# SCIENCE 14 October 1977 SCIENCE Volume 198, No. 4313 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Instrument Issue



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#### 14 October 1977

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#### COVER

Flow cytometer. Fluorescence from biological cells within fluid stream (vertical column) is measured at intersection of laser beam (hortizontal blue line). The fluid stream is broken into uniform droplets; droplets containing cells of interest are electrostatically charged, sorting the cells of interest out of the main population (50,000 cells per minute). See page 149. [Joseph Balbuza, Coulter Electronics, Inc., Hialeah, Florida]

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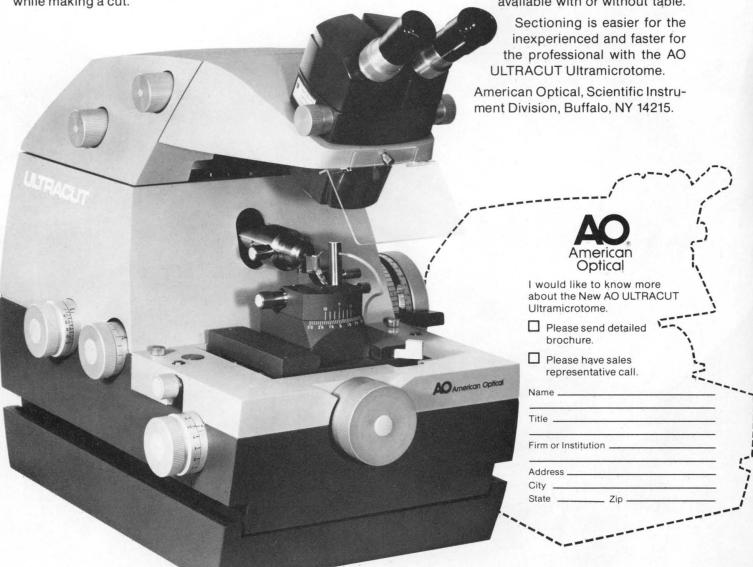
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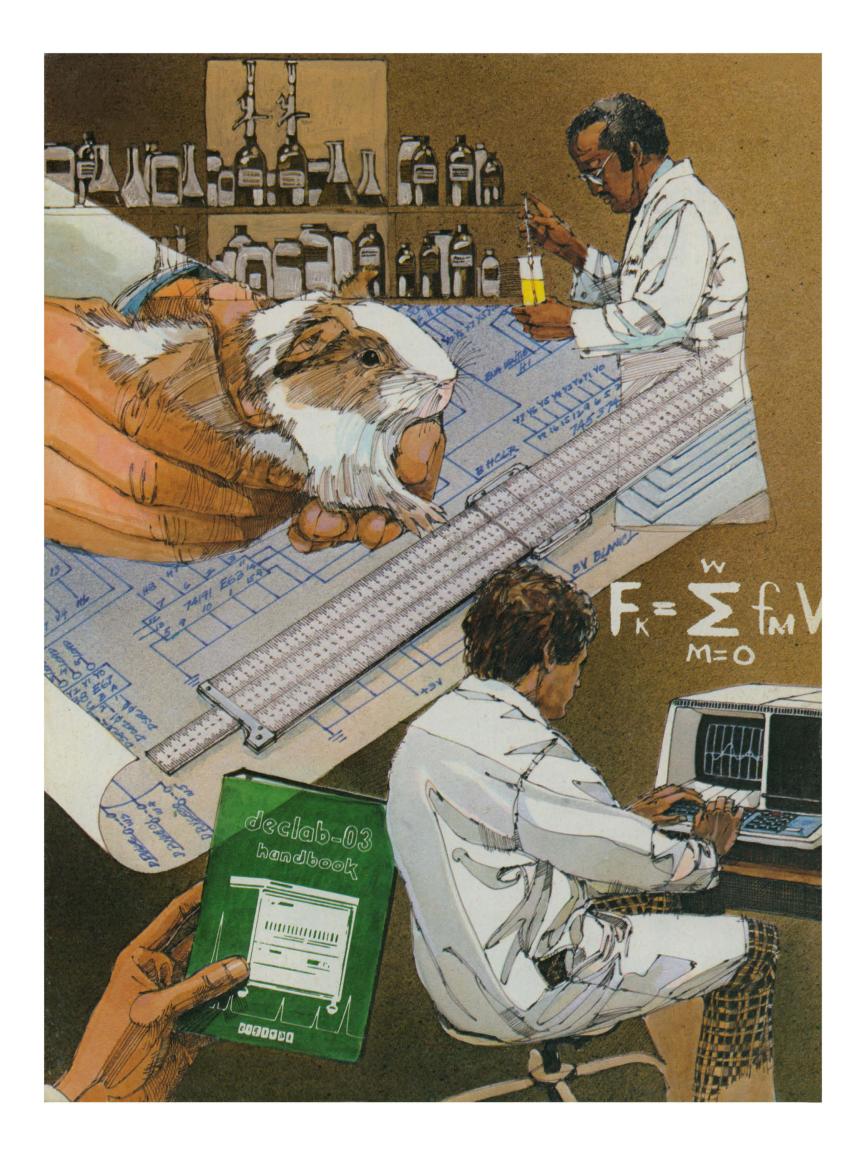
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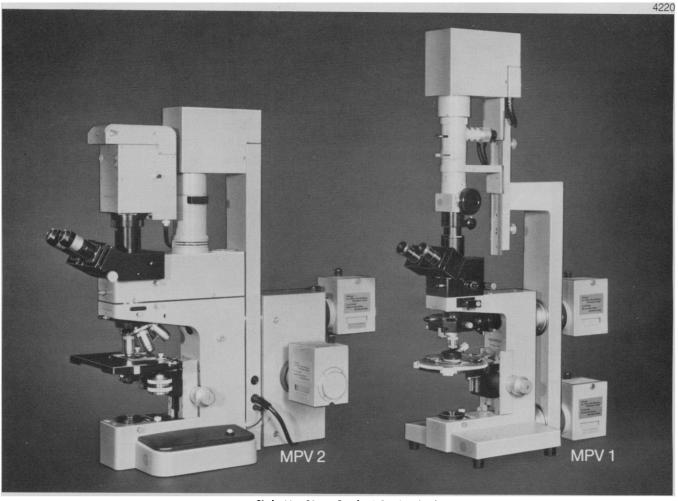
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What's more, you save by using less cocktail. FILMWARE tubes are available in 3-ml and 10-ml sizes, but they provide an accurate count with as little as 1 ml of cocktail. In the tube, 1 ml is distributed vertically, to assure optimal exposure to the photomultiplier. The 10-ml tube easily accommodates filter papers, yet you need only 1-2 ml of cocktail for an efficient count.

#### One-sixth the disposal volume.

With FILMWARE tubes, you reduce the cost and volume of disposal, too. Over 12,000 samples can be emptied into a standard drum. Six times more than is possible when you use glass or plastic vials. FILMWARE tubes can be incinerated, left intact, or snipped open for emptying. Cost savings are estimated at 75%.

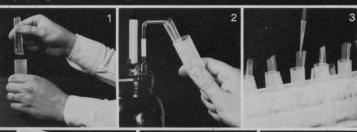
#### The elements of the system.

Counting with the Nalge FILMWARE Scintillation Tube takes no longer than the system using standard vials. FILMWARE tubes are specially designed to stay open for easy filling.

The optional, reusable carrier vials are straight-walled, for easy insertion of the tubes.

The optional, three-tiered rack provides easy access to the tubes for filling and holds 10-ml FILMWARE tubes without the carrier vials.

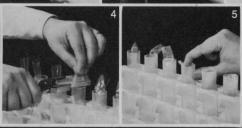
The heat sealer seals the tubes in about 2 seconds. It operates at 350° F, well below the ignition temperature of toluene. Tubes can be resealed after an internal standard is added by snipping the tops or puncturing them with a syringe.



#### Count your savings.

Application of the Nalge FILMWARE Scintillation Tube system can lower liquid scintillation counting costs dramatically, even though current cocktail, vial, and disposal costs vary. To learn how the system can contribute to your

counting operation, write: Nalge Co., P.O. Box 365, Rochester, New York 14602.



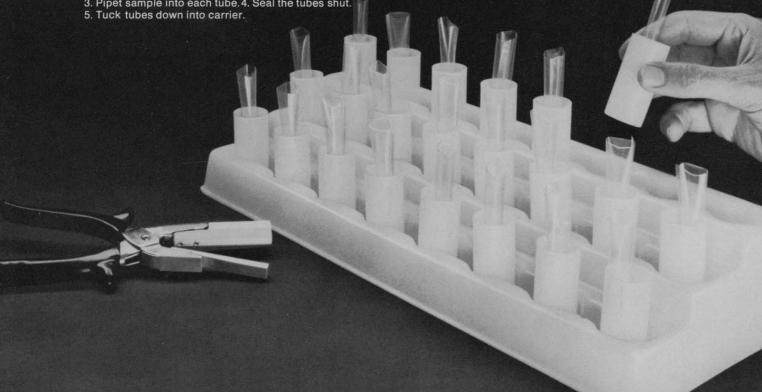
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Dispense as little as 1 ml of cocktail into tube.
 Pipet sample into each tube. 4. Seal the tubes shut.

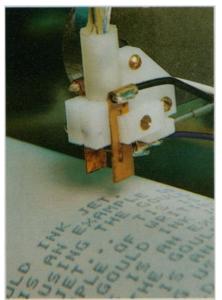


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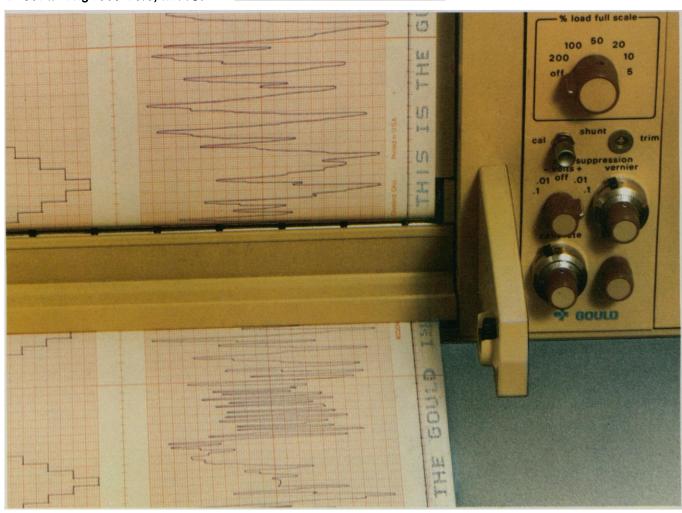
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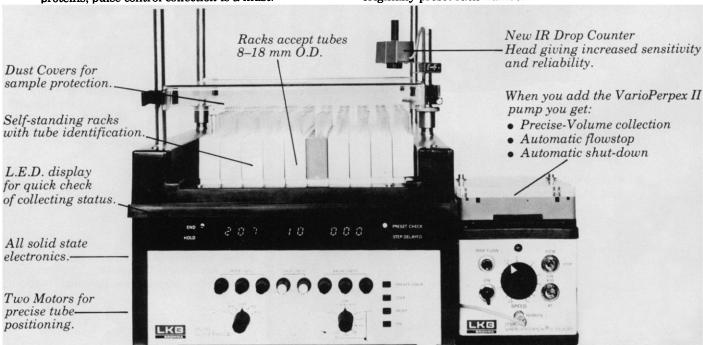
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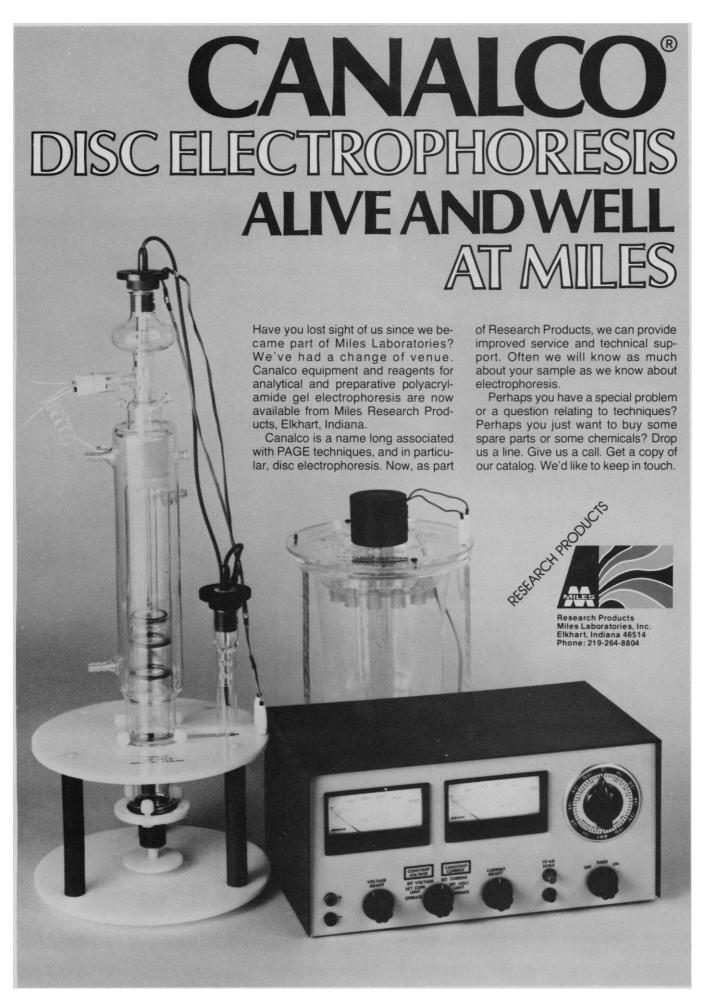
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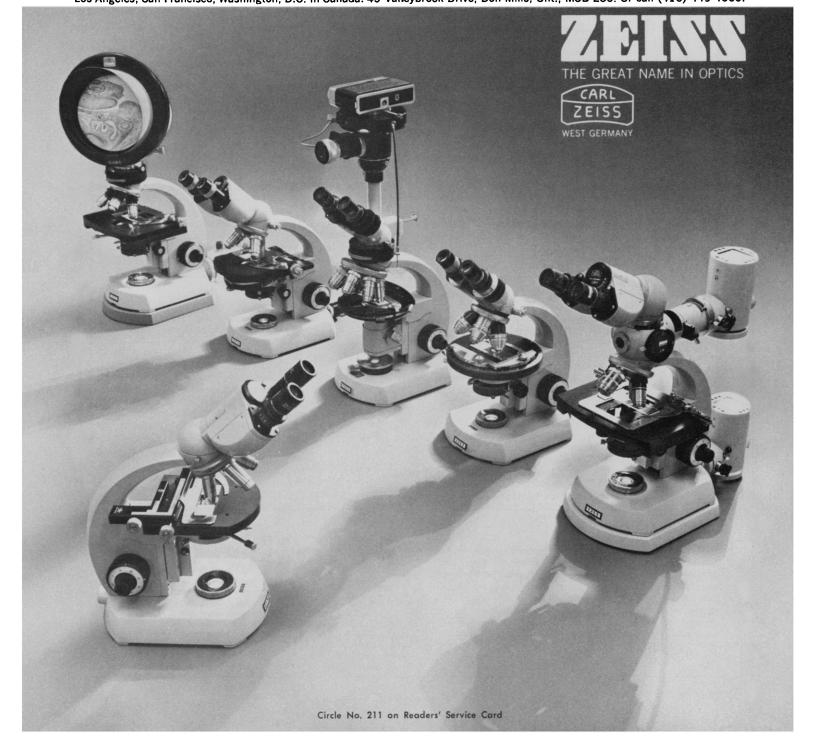
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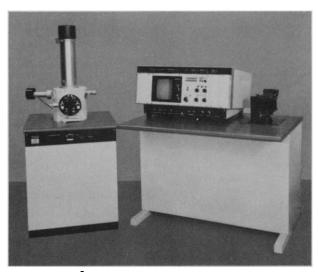
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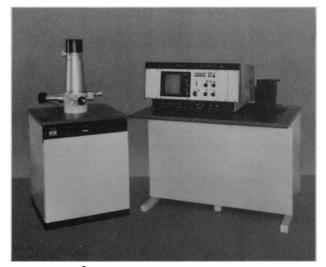
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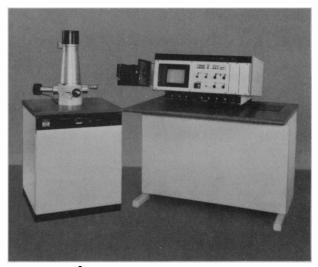
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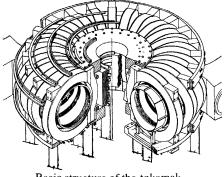
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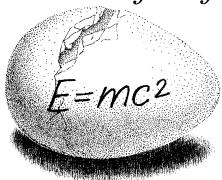
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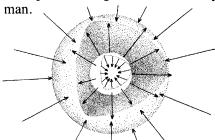
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#### **LETTERS**

#### Medical Schools and the Government

Many readers may be astonished at the economic and social assumptions implicit in Philip H. Abelson's editorial "Coercion of medical schools" (16 Sept., p. 1137). If it costs society \$250,000 to support a physician for a year, this is because the physicians control the supply of medical care—including the education of physicians and other health care practitioners. If medical schools successfully fight off governmental attempts to increase the supply of physicians, the costs of health care will surely continue to rise.

Abelson misleads readers when he warns against "increasing further what is now regarded as an excessive number of doctors." Even on the relatively comfortable Gulf Coast of Florida, 60 percent of the population does not have a family doctor. If, as Abelson states, there is "a large body of hypochondriacs and lonely people" overusing the health care system, there is a still larger body, including many readers of Science, who fail to seek adequate preventive medical attention because of exorbitant costs due, primarily, to control of the system by the relatively small number of physicians.

ALVIN W. WOLFE

Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, Tampa 33620

The comments expressed in Abelson's recent editorial discredit the efforts and education of many U.S. citizens attending foreign medical schools by tarring them all with the same brush. To state that the "standards of admission and training are generally inferior" at foreign medical schools is stereotyping at its worst and belies a lack of recognition of differences in program quality and the realities of medical education and practice today.

The statement that "Most of these students are U.S. citizens who were initially rejected by our medical schools," made without qualification, leaves open the inference that these students were rejected solely on the basis of quality, rather than other factors, such as lack of space, age, and ethnic background. Most medical schools openly admit that many very well qualified applicants cannot be accepted for lack of space. We also object to the editorial use of the prejudicial term "rejectees" and phrases such as "cost to society." Not all acceptees in the U.S. schools arrive by merit alone, but occasionally through political con-

nections in those "citadels of virtue" described in the editorial.

As an international group of students, we are keenly sensitive to the effects of branding any one segment of the population as second-class. Editorials such as Abelson's engender and perpetuate such designations.

Norman C. Lyon Scott A. Heatley James van Pelt III Jack de la Torre Sandy Vernick

Ph.D.→M.D. Bilingual Program, School of Medicine, Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez, Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Abelson quotes E. Ginzberg (1) as estimating at \$250,000 the total expenditure society makes in "supporting a physician" for a year. Actually Ginzberg said, "the net addition of one physician adds approximately \$250,000 to annual operating costs of the health care enterprise" [emphasis added].

In response let me say that we physicians render a service or, if you will, deliver a product, and hence our fees should not be construed as mere "support"; some portion of the price of a loaf of bread is for the bread, not for supporting the baker. Second, most of a physician's gross earnings "support" not himself but his landlord and staff, his Ma Bell, his Uncle Sam, and so forth.

Abelson presents a paradox by stating in consecutive sentences that there is "an excessive number of doctors" and "an infinite demand for medical attention." I agree that medical schools should refuse to accept government coercion, but the position could have been more lucidly and fairly presented.

HUGH A. LINDSAY

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#### References

1. E. Ginzberg, N. Engl. J. Med. 297, 814 (1977).

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mittee's report was directed at the need for the University of California's Biohazards Committee to go beyond the letter, while retaining the spirit, of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines in its surveillance of recombinant DNA research on the university's San Diego campus.

The San Diego committee's report was accepted by the city council in late March 1977. Since then the concern within the scientific community about the real and potential hazards of the research has lessened, particularly with respect to the use of the K-12 strain of *Escherichia coli*, as reported in Philip H. Abelson's editorial (19 Aug., p. 721).

Regardless of the outcome of the current debate on the regulation of recombinant DNA research, I fear that, with the increasing evidence that the research poses less danger than had been believed by its critics, the need for improved laboratory safety may be disregarded. One of the conclusions reached by the San Diego committee is that laboratory design and practices in general are not always consistent with the level of risk to which investigators, students, technicians, and others are exposed. Concern about complying with the NIH guidelines has at least drawn attention to situations in which research institutions are poorly prepared to deal with the emergencies posed by laboratory accidents. Another result of the open debate on recombinant DNA research is the increased public awareness of science and its role in society. In the long run that too can be beneficial.

If the current heightened awareness of the problem of laboratory safety is diminished by reduced anxiety about the dangers of recombinant DNA research, at least one of the tangible benefits of the controversy may be lost. Such a development would be tragic from the point of view of everyone's best interest.

ALBERT W. JOHNSON DNA Study Committee, Environmental Quality Division, City of San Diego, San Diego, California 92101, and San Diego State University San Diego 92182

#### **Augmentation Trends**

A hypothesis is always more interesting when accompanied by a test. I demonstrate here that the windedness index of M. O'Hare (Letters, 1 July, p. 6) gives an even stronger lengthening trend for writings in *Science* than I envisioned.

Before presenting the data, though, I

wish to explain [see letter from R. J. Huxtable (15 July, p. 208)] that my original letter (10 June, p. 1154) was not intended as an attack on novelists as well as science news writers. Novelists and poets experiment with form as well as content and I do not want to impinge on their game. Consequently, I take as gratuitous the apparent support for my thesis provided by the Faulkner example of Huxtable. I should add, however, that I do not wish to annoy only news writers in scientific journals; I address all science writers and, in particular, all Science writers. Incidentally, the symptoms described by Huxtable, who falls asleep reading Boswell, may be due to periodomonotony (although Boswell's sentences are atrociously long, and there may be interaction). The onset of this curious clinical entity is manifested by slow eyelid lowering and saltatory head and body movements (in severe cases, injuries from falling out of a chair have occurred), apparently induced by an overregular repartition of typographical signs in a text. Writers can aid in eradicating this malady by avoiding uniform sentence length. Effective antidotes are LP's [long-windedness profiles (see my letter, 10 June)] having a skewed normal distribution (increased frequencies at shorter lengths) and a mean below 25 words per sentence. For a more radical treatment Huxtable might try reading G. Garcia Marquez, who writes without paragraphs or periods, although some commas remain (caveat: his novels are not placebos and may provoke sleepless-

As the French observe at railroad crossings, "Un train peut en cacher un autre." Similarly, one trend can hide another. I am not ready to say what the fundamental trend is, but its expression in Science seems to involve both sentence length and report length. Thus, I now extend my demonstration to authors of reports. (I have also made compatible observations over the same period of articles and news items, but I do not describe them here because of a self-imposed length limit for this letter.) My sample is the first issue of Science in July of each year, from 1 July 1955, when the modern three-column design was adopted, through 1 July 1977. For each issue, I have measured the number of pages (P) and reports (R) in the Reports section. The results are shown in Table 1.

A plot shows that evolution of the ratio P/R approaches a straight line. As with many evolutionary processes, it is hard to believe this came about without design. Some workers may feel this trend has been established by the ran-

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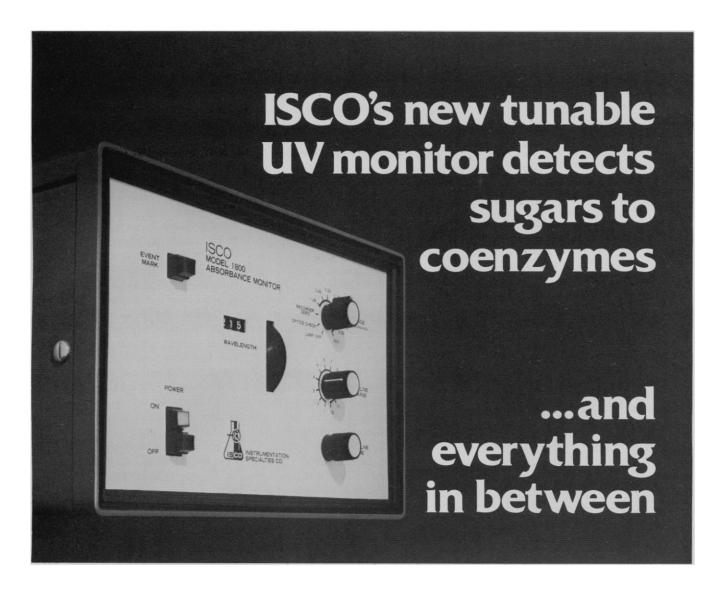
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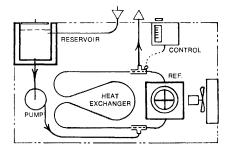
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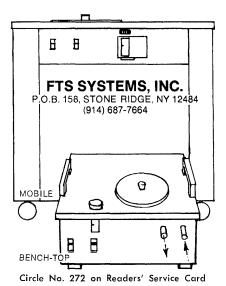
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dom accumulation of neutral changes in publishing and editorial policy, author behavior, and so forth. I find this notion distasteful. Length (in pages or words) of present Science reports is roughly triple that of a generation ago! By contrast, the human brain took several million years to triple in volume. The P/R growth rate is even greater than that of the earth's population. It also exceeds that for world military spending, which in the 20-year period 1957 through 1976 went up from \$155 billion to \$280 billion (or only 80 percent), on a constant dollar basis (1). Therefore, a cause should be sought for this drift, which cannot be due solely to change (P < .01).

Happily, I have been able to identify another trend of comparable magnitude. Augmentation of the Science subscriber population seems to have paralleled that of P/R. It is rare and extremely gratifying that phenomena on such different levels can be linked. The best explanation I have found for the increase in Science subscribers, hinted at here but not detailed, appears in (2). After due reflection, I am driven to the unexpected conclusion that the P/R growth has been selected by readers, and most directly by paid subscribers. My compliments to the editor and publisher for making this selection possible by perceiving that an increasing fraction of the earth's population likes nonmystical explanations of natural phenomena and is preadapted to the consumption of more comprehensive scientific reports.

At the same time I still believe the sentence-lengthening trend should be reversed. My working hypothesis is that this is a parasite trend which has been able to hide itself in the rush of P/R

Table 1.

Year	P (No.)	R (No.)	P/R
1977	46.0	20	2.30
1976	25.2	13	1.94
1975	16.8	9	1.87
1974	25.0	12	2.08
1973	37.1	17	2.18
1972	33.7	16	2.11
1971	37.5	17	2.21
1970	49.3	24	2.05
1969	34.0	18	1.89
1968	33.6	19	1.77
1967	43.6	25	1.74
1966	36.2	20	1.81
1965	41.9	21	1.99
1964	28.0	15	1.87
1963	21.0	14	1.50
1962	8.0	7	1.14
1961	12.0	9	1.33
1960	14.0	12	1.17
1959	8.0	7	1.14
1958	9.0	9	1.00
1957	9.0	9	1.00
1956	10.0	9	1.11
1955	5.0	7	0.71

change. Further, I claim that sentence lengthening has a negative value for the primary goal of greater scientific communication.

R. Grantham

Laboratoire de Biométrie, Université Claude-Bernard Lyon I, 69621 Villeurbanne, France

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The recent attack in the letter from Huxtable (15 July) on quantitative punctuational analysis was well taken; the amusing nature of his riposte makes an issue, which while it may be grave beyond simple concern for linguistic tradition, more often appears portrayed as a mild eccentricity of our materialistic, statistical society; however, before succumbing to the pleasures of satire, I, for reasons both connected to my classical education—beginning with 6 years of Latin in secondary school-and associated with my respect as a scientist, vitally tied by my profession to the printed word, for the value of precision in communication, might question whether this trivial-appearing matter does not have greater significance than the simpleminded penchant of modern pedants to assign numbers to matters of heart and taste but instead deals with the more essential question of the sophistication of our human thought processes in an era when \$20 will purchase an electronic device capable of remembering and using ten levels of parentheses, two memories, one constant, and six hierarchical, grammatical functions, while human beings who, more machine-like than the machines themselves, are restricted usually by their own indecision to the multiple-choice format of exams, simple menus of fast-food restaurants, or the three channels of culture proffered at no cost by ABC, NBC, and CBS, and are, at their best, prominent and cultured citizens, authors of renown, winners of the Nobel and Pulitzer awards, who nonetheless limit the complexity of their grammar not to the legalistic elegance of a pages-long speech by Cicero, who was, perhaps, the noblest proponent of the parsimonious period to ever exist, to the Roman senate, but to short, clauseless, phraseless declarative sentences which, whatever their virtue as barroom expletives or exhortations by cheerleaders, can provide but little challenge to the 95 percent of our organic brain mass, which, all too sad, is never used.

Stephen M. Schwartz Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle 98195

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Choline chloride, [methyl-3H](QNB) Quinuclidinyl benzilate,
DL-[benzilic-4,4'-3H(N)]Tubocurarine chloride, dextro-[13'-3H(N)]-

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Dihydroxyphenylethylamine, 3,4-[ethyl-1-³H(N)]-Dihydroxyphenylethylamine, 3,4-[ethyl-2-³H(N)]-Haloperidol, [³H(G)]-Spiroperidol, [1-phenyl-4-³H]-

#### **Amino Acid Receptor Studies**

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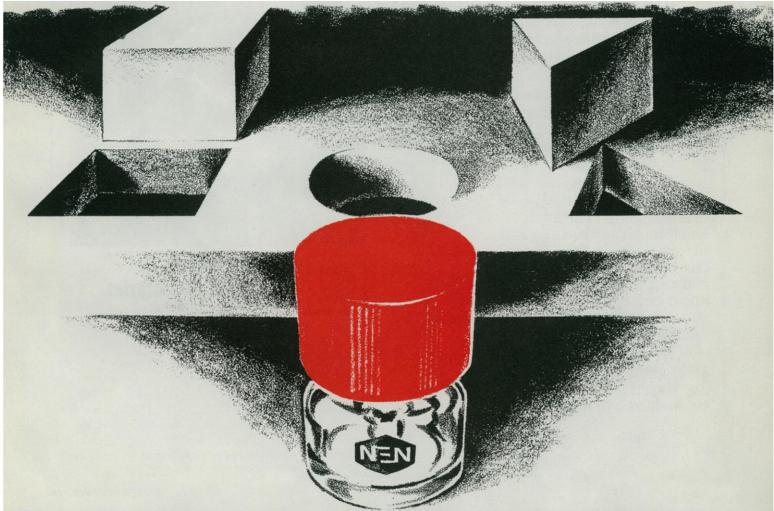
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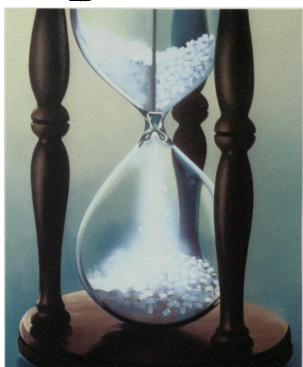
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# Thoughts on Reorganization

Among the superstitions of modern societies, few match the lures of reorganization. Like taking the waters, in a quieter age, overwrought managers now reach for reorganization as an all-purpose cure. Anyone who has served in government is reminded of the rumble of tectonic activity followed by transient surface eruptions.

Still, reorganization has its uses. It serves, however briefly, to let in light and break old habits. Occasionally it veers in the direction of harnessing power and resources for the work that must be done. If it rarely does this well, it is because counterpressures drive us to cut deals, so that the outcome is less than meets the eye.

Now the Carter Administration is busy with reorganization studies on a scale that has not been attempted since the Hoover Commission. It will be a very different kind of exercise. The agenda of government looks entirely different, and priorities and values have changed in many ways. Science and technology are part of the action to an extent that would surprise the Hoover Commission, and they figure large in government's doings at home and abroad. How much of this is getting through to the reorganization planners is not clear. But if reorganization is going to touch science and technology sooner or later, the starting point ought to be a critique of policy management. Structures and landscaping can wait.

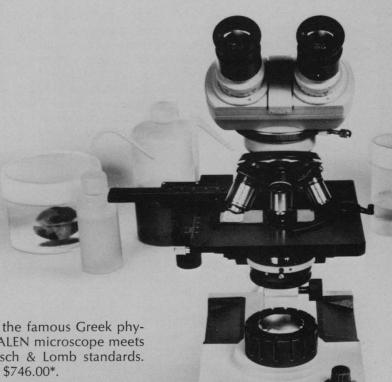
If we try to comprehend what has been happening to American science and technology since World War II, three features stand out. First, science and technology have been politicized because of the one-sided leverage of government. Next, they are being secularized as lay publics participate in negotiating their right uses. And third, science and technology have been internationalized by the advent of new and tougher problems such as the management of the biosphere, population pressure on life support systems, and the claims of developing countries. These changes spell an aching need for new frameworks of goal-setting. Reorganization should be concerned with more than body counts and administrative dispositions.

Reorganization in government's scientific and technical affairs ought to start with the correction of flaws in policy management. Science and technology still cool their heels in the waiting rooms of American diplomacy. There is still no visible focus in government for the stimulation of innovation and risk-taking in the market economy. With one hand, public policy tries to shape energy policies, while with the other, it intimidates industry from sharing know-how which could speed solutions. Well-meant regulation stretches out capital improvements which could raise productivity. Centers of excellence in research and standards-setting, like the Bureau of Standards, have been allowed to run downhill. And government is only beginning to look searchingly into the relationships between research and development and the nation's unmet economic potential.

If these and other shortfalls could be looked into with some care, there would be a point to tackling the questions of reorganization. A Noah's ark of science and technology is the last thing we need. Nor is it sensible to shake up the whole anatomy of science in government. But with better policy aims to start with, there are both near-term and future options. One is to remake the Commerce Department into a Department of Industry Economics and Technology. Another is to recombine the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Bureau of Standards, and the National Science Foundation in an Office of Scientific Research and Development with resources to tackle barriers to productivity and innovation and marshal federal laboratories to better serve federal, state and local, and industrial needs.

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Model 551 is a double-beam, ratio-recording grating spectrophotometer. It provides analysis from 195 to 800 nanometers. Bandpass is adjustable in four steps: 0.25, 1, 2, and 4 nanometers. It scans forward at speeds of 5, 20, 60, 120, 240, and 480 nanometers per minute. Operator selects response time of either 0.5 or 5 seconds. Noise is less than 0.0004 angstrom at 0 angstrom measured at 500 nanometers. Baseline drift is less than 0.0015 angstrom over 8 hours and baseline flatness is within ±0.009 angstrom from 220 to 700 nanometers. Perkin-Elmer. Circle 670.

## Spectrophotometer Standards

Each set of Spectronic standards is tested and certified to be accurate with values traceable to the National Bureau of Standards. Each set permits the user to check any spectrophotometer for zero percent transmittance, wavelength accuracy, stray radiant energy, spectrophotometric accuracy, linearity, precision, and optical alignment. Each set is supplied in a case with a cleaning brush and detailed instructions. Bausch & Lomb. Circle 668.

### **Mass Spectrometer**

The system 250 gas isotope mass spectrometer offers sensitivity of 0.2 angstrom per millibar. This is possible because of einzel lens focusing and a stigmatic focusing analyzer system that features nearly 100 percent transmission plus the high (10 kilovolts) ion accelerating voltage. The system determines isotope ratios, requires only small samples, has a calculator-controlled sample inlet, and offers on-line analysis and printout of results. Varian MAT. Circle 669.

### **Gel Preparation Rack**

Model 215 holds a variety of tube sizes simultaneously. It will accommodate from 1 to 24 tubes in sizes from 5 to 18 millimeters (outside diameter) and from 60 to 250 millimeters long. Parafilm seals the bottom of each tube and spring steel fingers position each tube in a vertical position for polymerization. The rack also features leveling screws and a bubble level. Bio-Rad Laboratories. Circle 676.

### **Portable Incubator**

Incublock will incubate up to 36 cultures at 35° or 44.5°C. It will operate from a 12-volt battery or from line current. The cast aluminum heat block will hold 47- or 54-millimeter petri dishes. The temperature within each well is stable to within  $\pm 0.2$ °C. Temperature is controlled by thermostat and solid state circuitry. A pilot light indicates on-off condition. Vista Scientific. Circle 677.

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enable the operator to convert data, enter programs, recall information, and calculate results. There is a single-range model (300 grams readable to within 0.01 gram) and a dual range version (30 grams readable to within 0.001 gram and 300 grams readable to within 0.01 gram). Brinkmann Instruments. Circle 674.

## Multipurpose pH Meter

Model 671 is a digital meter that measures pH, millivolts, dissolved oxygen. and temperature. It is suitable for the detection of specific ions and for measuring oxidation-reduction potential. It may be operated by battery or on-line power. It measures pH from 0 to 14 units with a resolution and accuracy of 0.01 unit; millivolts from 0 to  $\pm$  1999 millivolts with resolution of 1 millivolt and accuracy to within 0.1 percent; dissolved oxygen from 0 to 19.99 parts per million with resolution of 0.01 part per million and accuracy to within 0.2 part per million; and temperature from 0° to 100°C with resolution of 0.1°C and accuracy to within 0.5°C. Extech International. Circle 675.

## Ten-Signal Multiplexer

Dataplex 10 has ten input channels and a single output. It enables the user to channel up to ten different signals to a single recorder, meter, printer, or similar device. The user selects the number of channels to be scanned from one to ten and the dwell in seconds from 1 to 20. In the scan mode, the device will feed each input signal in sequence to the output. Hampshire Controls. Circle 678.

# Particle-Sizing Microscope

The PSS-10 is a ten-power, monocular microscope for measuring particles. There is a hemocytometer grid in the eyepiece that rotates through a full circle. The nosepiece will accept two additional objectives and the eyepiece tube will accept photographic accessories. The basic microscope includes a lamp condenser lens, daylight blue filter, line cord and switch, and a spare bulb. General Radioisotope Products. Circle 679.

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The Micro Kit enables chemists and others to work with small samples. Components are assembled with screwthreaded Wheaton Connections. Special

grease-free design and inert Teflon provide positive seal between components without risk of contamination or loss of sample. Wetted parts are either Wheaton 200 brand borosilicate glass or Teflon. All caps have open tops and Teflon-faced septa. Flask sizes are from 1 to 10 milliliters; vials with conical interiors are included. Wheaton Scientific. Circle 680.

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# Literature

Molecular Weight Standards are available for instrument calibration and polymer characterization by osmometry, chromatography, and other techniques. ArRo Laboratories. Circle 693.

Image Analysis Bibliography provides references and author indexing for 329 articles in life sciences and physical sciences. Cambridge Instrument. Circle 695.

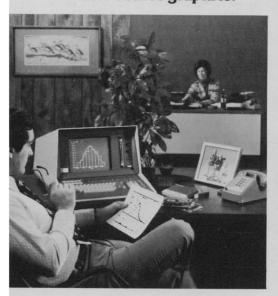
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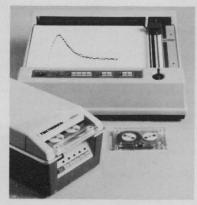
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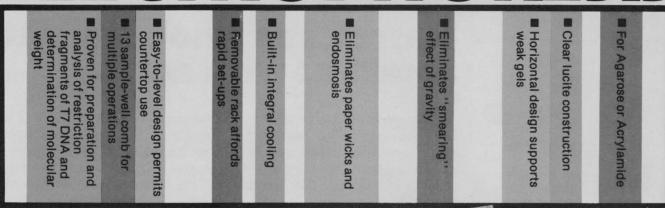
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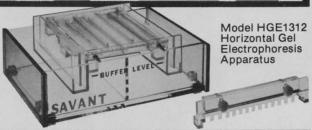


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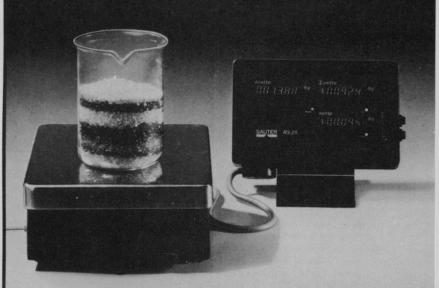
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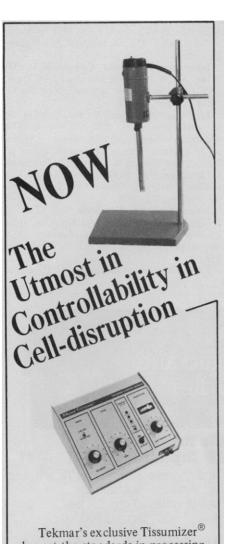
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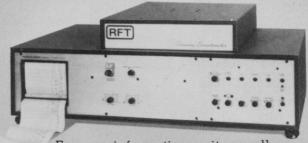
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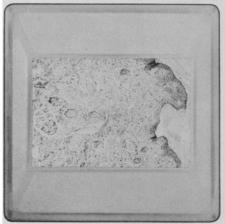
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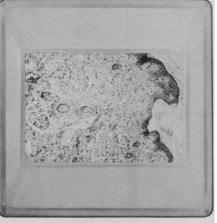
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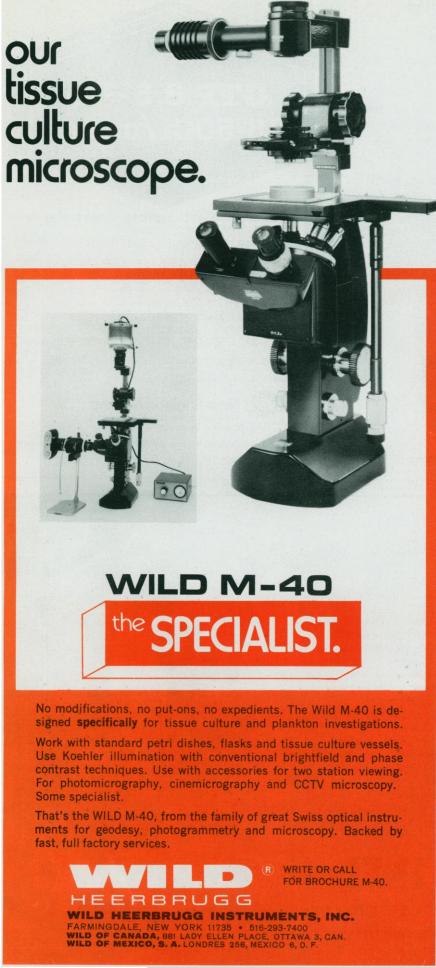
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