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pH 2	— 4	
pH 3	— 5	
pH 4	— 6	
pH 5	— 7	
pH 6	— 8	
pH 7	— 9	
pH 8	— 10	
pH 9	— 11	



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LETTERS

Scientific Rivalries:

A Sign of Vitality?

In a recent letter (15 Apr., p. 258), Marion E. Smith takes Thomas H. Maugh to task for "... bringing out the personality conflicts between some individuals in basic protein research" in his article on multiple sclerosis (Research News, 11 Mar., p. 969) and goes on to suggest that "... remarks pointing out antagonisms and controversies in the field do nothing to illuminate the problem ... the publication of such unattractive sidelights can only add to the bad press the scientific community is already receiving." I think in the long run science is far more harmed than helped, particularly with respect to its relations with the public, by attempts to conceal or minimize disputes and controversies within its fields. Students, the public, and even scientists themselves seem to find great comfort in the myth that practitioners of science are intelligent, rational, objective, open-minded, unselfishly humble, and cooperative. However, with the exception of the first trait, scientists as a group seem to have no more of these qualities than other groups of normal people (1). Efforts to foster a myth of universal scientific tolerance of ideas and a lack of personal rivalry and fights among scientists will tend only to hinder the public's understanding of how science is done. Science is a means of systematically (empirically) challenging conceptions of reality, and it is inevitable that those whose conceptions are challenged will become personally involved in controversy. Given the enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication that the practice of science demands, the existence of fights and rivalries can be taken as a sign of vitality in a field. Even if scientists employed more "strong inference" methods (2), that is, pitting opposing conceptions against each other in the same experiment, I suspect the net effect would be merely to make the fights a bit less ad hominem. Science's bad press will grow worse as long as the public continues to believe that scientific "truth" is found scattered about the landscape like so many Easter eggs and is merely picked up by cooperative, truth-seeking scientists. Scientific progress results from the constant competition of ideas, with the best ideas (and scientists) emerging as successful. Scientists should not only air their differences and rivalries in public but should also take positive steps to educate the public about the meaning of those rivalries, one

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of which is that, despite being conducted by fallible and disputatious humans, the process of science yields an ever-unfolding increase in understanding.

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References

1. M. J. Mahoney, *The Scientist: Anatomy of the Truth Merchant* (Ballinger, Cambridge, Mass., 1976); I. T. Mitroff, *The Subjective Side of Science* (Elsevier, New York, 1974).
2. J. Platt, *The Step to Man* (Wiley, New York, 1970).

Jensen's AAAS Fellowship

I regret the controversy occasioned by the election of Arthur Jensen as a fellow of the AAAS. The nomination of fellows in Section J (Psychology Section) does not "operate in mysterious, random ways" as implied by Philip M. Boffey in the 11 March issue of *Science* (News and Comment, p. 965). In addition to the procedures for nomination indicated in the *Science* article, our section committee reviews the roster of section members each year to identify potential candidates. Jensen's nomination was evaluated in accordance with our regular procedures.

Jensen's career as a research scholar goes well beyond the work which has aroused debate. Members of our section would not, I feel sure, support racist interpretations of his work, nor, I dare say, would Jensen himself. But to allow the threat of controversy to supersede consideration of scientific merit would be ignoble of the AAAS and of our section.

We trust that members who question Jensen's election will review, and read, his total list of publications to judge for themselves whether his election was appropriate.

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Arthur Jensen's election as a AAAS fellow is an insult and an affront to the minority members of the AAAS because it represents a carte blanche endorsement of his philosophies by the AAAS.

At the council meeting where the action took place, William Wallace of Harvard University sought unsuccessfully to read a brief statement—not "make a speech," as Boffey reports—on behalf of minority scientists. A press conference

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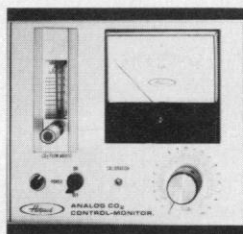
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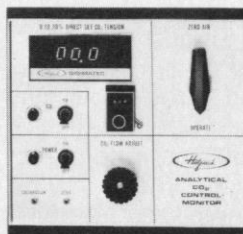
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