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Cover: A conventional mammogram (here with color added) showing a top-down view of a healthy right breast reveals connective tissue as the most dominant feature. Subtle signs of breast cancer can be difficult to see using standard viewing techniques. Researchers are now experimenting with improved digital imaging. (Photo: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory)



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Science Service, which publishes SCIENCE NEWS, is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921. It 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 underrepresented groups. Through its Youth Programs 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*.

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## Letters

### Making the case for formula

I have read at least two letters in SCIENCE NEWS putting down formula for infants (SN: 1/23/93, p.51; 3/27/93, p.195). These people seem to miss the point that breast-feeding is often simply not an option.

I adopted each of my two children when they were 4 months old. There are many cases worldwide of orphans (or babies with fathers only), mothers too sick to breast-feed, or mothers forced to work for a living in an environment not appropriate for a baby.

These children justify more research on better formula, regardless of allegations of misuse by those with a choice in the matter.

Gerald Keep  
Kingsport, Tenn.

### Newsprint fit to eat or read?

It is clear from the conclusions in "When cows get hungry for news" (SN: 3/13/93, p.175) that the researchers had decided that using newspapers for cattle bedding was a bad thing

before they embarked on their study. Despite their inability to find any milk contaminant more dangerous than tea or coffee, they still recommended against use of shredded newspapers because who knows what might get into them. That is speculation, not science!

Donald E. Flaherty, Sr.  
Seattle, Wash.

As a tutor, I once worked with a student named Karen, whose teacher required her to hunt up a current affairs news item once or twice a week. Karen could read the item haltingly but had difficulty remembering what it was about. Her eyes burned and she sneezed and coughed.

The task of selecting potential items fell to me. About the second week, I began to understand Karen's problem. The longer I worked, the more my eyes watered. Sometimes I coughed and sneezed. I had difficulty remembering ideas from the beginning to the end of the news item. A number of people have since told me that they or a relative are allergic to printer's ink.

I hope someone will investigate the chemicals used in printing as well as the incidence of allergic reactions among schoolchildren.

Kit Brighton  
Ojai, Calif.

### Oxyfuel cost: Lower mileage

It wasn't just the smell, it was an odious decrease in gas mileage that I noticed with the advent of oxygenated gasoline ("New probes of gas additive's toxicity," SN: 3/20/93, p.182). Was it just me, or does this fuel actually decrease mileage by 10 to 15 percent?

Joseph F. Jackson  
Escondido, Calif.

"People driving new cars with the newest technology may experience a slight decrease in mileage," EPA notes. How much? Says Arco Chemical Co., the additive's maker, "MTBE, when used at the level found in oxygenated fuel, has been found to reduce gas mileage by about 1 percent" and to increase a typical consumer's fuel cost by about \$2 per season. —J.A. Raloff

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