

SCIENCE NEWS[®]

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication
Volume 141, No. 12, March 21, 1992

Alfred Scott McLaren	Publisher	
Patrick Young	Editor	
Laurie Jackson	Managing Editor	
Vaughan	Editor	
Janice Rickerich	Production/Design Director	
Blair Burns Potter	Associate Editor	
Janet Raloff	Senior Editor Environment/Policy	
Ron Cowen	Astronomy	
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences	
Elizabeth Pennisi	Chemistry/ Materials Science	
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences	
Carol Ezzell,	Life Sciences/ Kathy A. Fackelmann	Biomedicine
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Physics	
Larry Norland	Editorial Assistant	
Michael Stroh	Science Writer Intern	
Connie Williams	Books/Resource Manager	
Donald R. Harless	Advertising/Business Manager	

SCIENCE NEWS (ISSN 0036-8423) is published weekly on Saturday, except the last week in December, for \$39.50 for 1 year or \$68.00 for 2 years (foreign postage \$6.00 additional per year) by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Second-class postage paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing office. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to SCIENCE NEWS, 231 West Center Street, Marion, OH 43305. Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required—old and new addresses, including zip codes, must be provided.

Copyright © 1992 by Science Service, Inc. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Printed in U.S.A.

Editorial and Business Offices:
1719 N St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202-785-2255)
Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS without written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

Subscription Department:
231 West Center Street, Marion, OH 43305
For new subscriptions only, call 1-800-247-2160.
For customer service, call 1-800-347-6969.

Letters

Dioxin data gap

I read the article purporting to "demystify dioxin's dangers" ("Dioxin's Other Face," SN: 1/11/92, p.24) but remained mystified. My bewilderment arises from the failure of the scientific community to do studies of the Vietnamese population. They have been exposed more intensively and in greater numbers than any other group.

Are we suffering from an inability to face up to the fact that our government waged chemical warfare on civilian and combatant alike?

Joan Blumenkranz
Los Angeles, Calif

Troubled by tactic

It was appropriate that "Practice what you

This Week

- 180 Pectin Helps Fight Cancer's Spread
- 180 Switching electrons from trickle to flood
- 181 Molecular clouds: Diamonds in the heavens
- 181 Schizophrenia: A 'negative' challenge
- 182 Sheep chimera makes human blood cells
- 182 Tectonic squeeze sparks Turkish quake
- 183 Inside broccoli: A weapon against cancer
- 183 Type A: From the nursery to the boardroom

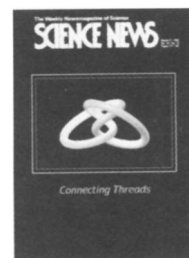
Research Notes

- 189 Biomedicine
- 189 Physics
- 191 Science & Society

Articles

- 184 Auto(-matic) Commute
- 186 Knotty Views

Cover: Unlike the knots that a sailor might tie, a mathematical knot forms a complete loop, as seen in this computer-generated image of a trefoil knot. Recent studies have revealed that important concepts in knot theory unexpectedly link areas of mathematics and physics in which knots had hitherto played no role. (Illustration: Thomas F. Banchoff, Nicholas Thompson/Brown University)



Departments

- 178 Books
- 179 Letters

Science Service, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921, gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions and bequests to assist its efforts to increase the public understanding of science, with special emphasis on young people. More recently, it has included in its mission increasing scientific literacy among members of disadvantaged groups.

Board of Trustees — *Chairman*, Glenn T. Seaborg; *Vice Chairman*, Gerald F. Tape; *Secretary*, David A. Goslin; *Treasurer*, Willis Harlow Shapley; Joseph W. Berg Jr.; Robert W. Fri; J. David Hann; Leon M. Lederman; Shirley M. Malcom; Elena O. Nightingale; Ben Patrusky; H. Guyford Stever; Sanford J. Ungar; Deborah P. Wolfe. **Honorary Trustees** — Edward Bliss Jr.; Bowen C. Dees; O. W. Riegel; John Troan.

President: Alfred Scott McLaren; Vice President and Business Manager: Donald R. Harless.

preach" (SN: 1/18/92, p.44) appeared under the subject heading "Behavior," although "Behavior Modification" would have been more accurate.

The most revealing statement was: "AIDS education campaigns in schools might profit by holding discussions in which each student first tries to persuade others of the need for sexual safety precautions and then acknowledges his or her own past failures in that regard." You should have forced the study's team leaders to give credit to the people who pioneered and then perfected this type of "education."

I refer, of course, to the Soviets and their allies. This form of AIDS awareness campaign sounds remarkably like the "reeducation" get-togethers of Allied prisoners of war in North Korea during the Korean War, the Cultural Revolution in Red China, the post-Vietnam War reeducation of former South Vietnamese

soldiers and civilians by their North Vietnamese "brothers," and the revelations now coming out of Eastern Europe regarding STASI and other secret police activities.

I do not denounce the goal of AIDS awareness. Yet I do find it troubling, but not surprising, that a university would consider using this type of tactic to get its point across.

Michael V. Stratton
Brea, Calif

Address communications to:

Editor, **SCIENCE NEWS**
1719 N St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Please limit letters to 250 words.
All letters subject to editing.

MARCH 21, 1992

179