

# SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication  
Volume 142, No. 11, September 12, 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
Kathryn Hoppe	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, P.O. Box 1925, 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:  
P.O. Box 1925, Marion, OH 43305  
For new subscriptions only, call 1-800-247-2160.  
For customer service, call 1-800-347-6969.

## Letters

### Daycare deficiencies

The problem with infant daycare in the United States compared with the multiple-caretaker system of the Efe forest dwellers in Africa ("Foragers challenge key child-care theory" SN: 8/1/92, p.69) has nothing to do with the "disquiet" of the adults. Perhaps if American infants in daycare were held all day and nursed by caretakers who would remain involved in their lives, there wouldn't be a problem. As our system is structured, however, American daycare infants receive neither the emotional nor the physical intimacy that they could potentially enjoy if they stayed with their mothers.

Ideally, the relationship between a mother and her baby is an intense mutual love affair. Suggesting that this can be adequately replaced by good daycare is comparable to implying that if a spouse leaves town for a

### This Week

- 164 Hot Solids: Superheating Lead Crystals
- 164 Interplanetary hopefuls gather in D.C.
- 165 In vitro fertilization: The pluses add up
- 165 Brain images show structure of depression
- 166 Lab insect thwarts potent natural toxins
- 166 Chronic hypertension may shrink the brain
- 167 X-rays from dim space hint at a black hole
- 167 Major Japanese jolt may be on its way

### Articles

#### 168 Strong Heart, Weak Heart

Cover: This Lakota dancer celebrates his tribe's traditions at a modern powwow. Preliminary data suggest that certain Indian tribes run an unusually high risk of heart disease. (Photo: Milt Lee)

#### 174 Particles of History

### Research Notes

- 171 Biomedicine
- 171 Chemistry
- 172 Physical Science
- 172 Space Science

### Departments

- 162 Books
- 163 Letters

Science Service, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921, gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions and requests 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 underrepresented groups. Through its Youth Program it administers the International Science and Engineering Fair, the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, and publishes and distributes the *Directory of Student Science Training Programs for Precollege Students*.

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; Dudley Herschbach; 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.

while, the emotional and physical needs of the other spouse should be able to be met by a well-trained substitute.

Phyllis K. Stein  
St. Louis, Mo.

### Taxonomic slip-up

In the picture accompanying "From Tough Ruffe to Quagga" (SN: 7/25/92, p.56), you call the sea lamprey an eel. This is incorrect. The sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) is a primitive jawless animal, in the class Agnatha, while eels are jawed fishes of the class Pisces.

Cheryl A. Stewart  
Central, S.C.

Thanks for pointing out the error. According to David G. Smith of the Division of Fishes at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., sea lampreys "are sometimes called lamprey eels in the vernacular," but they "are in no way, shape, or form related to eels."

How did we make such a blunder? We trusted Encyclopaedia Britannica, which claims: "The predatory sea lamprey (an eel) migrated into the upper lakes and established spawning populations in the 1930s. . ."

—J. Raloff

### Disputes conclusions

After carefully reading and rereading "Lethal weapons: Gun access and suicide" (SN: 8/15/92, p.102), I can find no basis whatever for the researchers' conclusion that "gun-control laws probably suppress the city's suicide rate. . ."

I fear you have been used. Gun-control advocates have for years conducted "studies" that are planted in various legitimate publications so that the gun-control people can then cite "quotes" supporting their position.

Guns are dangerous and can be misused, but they have a special and important constitutional use in the defense of person and state.

P. M. deLaubentfels  
Corvallis, Ore.



Dancer With Strong Heart

SEPTEMBER 12, 1992

163