

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication
Volume 136, No. 12, September 16, 1989

E. G. Sherburne Jr.	Publisher
Patrick Young	Editor
Laurie Jackson	Managing Editor
Janice Rickerich	Production/Design Director
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences
Ivan Amato	Chemistry/ Materials Science
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences
Janet Raloff	Environment/Policy
Kathy A. Fackelmann, Rick Weiss	Life Sciences/ Biomedicine
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Physics
Jonathan Eberhart	Space Sciences
Liz Marshall	Editorial Assistant
Ron Cowen, Stephen Hart, Diane E. Loupe	Science Writer Interns
Wendy McCarren	Books/Resource Manager
Donald R. Harless	Advertising/Business Manager

Copyright © 1989 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. POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to Science News, 231 West
Center Street, Marion, OH 43305. 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

- 180 Lefties and Longevity: Look Again
- 180 Sleep problems send psychiatric signals
- 181 Putting quantum theory to a nuclear test
- 181 Fish oil lowers even normal blood pressure
- 182 Cesareans don't help lowest-weight babies
- 182 Silver supports superconducting paste
- 182 Clot-busters bring bioelectrical benefits
- 183 Electrons may shed light for X-ray lasers
- 183 Mapping deeper within Saturn's clouds

Research Notes

- 188 Biology
- 188 Biomedicine
- 189 Chemistry
- 189 Environment
- 191 Mathematics
- 191 Science & Society

Articles

- 184 Hidden Heart Hazards

Cover: As fatty deposits accumulate, they narrow the coronary arteries supplying blood to the heart — a process that can lead to a heart attack. Some scientists believe a disorder called insulin resistance lies at the core of this process in certain people. (Illustration by Thomas Sims/©American Heart Association)



Departments

- 179 Letters
- 190 Books

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; Joseph W. Berg Jr.; Edward Bliss Jr.; Robert W. Fri; David A. Goslin; J. David Hann; Milton Harris; Leon M. Lederman; Elena O. Nightingale; Ben Patrusky; H. Guyford Stever; Deborah P. Wolfe.
Honorary Trustees — Bowen C. Dees; O.W. Riegel; John Troan.
Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr.; **Business Manager**: Donald R. Harless.

Letters

Only the beginning

Dregs? What a way to describe a youthful galaxy ("The Dregs of the Universe," SN: 7/22/89, p.60) that hasn't even arrived at its maturity! Remember, we're seeing it as it was nearly three-quarters of a billion years ago. It takes time to draw in all that tenuous hydrogen, but time is what Malin 1 and its sibling have plenty of.

Arthur J. Morgan
New York, N.Y.

Psychiatric zeitgeist

A statement in "An early start for panic" (SN: 7/22/89, p.61) carries the seeds of an early start for high blood pressure in some psychiatrists.

"The children significantly improved when treated with drugs that ease the panic and agoraphobia of adults," you write. "Each child also attended psychotherapy sessions."

First, if psychotherapy and drugs were used concurrently, one can say very little about the

contribution of either; yet the report implies efficacy for medication and mentions psychotherapy as if by afterthought.

Second, while the present zeitgeist in psychiatry favors chemistry, the extent to which anxiolytics "ease the panic" is still a matter of lively debate.

Malcolm Stewart-Morris
Psychiatrist
Oakland, Calif.

Not just natural selection

I understand J. Eric Triau's comments (Letters, SN: 7/15/89, p.35) concerning Ingrid Wickelgren's misleading use of the verb "evolve," but Triau employs an equally confusing use of the noun "evolution."

Triau uses this word as synonymous with Darwin's theory of evolution, or evolution by natural selection. His interpretation negates other important processes of evolution such as mutation, recombination, genetic drift, migration and inbreeding. Clearly, natural selection interacts with these other processes during evolution, but these are none-

theless considered other valid processes of evolution. If we are looking at subtle misinterpretations, as Triau states he is, then he incorrectly describes evolution as "the non-random trend of species toward adaptation based on successful transmission of random mutations conferring survival."

April Ann Fong
Davis, Calif.

Proximate vs. ultimate

William Check (Letters, SN: 7/15/89, p.44) suggests that behavioral scientists are placing too much emphasis on genetic explanations of social behavior. He cites our work on African bee eaters ("Avian Altruism," SN: 6/10/89, p.364) in which we found that: (1) nonbreeding helpers at the nest greatly increased the production of young fledging from such nests; (2) helpers were closely related to the young being reared; and (3) helpers chose to aid close genetic relatives rather than distantly related or unrelated

Letters continued on p. 186

SEPTEMBER 16, 1989

179