

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication
Volume 141, No. 13, March 28, 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/ Biomedicine
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

Speeders take heed

Is automated collection of tolls ("Paying as you go," SN: 1/25/92, p.63) the ultimate form of highway revenue collection? Informal discussions I have had with toll highway users have led to a rather Orwellian application of the same technology: automatic collection of fines for speeding.

The same data-collection devices used for toll collection need simply apply a time "stamp" to the driver's highway ingress and egress records, as well as rest area stops. The central data processor can then very simply calculate an average speed for the driver on the highway. Average speeds in excess of 10 mph over the posted speeds would have fines added to their toll bills.

Rest stops and signs along the way could be equipped with displays to warn individual speeders to slow down or a fine will be assessed. This saves the highway patrol tre-

This Week

- 196 Depression Boosts Blood-Vessel Disease
- 196 Genes may help reset circadian clock
- 197 New iron-filled, light-blocking fullerenes
- 197 Slowing chemical reactions in tight spaces
- 198 Magellan finds wind sculpture on Venus
- 198 Vitamin E flexes plaque-busting muscle
- 199 Pentamidine may have antimentia payoff
- 199 Sneaking a peek at Earth's hardened heart

Research Notes

- 204 Biomedicine
- 204 Planetary Science
- 206 Physics

Articles

- 200 False Impressions
Cover: New research indicates that when a person's attention gets sidetracked in relatively common ways — such as stopping to consider the meaning of someone else's behavior or mentally rehearsing one's own behavior for an upcoming meeting — impressions of others can go seriously awry. (Illustration: Randy Fletcher)

- 202 Timely Questions

Departments

- 194 Books
- 195 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.



mendous personnel and equipment expenses and is "detector resistant," making radar and laser detectors obsolete. Perhaps drivers who regulate their speed properly could have their tolls reduced or eliminated.

How many lives would such a system save?

*Richard W. Vesel
Painesville, Ohio*

Data make the difference

Ivars Peterson errs in his otherwise excellent report when he suggests that the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is unaware of other experiments in electronic communication such as SOLSTICE: AN ELECTRONIC JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS ("Math for all seasons," SN: 1/25/92, p.61). There are at least six others that offer peer-reviewed content. But of the titles in scientific areas, none, including SOLSTICE, fits a rigorous definition of scholarly scientific journal: None contains figures or tables, and therefore they cannot claim to disseminate scien-

tific results in electronic form.

THE ONLINE JOURNAL OF CURRENT CLINICAL TRIALS is indeed the first project that fits all criteria for a scientific scholarly journal: peer-reviewed papers complete with figures and tables that are widely and publicly available, which will be archived by the publisher, which are indexed in a major bibliographic data base (BIOSIS) and which cannot be published elsewhere after they have been published in electronic form.

*Richard S. Nicholson
Executive Officer, AAAS
Publisher, THE ONLINE JOURNAL
OF CURRENT CLINICAL TRIALS
Washington, D.C.*

CORRECTION

"Closing in on the Killer" (SN: 1/25/92, p.56) referred to Mammalia as an order, when in fact it represents a class.

MARCH 28, 1992

195