

# SCIENCE NEWS®

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Cover: Whales perform an elaborate arrangement of clicks and calls to communicate with each other and navigate the vast oceans. Researchers are trying to understand these mysterious noises, in part to determine how underwater human activities might interfere with them. Shown here, a female killer whale breaching in Johnstone Strait, British Columbia. (Photo: Lance Barrett-Lennard)
- 332 Growing Up in Harm's Way

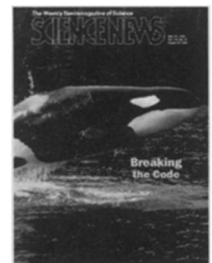
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## Letters

### Pesticide protests

You did a disservice to those of us concerned with environmental issues when you presented us with a cover showing an albino chick with a severely deformed lower mandible that "may trace" to pollutants ("The Pesticide Shuffle," SN: 3/16/96, p. 174). This deformity could easily have been a mutation totally unrelated to pesticides or an injury received in a predatory attack.

There is enough environmental hysteria out here without your adding to it.

Jess E. Moore  
Midland, Texas

Is it really suitable for a nation whose major food-related problem is obesity to sit in judgment on the crop protection practices of a nation whose main food-related problems are malnutrition and starvation? Will a worldwide ban on all non-U.S.-registered pes-

ticides reduce world misery or increase it? Is it fair to ban a material protecting a population from diseases simply because we in the United States do not suffer from those same diseases?

Allen C. Scoggan  
Aurora, Colo.

You fully document all the pesticides escaping the United States but totally fail to mention the benefits of these pesticides around the world.

When DDT was being widely used throughout the world in the early 1970s, malaria was brought under control. Today, despite DDT's never having been proven to be a human carcinogen, its absence on the world market has allowed malaria to claim millions of lives each year for the past decade.

Jay Lehr  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Education Enterprises  
Columbus, Ohio

### Auto companies took lead in tests

"Virtual crash-test dummy" (SN: 3/2/96, p. 138) implies that technologists at Los Alamos invented the idea of using a computer system to simulate crash tests. Computer crashworthiness simulations have been done for more than 10 years by automobile companies around the world.

Many commercial companies have also been developing and using humanlike models. I am glad that Los Alamos is joining this worthy endeavor, but please give some credit to the private sector for being there first.

Stephen R. Behling  
Cray Research  
Eagan, Minn.

### Limitations of UV light

Regarding "Safer water for poorer nations" (SN: 3/2/96, p. 138), ultraviolet light is a well-known purifier of water. However, the ability

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