

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

Science Service Publication
Volume 148, No. 25, December 16, 1995

Alfred Scott McLaren	Publisher
Julie Ann Miller	Editor
Blair Burns Potter	Managing Editor
Dan Skripkar	Production/Design Director
David Lindley	Associate Editor
Janet Raloff	Senior Editor Environment/Policy
Ron Cowen	Astronomy
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences
Richard Lipkin	Chemistry/ Materials Science
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences
John Travis	Biology
Kathleen Fackelmann, Lisa Seachrist	Biomedicine
Tina Adler	Life Sciences
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Physics
Damaris Christensen	Editorial Assistant
Marjorie Centofanti	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 \$49.50 for 1 year or \$88.00 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 © 1995 by Science Service, Inc. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Printed in U.S.A. on recycled paper. ♻️
Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS without written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

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

Advertising Representative:
Lewis Edge & Associates, Inc.
366 Wall St., Princeton, N.J. 08540
(609-683-7900)

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.

This Week

- 404 New Phylum Found Residing on Lobsters
- 404 San Andreas looms larger in L.A.'s future
- 405 DNA manipulation goes large-scale
- 405 U.N. to oversee methyl bromide phaseout
- 406 Timing attack beats cryptographic keys
- 406 Schizophrenia: Data point to early roots
- 406 Vaccine triggers cocaine mop-up in rats
- 407 Hubble finds an off-center black hole
- 407 Heart drug busts brain clots from stroke

Research Notes

- 409 Behavior
- 409 Biomedicine
- 413 Biology
- 415 Earth Science
- 415 Environment

Articles

- 410 A New View of Earth

Cover: Oceanographers are awash in new information about the seafloor, thanks to two satellites that have surveyed Earth's crust from space. Drawn from the satellite data, this map shows variations in the planet's gravity that are caused primarily by features on the ocean floor. (Image: David T. Sandwell/ Scripps Institution of Oceanography)

- 412 Some Like It Hot

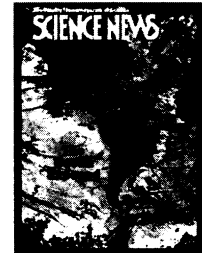
Departments

- 402 Books
- 403 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*, Dudley Herschbach; *Vice Chairman*, Gerald F. Tape; *Secretary*, David A. Goslin; *Treasurer*, Willis Harlow Shapley; Joseph W. Berg Jr.; Robert W. Fri; J. David Hann; Shirley M. Malcom; C. Bradley Moore, Elena O. Nightingale; Ben Patrusky; Peter H. Raven; H. Guyford Stever; Sanford J. Ungar; Deborah P. Wolfe. **Honorary Trustees** — *Chairman Emeritus*, Glenn T. Seaborg; Edward Bliss Jr.; Bowen C. Dees; O.W. Riegel; John Troan.

President: Alfred Scott McLaren; Vice President and Business Manager: Donald R. Harless.



Letters

DES and sexual orientation

In commenting on our study of fertility among DES sons, correspondent Dippy suggests that DES might influence sexual orientation and that our cohort would be a good place to look for such an effect ("Does DES affect behavior?" SN: 8/26/95, p.131). That had occurred to us as well. We asked both sons and daughters about their sexual partners and found no differences in choice of partners between those exposed to DES and those not exposed.

Allen J. Wilcox
Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Feline's phenomenal observation

"Toil and trouble over double bubbles" (SN: 8/13/95, p.101) mentioned a competing geometric structure in perimeter minimization: the torus bubble. In fairness, I should

like to report an interesting research observation on such torus bubbles made by a feline scientist some years ago.

As a neuroscientist, I've learned to join in the observation whenever my cat, Sinbad, has been fascinated for hours by some small-scale phenomenon. Often, she has detected a remarkable state of affairs.

One day in 1988, I found her perched on the edge of our kitchen sink laboratory, mesmerized by some hydrodynamic phenomenon. Fetching a magnifying glass to mimic her optical resolution, I took up a seat beside her to ascertain the cause of her wonder.

Drops of water were falling from the faucet, colliding with the basin surface, and shattering into microdroplets. Hurlted sideways, these daughter droplets would often collide with a larger blob which had previously come to rest.

Disintegration of both bodies or absorption of one by the other are the two outcomes to

be expected from such an encounter. But the smaller droplet was entering and reemerging from the greater without harm being done to either!

Graduate students are now being assigned credit for discoveries previously attributed to professors. I've long wondered whether, through her superhuman senses, curiosity, and patience, my feline scientist-friend might have made a noteworthy discovery about the dynamics of torus bubbles—meriting publication somewhere, beyond the species barrier.

Patrick Gunkel
Toronto, Ontario

CORRECTION

In "Molecules bind mutant huntington proteins" (SN: 11/18/95, p.325), the protein produced by the normal gene that when mutated causes Huntington's disease is misspelled. The correct spelling is *huntingtin*. — The Editors