

# SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

Science Service Publication  
Volume 145, No. 25, June 18, 1994

Alfred Scott McLaren	Publisher
Patrick Young	Editor
Blair Burns Potter	Managing Editor
Dan Skripkar	Production/Design Director
Greg W. Pearson	Associate Editor
Janet Raloff	Senior Editor Environment/Policy
Ron Cowen	Astronomy
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences
Richard Lipkin	Chemistry/ Materials Science
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences
Tina Adler	General Science
Kathy A. Fackelmann,	Life Sciences/ Elizabeth Pennisi
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Physics
Larry Norland	Editorial Assistant
Damaris Christensen	Science Writer Interns
Gigi Marino	
Cait Anthony	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 © 1994 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.

## This Week

- 388 Do EMFs Pose Breast Cancer Risk?
- 388 Therapeutic vaccine fights herpes
- 389 Quiet times in iron-walled quantum corrals
- 389 Implants almost exonerated
- 389 Babies head toward budding vocabulary
- 390 Update on intake: Calcium consumption low
- 390 Subduing with tenacious, tacky tendrils
- 390 Conductive ceramics grow in a solution
- 391 Great quake in Bolivia rings Earth's bell
- 391 Hubble eyes disks that may form planets

## Research Notes

- |     |               |     |             |
|-----|---------------|-----|-------------|
| 397 | Earth Science | 398 | Behavior    |
| 397 | Astronomy     | 399 | Biomedicine |
| 398 | Astronomy     | 399 | Environment |

## Articles

- 393 Another Look at the TB Vaccine
- 394 Desert Storm's Medical Quandary

Cover: U.S. Apache helicopters fly support for M-1 Abrams tanks during Desert Storm. The war produced few combat casualties, but thousands of veterans suffer from a host of undiagnosed symptoms. Some believe chemical agents are the cause.  
(Watercolor by Tom Freeman)



## Departments

- 386 Books
- 387 Letters

**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*.

**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; Peter H. Raven; 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.

## Letters

### Logical fallacy

I take issue with the concept expressed in "Comprehending Those Who Can't Relate" (SN: 4/16/94, p.248) that there is a dichotomy between emotion and logic. Damasio states that "if you are going to run your personal and social life on logic alone, it's not going to work." I bring this up only because it seems to be at the core of numerous fallacies based on the premise that logic is limited as a tool in directing our actions and is superseded at its limits by emotion and intuition.

Emotional and intuitive responses are merely information to be integrated into logical processes. If an individual cannot experience emotional arousal, a large block of useful information is not available in the decision-making process. This naturally degrades the decision but in no way diminishes the function or worth of logic.

It is logic which allows normal people to know when to heed and when to ignore emo-

tional information. We could not live without its constant and reasonably skillful use.

*Paul Shelton  
Seattle, Wash.*

### Cool new cancer treatment

In "Pummeling tumors with localized therapies" (SN: 3/26/94, p.198), you describe how to take "better aim with both chemical and radiation treatments . . . to beat back hard-to-treat liver and pancreas cancers." There is an additional way to take better aim at cancers — by freezing them.

In cryosurgery for prostate cancer, probes with circulating liquid nitrogen are inserted directly into the prostate gland, causing the cancer cells to freeze. The surgeon uses ultrasound to guide the probes and follow the freezing process. A similar cryosurgical technique has been used to treat tumors of the liver.

*Reynold Greenstone  
Brookeville, Md.*

### New approach to crash prevention

"Loafing at the Landfill" (SN: 4/16/94, p.252) discusses the hazards posed to aircraft by seagulls and other birds being sucked into jet engines. Apparently the only response to the problem has been various attempts to control the birds, including lethal methods of control.

It would seem that with all of the talent, brains, technology, and other resources available to the aircraft industry, it could come up with a way to shield jet engines from birds to prevent their being sucked in, thus eliminating this potentially disastrous problem.

*Roger M. Wernicke  
Pensacola, Fla.*

### Address communications to:

Editor, SCIENCE NEWS  
1719 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

All letters subject to editing.

JUNE 18, 1994

387