

This Week

- 148 Deformed Nuclei Spit Out Protons
Ivars Peterson
- 148 Exploring a genetic link to smoking
Nathan Seppa
- 149 Taters for tots provide an edible vaccine
Janet Raloff
- 149 Craft eyes new evidence of a slushy Europa
Ron Cowen
- 150 Bone marrow cells can build new muscle
John Travis
- 150 Dyslexia tied to disrupted brain network
Bruce Bower
- 151 Fossil soil has the dirt on early microbes
Richard Monastersky
- 151 Heterosexual women have noisy ears
Mari N. Jensen

Articles

- 153 When Birds Divorce
Who splits, who benefits, and who gets the nest
Susan Milius
- 156 Not-So-Deadly Force
The search for a kinder, gentler knockout punch
Sid Perkins

Research Notes

- 152 Astronomy
A Voyager goes the distance
Solar eclipses—on Jupiter
- 152 Behavior
Rethinking mental disorder rates
Family shroud for the mentally ill
- 159 Biology
Proteins that produce hunger . . .
. . . and a gene that causes hair loss
- 159 Environment
Radon-lung cancer risk high for smokers
Fine-tuning federal water policies

Departments

- 146 Science News Books
- 147 Letters



Cover: Greater flamingos have high divorce rates—one study reports that 100 percent of pairs fail to reunite. At the other extreme, waved albatrosses almost never split. Scientists are studying divorce as part of a new interest in bird family life. **Page 153**
(Photo montage: Mark Gilvey/Design Imaging)

Visit SCIENCE NEWS ONLINE for special features, columns, and references.

<http://www.sciencenews.org>

Letters

Web accuracy not linked to domain

Your sidebar regarding accuracy on the Web ("Science Safari in Cyberspace," SN: 12/20&27/97, p. 397) seems to imply that ".com" sites may be inaccurate because they have some commercial interest. My feeling is that the ".org" and in some cases ".gov" sites are sometimes more inaccurate. Sites from animal rights activists and some environmental organizations, for example, are clearly inaccurate and pushing their own agenda.

*Alan L. Mendrala
Sanford, Mich.*

Raising a point about climate

"Children of the C₄ World" (SN: 1/3/98, p. 14) left out a very important detail about the Himalayas.

During the Miocene, the Himalayas were rising. As they pushed up into the atmosphere, they drained carbon dioxide, reducing the greenhouse effect and resulting in a cooling of the planet and the onset of ice ages.

This decrease in carbon dioxide would

make a perfect growing climate for C₄ grass all over the planet.

*Sev Slaymaker
Rockport, Me.*

Paddling in circles?

Did the British tourists find it odd that the horse-powered ferry only went in circles, or is there an error in the drawing of the gearbox in the sketch on p. 26 ("Freshwater Finds," SN: 1/10/98, p. 24)?

*John T. Chard
Brattleboro, Vt.*

There's no error in the drawing, although its small size may not have revealed the details of the gearing. The paddle wheels on each side of the boat were joined by a rigid axle, which forced them to turn in the same direction, says Kevin J. Crisman. The ferryman used a lever (visible in the top view of the boat, just aft of the gearbox and extending downward in the drawing) to engage the transmission from the turntable to one of the geared wheels on the axle, but not to both at once. The sketch shows the transmission lever

in the unengaged position, Crisman says.

—S. Perkins

To dream, perchance to forget?

In "To dream, perchance to scan" (SN: 1/17/98, p. 44), you mention reduced blood flow to the frontal lobes of the brain. Since these lobes "make possible temporary recall of related items," reduced blood flow to the frontal lobes may be the reason dreams are often hard to remember.

*Paul Etzler
Mountain Springs, Nev.*

Look to tick as well as spray

"From fleas to brain tumors" (SN: 12/13/97, p. 375) may have overlooked the obvious. Researchers whose studies associated flea-and-tick foggers and sprays with brain cancers might consider the likely exposure to ticks and fleas themselves as suspect. These creatures transmit a number of pathogens, most significantly the tick-borne *Borrelia* bacteria, which have an affinity for brain tissue.

*Bonnie Bennett
Gig Harbor, Wash.*