles Lyell's three-volume *Principles of Geology* (1830-1833).

— from the publisher

Harvard Univ. Press, 1987, 222 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", paperback,
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