

# SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

Science Service Publication  
Volume 144, No. 16, October 16, 1993

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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.

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Editorial and Business Offices:  
1719 N St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036  
(202-785-2255)

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Subscription Department:  
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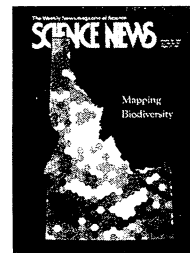
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Science Service, which publishes SCIENCE NEWS, is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921. It gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions and bequests to assist its efforts to increase the public understanding of science, with special emphasis 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

### A case of supreme ignorance?

I am less surprised by the Supreme Court's self-absorption with its judicial powers than I am by the scientific community's lack of outrage at the court's decision to ignore the scientific standards of peer review and replicability in favor of letting judge and jury decide what constitutes scientific truth ("What science is admissible in court?" SN: 7/24/93, p.63).

Surely the justices would not take unsupported medical advice from just anyone claiming insight. Why do they think it any more reasonable to ignore the experts whose job it is to determine scientific truth through the peer-review system? It can only be their distrust, or lack of understanding, of the process of scientific challenge and verification that motivates this recent decision.

We might as well be burning witches at Salem as relying upon judges and juries to fully appreciate or knowledgeably evaluate scientific evidence.

Peter B. Newman  
Mill Valley, Calif.

### ADHD adults: Finding a square hole

As an adult with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), you are likely to be bright and creative but lacking an advanced degree; possessed of limitless energy but a short attention span (and therefore in need of frequent breaks, on your own schedule); and loath to follow orders and obey rules, but prone instead to risk-taking behavior.

In looking for a career, should you buy a blue suit and sign on with IBM or start a small business in which you are the boss, you set your own hours, and your energy will be put to profitable use?

I too have noticed that my adult ADHD patients tend to start their own businesses ("Hyperactivity grows into adult problems," SN: 7/31/93, p.70). I find that this represents a good match between their characteristics and the demands of the job.

Bob Wendorf  
Birmingham, Ala.

As reported, the study by Mannuzza *et al.* is about the long-term effects of ADHD. The

study, however, consisted of "91 white males, with an average age of 26, who first received a diagnosis of hyperactivity between the ages of 6 and 12. All had been treated for the disorder, primarily with a stimulant medication that often eases the symptoms" and a control group of 95 men without a diagnosis of ADHD. It did not include a significant group of people who were diagnosed with the disorder but not treated with stimulant medication, and so it was not truly a comparative study for the subject as stated. Perhaps it should have been called, "Adult problems occur in white males who are medicated with stimulant drugs for hyperactivity."

Susan M. Haydon  
Fairfax, Va.

Since studies indicate that stimulant medication often eases ADHD symptoms, rather than creating new problems in both children and adults, ethical concerns prevent researchers from denying the drugs to ADHD boys.

— B. Bower

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