

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

Science Service Publication
Volume 146, No. 22, November 26, 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
Ron Cowen	Astronomy
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences
Richard Lipkin	Chemistry/ Materials Science
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences
Tina Adler	General Science
Kathy A. Fackelmann, Elizabeth Pennisi	Life Sciences/ Biomedicine
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Physics
Larry Norland	Editorial Assistant
Adrienne C. Brooks	Science Writer Intern
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 \$44.50 for 1 year or \$78.00 for 2 years (foreign postage \$6.00 additional per year) by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing office. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to SCIENCE NEWS, P.O. Box 1925, Marion, Ohio 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. on recycled paper. ♻️

Editorial and Business Offices:
1719 N St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 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, Ohio 43305
For new subscriptions only, call 1-800-247-2160.
For customer service, call 1-800-347-6969.

Letters

And still champ — Trieste I

As a former senior crewman on the bathyscaphe *Trieste II*, I must comment on "Back to the Jurassic in Space-Age Subs" (SN: 8/20/94, p.122).

As far as I know, *Trieste I* is the only manned submersible to dive the 35,800-foot Challenger Deep (since renamed the Trieste Deep). The French bathyscaphe *Archimede* made a dive in the Kurile Trench of some 33,000 feet, but I never heard of her diving any deeper.

Actually, *Archimede* was the only boat ever designed to dive 40,000 feet or more. *Trieste I* was modified to dive beyond her original 20,000-foot design depth. She was restored to her 20,000-foot capability after the Mariana dive series. It was not until many years later that *Trieste*, in her last incarnation, got back to her design depth. All of the bathyscaphes were in museums as of 1984, when *Trieste II* was sent to Bremerton.

The manned depth record of *Trieste I* may someday be equalled or exceeded, but the

This Week

- 356 Germ Cell Transfer Boosts Fertility
- 356 Element 110 makes a very fleeting debut
- 357 Hubble finds dark matter still a mystery
- 357 New success with heart disease drugs
- 358 Female infanticide: Northern exposure
- 358 When this fly arrives, ants' heads roll
- 359 Gut counts calories even when we do not
- 359 Do orange lizards wish they were blue?

Research Notes

- 360 Behavior
- 360 Biomedicine
- 365 Biomedicine
- 365 Computers

Articles

- 362 Darwin in Vitro

Cover: In living systems, the molecules RNA and DNA have learned how to reproduce. Chemists want to know how. What are the mechanisms and rules of molecular self-replication? Is it possible to make molecules that will copy themselves? (Image: A schematic diagram of a system of self-replicating molecules, designed by Julius Rebek Jr., Morgan Conn, and Edward A. Wintner. Diagram by Wintner.)



- 366 Temple of the Ascending Goddess

Departments

- 355 Letters
- 361 Books

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.

achievement will stand for all time. There is a lot of difference between a 1950s vintage bathyscaphe and the kind of vehicles being designed for tomorrow.

Norman J. Brandt
Boynton Beach, Fla.

Lack of symptoms may be symptom

Children can adapt in numerous ways to abusive situations in order to deal with the emotional and physical pain ("Deceptive veneer of child abuse," SN: 8/27/94, p.143). One common response involves the creation of alternate personalities.

A client of mine, John (an alias), was abused as a child. When John was 6, his uncle suspected the abuse and questioned him. A personality called Bobby was created to handle these questions. Bobby denied there was any problem and, indeed, wasn't aware of any abuse. Bobby showed no signs of abuse and was a happy kid. John, however, had a lot of problems. Anytime the uncle came over, John switched with Bobby. As an adult, John didn't remember ever talking to his uncle, even though he knew the uncle was a frequent visitor.

When we take multiple personality into account, we have at least one explanation for the confusing results of Elliott's study. Questionnaires would be of limited value. The real test is to observe how the child fares in life.

The report said that the children who "did not cite their apparent abuse showed virtually no traumatic symptoms." Aren't amnesia and denial considered traumatic symptoms? The fact that the children who seemed least affected by evidenced abuse had no memory of their abuse tells us something important, doesn't it?

Dennis Alsop
Stockton, Calif.

No mistake in identity

The pictures on p.116 and p.119 (SN: 8/20/94) are obviously the same photograph. Who would have thought the missing 90 percent of the universe would be surrounding a creature from the sands of Tampa Bay?

Monty Zieball
Wausau, Wis.

Much as the two photos look the same, they are in fact different!
— The Editors

NOVEMBER 26, 1994

355