

# SEE LIFE.

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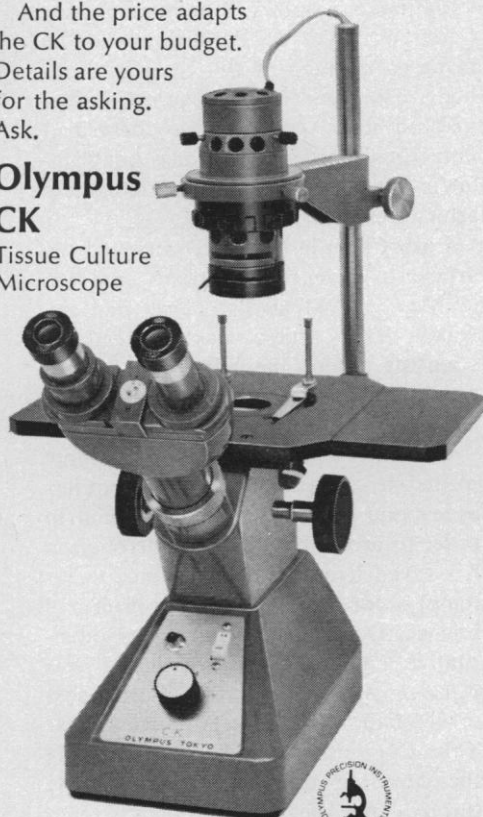
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stroyed by NLF rocket fire from a completely defoliated area that the team had visited.

Chamlin concludes that "given a choice between the life of a tree, and the life of an American soldier, we must choose in favor of the life of an American soldier." His point is irrelevant as our article attempted to describe some of the ecological effects of war in Vietnam and was not an assessment of the military value of defoliation. However, U.S. policy is not in accord with Chamlin's conclusion. French rubber plantations have always been off limits to defoliation attacks, which led U.S. military commanders to complain bitterly to us that, during the battle on the Dau Tieng (Michelin) plantations, French rubber trees were apparently worth more than American soldiers.

E. W. PFEIFFER

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## International Association of Microbiological Societies

The tenth International Congress of Microbiology was held in Mexico City from 9 to 15 August 1970. At this meeting the International Association of Microbiological Societies (IAMS) adopted new statutes and bylaws to define and govern its operations.

At present, the American Society for Microbiology is the only representative of the United States within IAMS. However, under the new statutes, any national scientific or technological society that is principally concerned with microbiology, and whose members have been trained at the university level, is welcome to join the IAMS, subject to the payment of basic annual dues of \$100. For the establishment of eligibility, microbiology is defined as the study of bacteria, viruses, yeasts, and microfungi.

The IAMS will be financed by an annual contribution from each member nation. The amount of the contribution, to be decided by the executive board of IAMS, will vary from year to year, depending on the association's budgetary requirements and the number of microbiologists in the member societies of each nation. Thus, the total annual contribution from member nations may exceed the total of the basic annual fees assessed against member societies of each country.

Officers of societies that are con-

sidered eligible for membership in IAMS may write to Donald E. Shay, Secretary, American Society for Microbiology, Department of Microbiology, Schools of Dentistry and Pharmacy, University of Maryland, 666 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. The American Society for Microbiology would like to negotiate with all eligible and interested societies in the United States for the formation of a national committee, in order that the United States may be represented in the IAMS.

ASGER F. LANGLYKKE

American Society for Microbiology,  
1913 Eye Street, NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20006

## After the Storm

Since when has patriotic service to the United States become a crime of such magnitude as to disqualify a man, otherwise highly qualified, from nomination as president of an association ostensibly devoted to "the advancement of science" ("AAAS presidency: Controversy flares over Seaborg candidacy," 11 Dec., p. 1177). The concept of "conflict of interest with the public" could apply to practically every university professor. Those who are not on some public payroll are subsidized through government grants to their students and by the tax exemption allowed their institutions. Many work on government contracts. . . .

The furor over the nomination of Seaborg was raised by a group of members who are highly emotional, who espouse dissent for the sake of dissension, and who condemn the intelligence, morals, and ethics of anyone who dissents from their dissension. . . . Perhaps the AAAS should stick to its knitting as a scientific society and not try to run the country through demonstrations and partisan politics.

B. S. GARVEY, JR.

5 Briar Road, Strafford Village,  
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

Suppression of news during the AAAS election has not only damaged *Science*, the magazine, but science, the enterprise. Suppression of news is just as much interference in the election process as publishing news. The question is: Whose interests are more important, the "establishment" of science or the general public of science (as represented by *Science* readers)? This is

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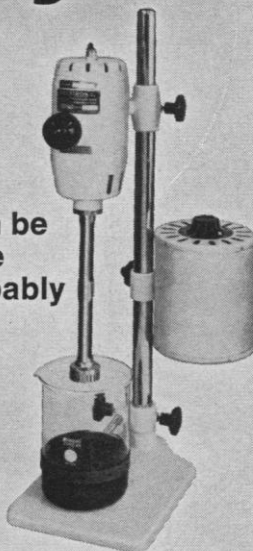
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the kind of incident that reinforces the image of science as a self-serving club rather than an open democratic enterprise.

*Science*, the magazine, will suffer from the loss of Daniel Greenberg, who is to be commended for his integrity. But that loss is small compared to the damage done to science, the enterprise.

EDWIN B. PARKER

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I note the departure of Daniel Greenberg from the news staff of *Science* with great regret. If some of his reporting has been flavored with vinegar, it has also been composed with knowledge, insight, and humor. His work has reflected both the widening interests of the scientific community to matters beyond the laboratory and helped to develop a sense of this community among scientists. Almost entirely because of Greenberg and his staff *Science* has become an exciting forum for the profession of science.

LAWRENCE BADASH

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Isn't it about time that all the members of the AAAS participate in the election of "their" president?

ALEXANDER STRASSER

(Nonvoting member since 1943)  
409 South Dallas Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

In spite of the excellence of *Science* magazine, I have repeatedly refused invitations to join the AAAS because of the denial to members of the right to elect the officers of the Association. Can anyone explain why 100,000 scientists—all of whom would be furious if forbidden the right to vote for candidates for public office—are so meekly willing to surrender this basic privilege to a 530-man presidium?

LAWRENCE SLIFKIN

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## Degrees Celsius—Never Centigrade

It is commendable that *Science* published "Metric system: Status of adoption by the United States" (18 Dec., p. 1337). The subject merits the concern

not only of the scientific community but also the general public. However, the statement: "Some doctors record patients' . . . temperatures in degrees centigrade" is undoubtedly factual, but the physician should be encouraged to use degrees Celsius (°C) since the temperature unit "degree centigrade" no longer exists (1). It will be helpful if editors would assist in deleting "degrees centigrade" from the literature so that, at some time in the future, degrees Celsius will be a natural expression.

H. H. PLUMB

*Temperature Section, Institute for  
Basic Standards, National Bureau of  
Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234*

## Reference

1. *Comptes Rendus de la Neuvième Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures* (Librairie-Imprimerie Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 1949), p. 64.

## Rescue Plan for Indian Monkeys

Southwick *et al.* ("Primate populations and biomedical research," 4 Dec., p. 1051) have highlighted the serious shortages of several primate species and suggested that at some point even the relatively abundant rhesus may not be in adequate supply to meet the biomedical demand. It seems clear that current harvesting practices in India depend upon social, economic, and ecological factors that are likely to undergo marked changes in the next several decades. We should like to suggest the outlines of a program that might slow or stop the decline of animals and at the same time increase the scientific value of the individual animal.

The central point is that farmers and villagers must be given an economic stake in the monkey trade in their area. The animals surrounding a village and its agricultural supply should be treated as a natural resource belonging to the village; harvesting of that resource should bring financial gain to the village. This feature of the program will be necessary if villagers are to achieve a proper attitude toward monkeys and their harvesting, one that is positively balanced between veneration (stemming from the doctrine of *ahimsa* and the theology surrounding the monkey god Hanuman) and hostility (stemming from the damage monkeys do to crops and structures). Farmers and villagers must come to view the animals as a natural product of their region which, with proper management, can increase the wealth of the community. We will give