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Heady experiences and our changing masthead

All science writers can tell you about some special articles they've written, stories that at some point made the writer suddenly think: This is new; this is important; people need to know this. It's a heady moment, a moment of intellectual excitement and challenge. And it's what keeps many of us in science journalism.

Kathy Fackelmann experienced that excitement last spring while working on "Myelin on the Mend," which appeared in our April 7, 1990 issue. In the article, she explored new animal data suggesting that certain antibodies might reverse the ravages of multiple sclerosis. Kathy's compelling description of this encouraging but preliminary work drew some wonderful letters from readers back then. Now it has earned her first place in the print/medical-science category of the National

Multiple Sclerosis Society's Public Education Awards. Kathy accepted her award this week at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

As a full-time editor, I live vicariously, sharing the writer's sense of excitement and enthusiasm and wonder as I read an important story for the first time. It's a rewarding part of the job, and at times chilling. I'm thinking now of Janet Raloff's "Mercurial Risks From Acid's Reign," which appeared two weeks ago and detailed the growing evidence linking acid rain and the increasing methylmercury contamination of fish in many U. S. and Canadian lakes.

Janet has often experienced the writer's exhilarating sense of something new, something big during her nearly 14 years at SCIENCE NEWS. Now she is experi-

encing it anew as an editor. Dedicated masthead readers will have already noted that Janet now carries the title of senior editor. But Raloff fans can relax. While helping with our editing chores, Janet will continue her reporting on the environment, food science and policy issues.

Masthead readers also will note three new names there. Carol Ezzell, once an associate editor at NATURE and more recently the Washington bureau chief of BioWORLD, has joined Kathy Fackelmann in covering the life sciences/biomedicine beat. Elizabeth Pennisi, most recently a senior editor at THE SCIENTIST's Washington office, now covers chemistry and materials science for us. And Larry Norland, a 1990 graduate of the University of Oregon, has joined us as editorial assistant.

— Patrick Young

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