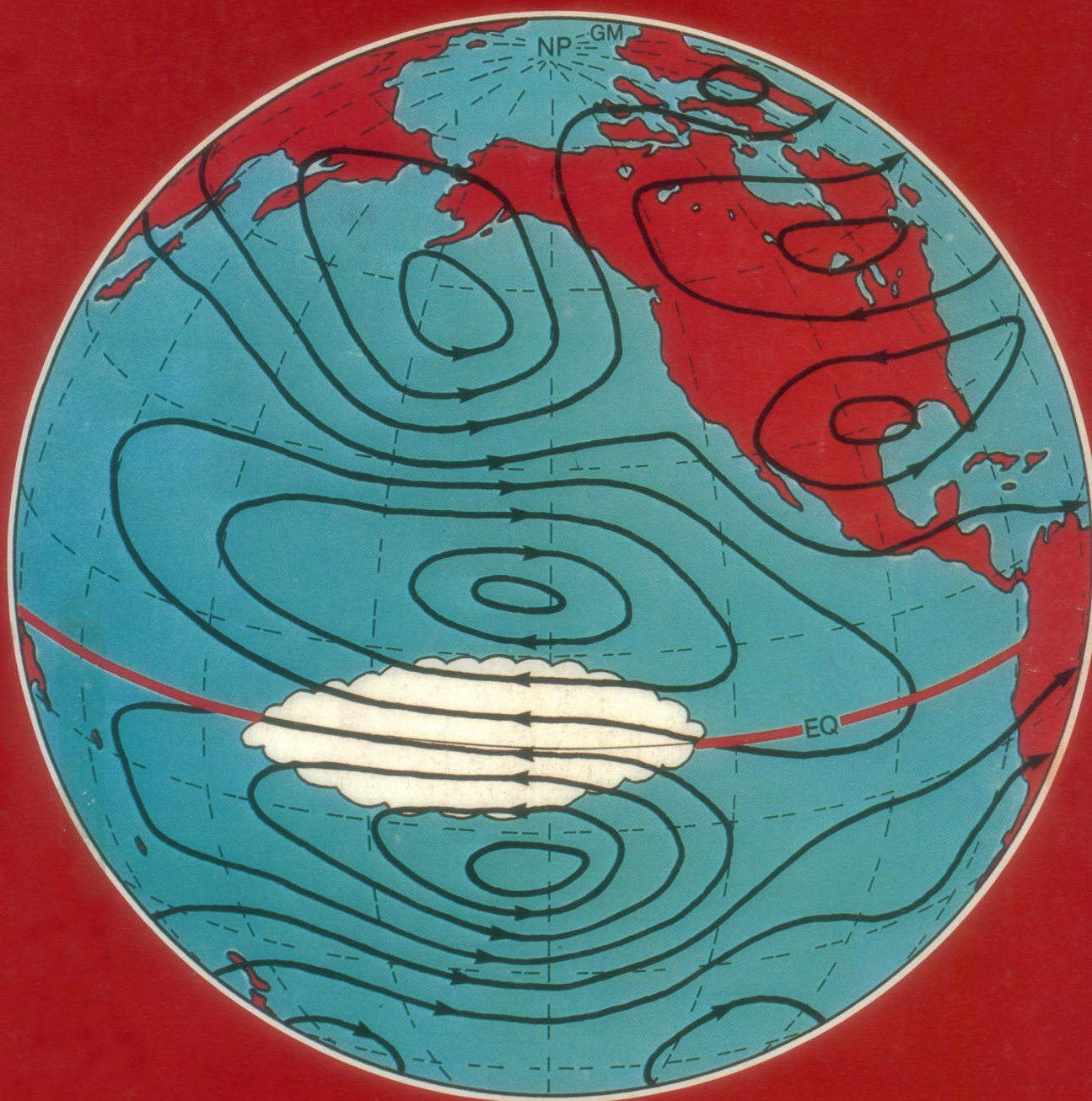


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BIOSYSTEMS UPDATE

Gas-Phase Protein Sequencing

A Progress Report

Less than two years ago, Applied Biosystems introduced new gas-phase protein sequencing technology which, though in its infancy, set new standards of analytical performance and sensitivity. We are now pleased to announce the first in a series of improvements in chemistry, programming and hardware which begin to further realize the still untapped potential of the Model 470A Gas-Phase Protein Sequencer.

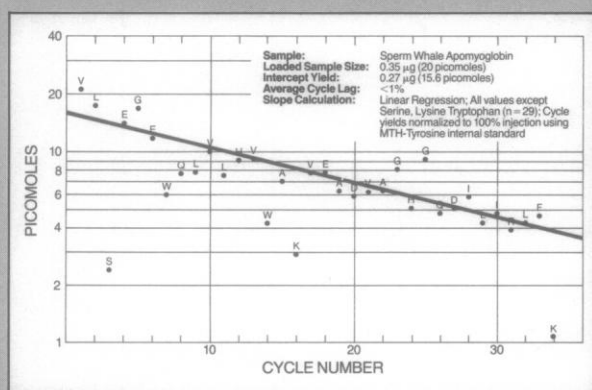
Changes in the coupling, cleavage and solvent extraction times, and use of an optional miniature sample cartridge, substantially in-

crease repetitive yields and decrease lag on picomole level samples. Sequencer artifacts which can interfere with high sensitivity PTH-AA chromatography are also reduced by a factor of three to five.

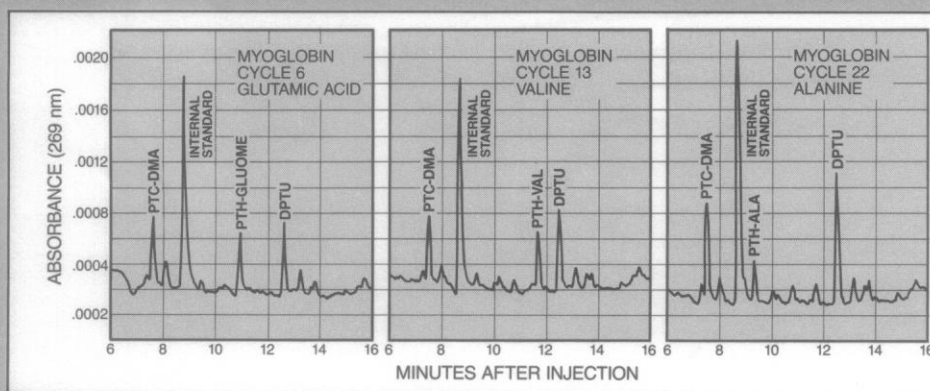
The improvements are particularly dramatic with peptides. A user evaluating our new chemistry has reported sequencing the octapeptide angiotensin II to completion with only 25 picomoles of sample.

A new miniature PTH conversion flask increases typical PTH-AA recovery to greater than 95%. The improvement is most significant on serine, threonine and tryptophan since drying times are reduced threefold.

Best of all, these improvements, and others still under development, are designed to be compatible with every instrument we've built so our current users will continue to be at the leading edge of protein sequencing technology. The 470A Gas-Phase Protein Sequencer is capable of setting even higher performance standards and Applied Biosystems, in collaboration with many of our users, is continuing to investigate further improvements to this remarkable instrument. If you'd like more information, please circle number 325.



34 residues of 20 picomoles of sperm whale apomyoglobin. Repetitive yield is 96% calculated from the least squares linear regression plot of individual amino acids quantitatively recovered at each sequenced cycle. Lag averages less than 1%/cycle.



Actual HPLC chromatograms, without background subtraction or data enhancement, of residues 6, 13 and 22 from sequencing analysis of 20 picomoles of sperm whale apomyoglobin. The data illustrate the low background and high sensitivity of the Model 470A Gas-Phase Protein Sequencer.*

*Chromatography: IBM Cyano Column. Internal Standard: MTH tyrosine. PTH yields normalized to 100% injection: Cycle 6 (glutamic acid)—11.7 pmol, cycle 13 (valine)—9.1 pmol, cycle 22 (alanine) 6.2 pmol. PTH-DMA, phenylthiocarbonyldimethylamine; DPTU, diphenylthiourea.



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Climate anomalies during the Northern Hemisphere winter season (December 1982–February 1983) believed to be associated with the abnormally warm sea-surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The white cloud symbol represents the region of enhanced rainfall and the streamlines with arrows represent circulation anomalies at the jet stream (about 10-kilometer) level. See page 1195. [Data from P. A. Arkin, Climate Analysis Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, D.C.; analysis by J. M. Wallace, University of Washington, Seattle]

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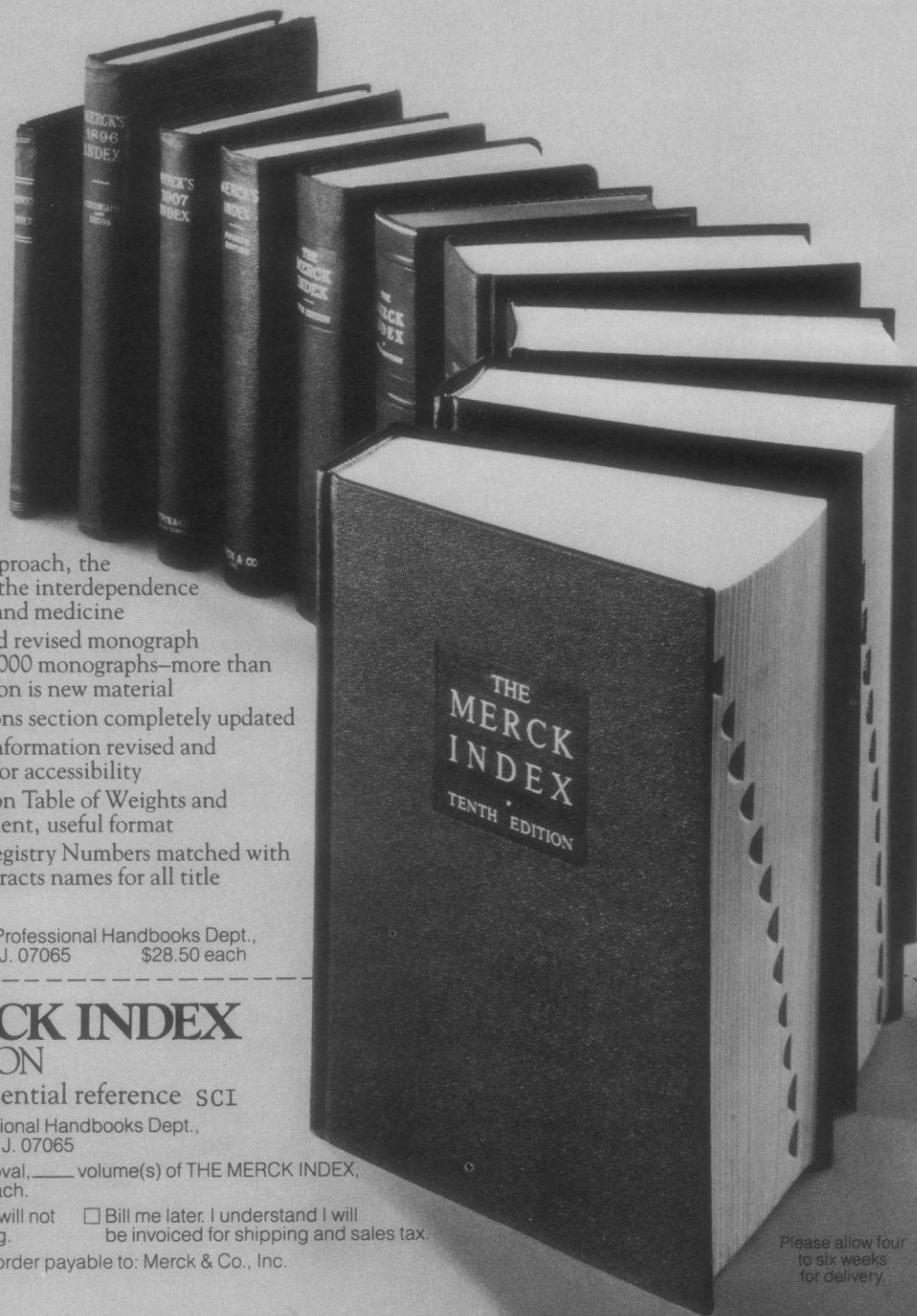


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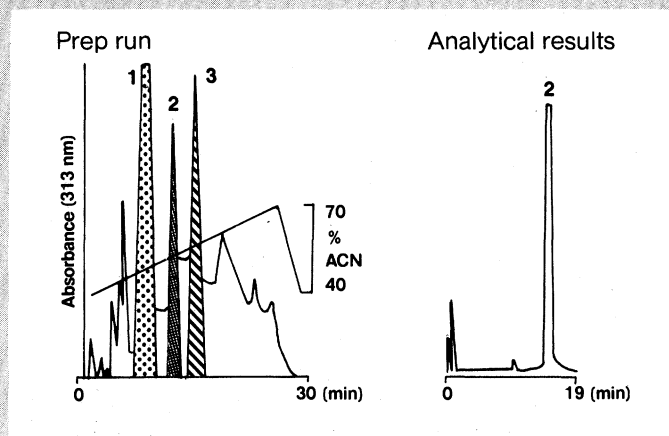
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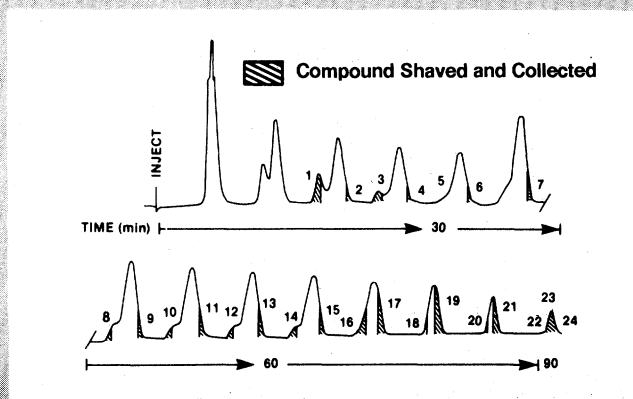


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¹Journal of Liquid Chromatography 4(3) 525-532, (1981);
 Journal of Organic Chemistry, 46, 3062, 1981

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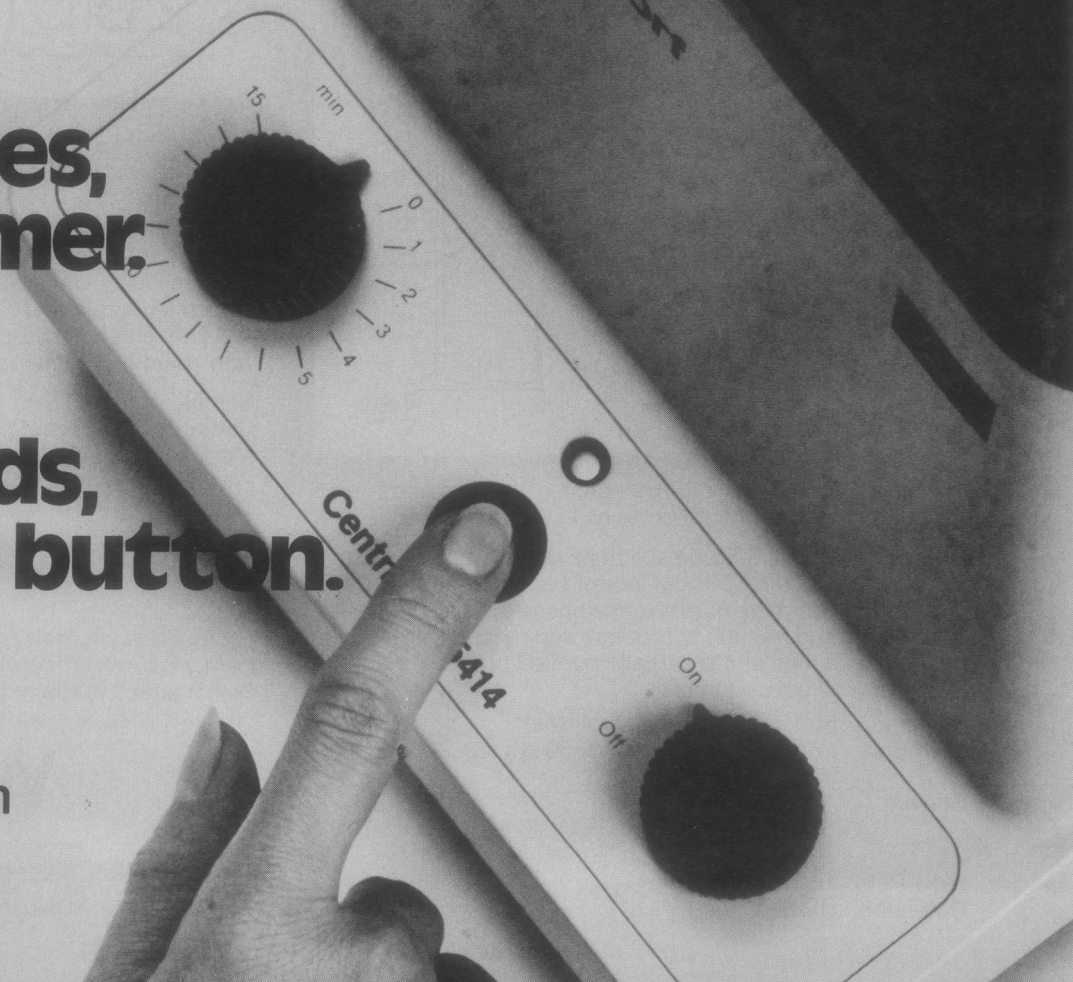
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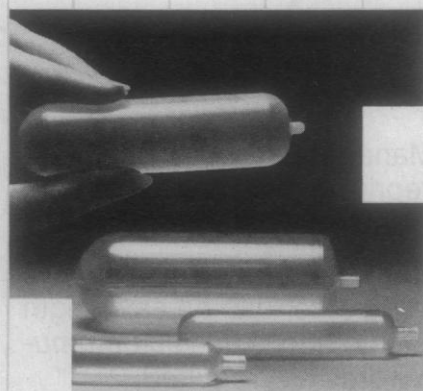
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LETTERS

Retrovirus Terminology

A human retrovirus, human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV), was first isolated by Gallo and his colleagues in 1980 from a cell line established from a patient with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (mycosis fungoides) (1). Subsequently, ATL (adult T-cell leukemia virus) (2, 3) was isolated from the cell line MT-2, established by Miyoshi *et al.* (4), from Japanese patients with adult T-cell leukemia-lymphoma (ATL). This disease was discovered by Takatsuki and his colleagues (5) as a unique T-cell malignancy clustered in the southwest part of Japan. These two independent viral isolates were shown to be closely associated with ATL by epidemiological and molecular biological studies.

HTLV and ATL were shown to be similar by immunological cross-reactivities (6) and nucleic acid hybridization (7). However, the data were not sufficient to prove the identity of these two viral isolates because the immunological cross-reactivities of the core proteins p19 and p24 reflected only part of the *gag* gene of the viral genomes and because the viral complementary DNA preparations were not representative. Recently, we determined (8) the total nucleotide sequence of the ATL genome cloned in λ ATK-1. On the basis of this structural information, we compared the provirus genomes of HTLV and ATL integrated in the cell lines HUT-102 and MT-2, respectively, by Southern blotting analysis using five viral gene-specific probes. With every specific probe the expected viral fragments were identical for the HTLV and ATL proviruses (9). These results clearly indicate that the locations of the gene-specific sequences and the cleavage sites of some restriction enzymes are identical in the proviral genomes integrated in HUT-102 and MT-2. Thus, we can conclude that HTLV and ATL are the same, even if they differ in their base replacements, small insertions, or deletions. This conclusion indicates that the viral populations in the southwest of Japan and in the Caribbean have a common origin.

In view of these results we propose to use the term HTLV rather than ATL, respecting the first isolate of this retrovirus. We will use the terminology "ATK strain of HTLV (HTLV_{ATK})" for the ATL previously cloned and reported as λ ATK-1, and whose total sequence was determined (8). At the conference on human T-cell leukemia viruses held at

Cold Spring Harbor in September 1983, a letter proposing that the term HTLV be used for the retrovirus was signed by the following: W. A. Blattner, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda; D. Catovsky, Hammersmith Hospital, London; M. Essex, Harvard University School of Public Health; R. C. Gallo, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda; M. Greaves, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London; Y. E. Ito, Kyoto University; I. Miyoshi, Kochi Medical School; K. Takatsuki, Kumamoto University Medical School; R. A. Weiss, Institute of Cancer Research, London; and M. Yoshida, Cancer Institute, Tokyo.

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9. T. Watanabe *et al.*, *Virology*, in press.

The AAAS and Human Rights

We write to support the position of the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility (Letters, 7 Oct., p. 6) and to endorse Lee Frank's statement that "any systematic violation of human rights and repression of free expression is deserving of every public forum the free world offers" (Letters, 12 Aug., p. 604).

Some are concerned that expression of support for another human being who has been mistreated or tortured for his or her political views would be interpreted as political statements or political action (Letters, 15 July, p. 216). Even if that were so in some cases, we believe there are clear ethical and humane reasons which are paramount. Although not always honored, the basic principles recognized internationally are stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the U.N. General Assembly of 10 December 1948 and the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

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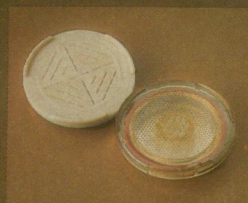
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Computer Testing

In his timely editorial on computerized psychological testing (22 July, p. 323), Joseph Matarazzo criticizes automated test interpretations. However, readers might be left with the impression that he is criticizing any use of computers in giving psychological tests.

Matarazzo writes that a computer-presented test has "a spurious appearance of objectivity and infallibility," as a halo effect from the computer. In fact, the appearance of infallibility is closely related to the appearance of precision of numerical test scores, a problem that predates the computer. Matarazzo expresses concern that results of computerized psychological tests can be harmful in the hands of an unqualified person, such as a college admissions officer, but surely this would not apply to computerized cognitive tests of knowledge, such as the Graduate Record Examination or the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

A paper-and-pencil test does not lose its power when it migrates to a computer. A vocabulary test measures word knowledge just as well on a computer as in a booklet. Further, computer presentation has many benefits. For example, in tests of knowledge and cognitive skills, the computer can adapt the level of difficulty of the question to the apparent level of knowledge of the student. The computer also permits new types of

tests; memory and response speed are but two of the skills more easily assessed by computer than by test booklets.

Matarazzo does not object to presenting personality tests on a computer console rather than in a booklet, or to using the computer to process the responses and provide the customary profile of test scores for inventories such as the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). Scores from the paper-and-pencil version of the MMPI have demonstrated validity for many purposes, and the scores from the computer version may be presumed to have similar validity.

Narrative interpretations of test scores are another matter. The basis for these interpretations is shrouded in proprietary secrecy and, as Matarazzo states, no evidence has been published in peer-reviewed journals of the validity of any such interpretations. Establishing their validity will not be easy because appropriate methods are not well developed.

Although there is no cause for alarm about computerized testing, much more remains to be learned about automated test interpretations, and here I join Matarazzo in urging caution. Eventually, these interpretations might turn out to be better than those given by the average clinician, but in any case they will be based only on the test responses and must be considered only partially digested information for use by qualified professionals.

BERT F. GREEN

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Grain Elevator Safety

As noted in Eliot Marshall's article "Deadlock over explosive dust" (News and Comment, 4 Nov., p. 485), I am counsel for the National Grain and Feed Association in connection with pending proposals of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to regulate grain-handling facilities.

Marshall asserts that the Office of Management and Budget, "[w]ith advice from" me, has held up the OSHA proposal for extended review. As I informed Marshall, my client and I met on one occasion with officials at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and provided them with the same information previously made available to both OSHA and congressional committees. The implication that I could (even assuming I wished to do so) dictate policy



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to OMB is incorrect. OMB has received input from many sources and reached its own conclusions for its own reasons. I have no idea what OMB has said to OSHA or vice versa.

We were pleased to see Marshall's reference to the \$3-million research program funded by the industry. As OSHA's Barry White says, "the grain-handling industry has probably undertaken more research than any other he has dealt with in safety rule-making." This research reflects the serious commitment of the industry to find meaningful solutions to the problems of dust explosions and fires. There have thus far been 28 studies initiated by the association, utilizing the research expertise of university, government, and private research organizations. A number of additional studies are in the final planning stages. Every study is made available to the public. Nothing has been kept secret. (We offered these research studies to Marshall, but he declined to review them.) Far from causing delays, this massive effort has led to numerous improvements in elevator design. There will be more. We hope that the number of explosions continues to be small, reflecting, at least in part, improvements in elevator design and work habits prompted by these industry studies.

I disagree with Marshall's statements that the study by the National Academy of Sciences is "a classic of its genre" and that the "panel suggested that no more than one sixty-fourth of an inch of surface dust be tolerated inside the elevator building." The 1/64 inch was suggested as a "guideline" applicable to layered dust by a "subpanel." The report notes that it "should be considered as a beginning step in formulating standards by a cooperative action between industry and government." The subpanel report also concluded that "additional research is needed to eliminate the controversy over such questions as the role of metal sparks in dust cloud ignition." The industry is undertaking such research.

Marshall also quotes panel member Albert Townsend, president of a grain elevator insurer, as having chaired a subpanel "that wrote a report spelling out exactly how to build a workable dust removal system." Even when one ignores the fact that Townsend is promoting a device which he designed, that report notes (1):

This report and the conclusions herein are based on testing and techniques that are based on assumptions, therefore the accuracy is uncertain. . . . Further, the conclusions drawn may not be applicable to other equipment or operating conditions.

It would be the height of folly for a government regulatory agency to take such an admittedly preliminary report and base a regulation costing at least \$750 million upon it. Among interested persons, only the industry is seeking to ensure the accuracy of the preliminary conclusions. Rather than being criticized, the industry should be congratulated.

Marshall's comments concerning the industry's economic analysis of the proposed rule also require explication. While it is true that the industry has not yet concluded a formal economic analysis, the study prepared by Arthur D. Little Co. for OSHA concluded that the costs of the rule outweighed the benefits, and that, because of an inability to raise prices, "[p]rofits could be substantially reduced for small country elevators." Under a more stringent 1/64-inch dust standard, the study concluded that "small country elevators, including those at small feed mills, become financially unviable." When OSHA's own consultant reaches this conclusion, everyone's concern about the economic impact of the regulation should be heightened.

MARC L. FLEISCHAKER

*Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin & Kahn,
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339*

References

1. *Pneumatic Dust Control in Grain Elevators: Guidelines for Design Operation and Maintenance* (National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1982), p. 103.

The grain industry does not dictate OMB policy, but at least one congressman—Representative George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the House subcommittee on labor standards—has concluded that it guides policy in a benevolent fashion. Miller, who is investigating the grain dust decision, wrote on 7 November to OSHA's director, Thorne Auchter: "The extended OMB review appears to have resulted from a series of private meetings between OMB and industry officials . . . OMB's expressed concerns over the proposed grain elevator safety standard are markedly similar to those of its industry visitors." Because opposing views were not aired in these sessions, Miller wrote, the OMB review has been "one-sided."

As far as I am aware, Fleischaker is the only one to imply that there is anything secret in the industry's research. His client, the National Grain and Feed Association, sent me abstracts describing all the projects it is funding, and I read these before meeting Fleischaker.

—ELIOT MARSHALL

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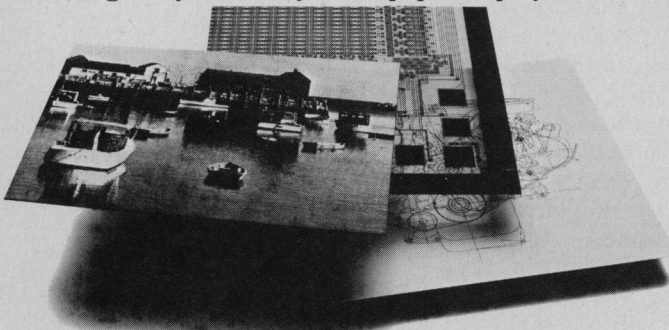
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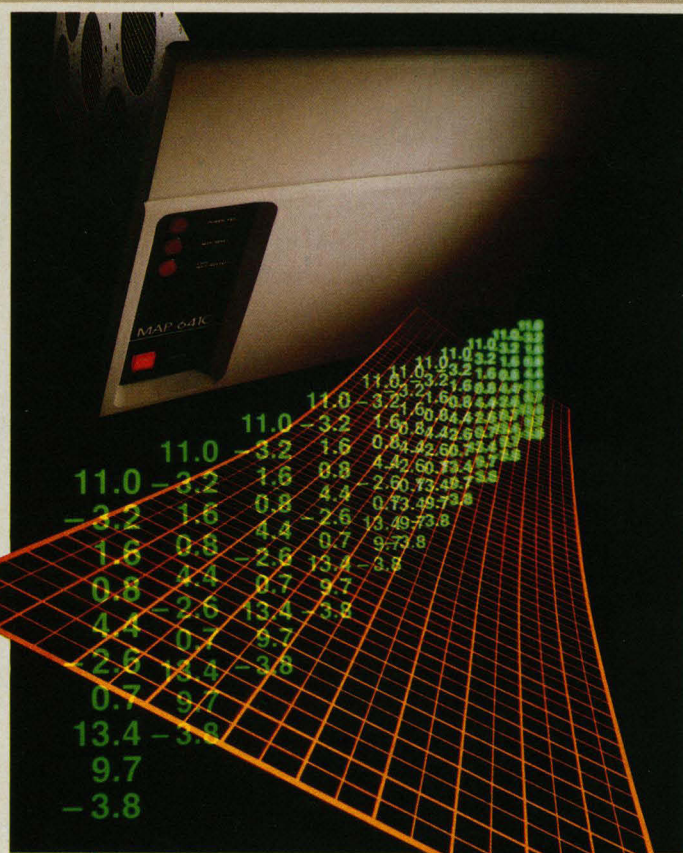
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Many of these analyses have been disappointing. Too often the boundaries and assumptions are not adequately defined and justified; scientific and other uncertainties are inadequately characterized; issues of value are not clearly delineated and may be confused with issues of fact; analytical techniques are inadequate; and virtues such as simplicity, robustness, flexibility, and transparency are lost in a haze of technical verbiage.

Improving the quality of policy analysis that involves science and technology is the responsibility of many groups, both public and private. The National Science Foundation, charged with the support of basic research in science and engineering, has a unique opportunity to contribute. It could support research, development, and selected demonstrations related to basic strategies, tools, and assumptions in science- and technology-related policy analysis; encourage the development of mechanisms for the critical review and evaluation of analyses and analysis methods, both in the interest of quality control and in the expectation that we can learn from past experience; support selected "model" policy studies with substantive science or engineering content which could serve as benchmarks against which day-to-day analyses could be measured; support policy studies on important problems that fall between the cracks of mission-agency agendas; support graduate education in this field; and finally, encourage a modest portion of basic research to be more responsive to policy-focused needs.

Until recently, NSF has supported some of these activities but has not undertaken a broad program to support fundamental long-term improvement of the field. Since the late 1970's NSF's policy resources have been concentrated in its Division of Policy Research and Analysis (PRA). Particularly in its early years, PRA devoted some of its resources to long-term fundamental work. However, the provision of policy analysis support to various federal agencies has always been part of its mission. In recent years it has spent more and more of its resources on studies that are responsive to the immediate and, often, political needs of these agencies.

In recent months, PRA has moved aggressively to restructure its activities. It has assumed a higher profile in servicing the needs of OSTP, OMB, EPA, and other federal agencies, doing some work in-house and obtaining some outside assistance from groups such as consulting firms through "basic ordering agreements" rather than the traditional grant mechanism. It also plans a variety of longer term grant programs. It is not yet clear how substantive these will be, how much science and engineering they will involve, or how closely they will be tied to federal agency agendas.

For several reasons a different and more drastic reorientation of PRA should be contemplated. NSF is not, and has never been, a good place for a federal policy analysis job shop. Despite possible political appeal, the long-term risks of such work to the foundation, particularly to its reputation as a dispassionate and objective research organization, are considerable. NSF could have a far greater impact, and in a manner more consistent with its traditional role, if steps were taken to substantially reduce its direct involvement in policy support for federal agencies and its efforts were concentrated on building a long-term substantive program designed to improve the quality and fundamental capabilities of science- and technology-focused policy analysis. The choice deserves careful reconsideration. —M. GRANGER MORGAN, *Head, Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213*

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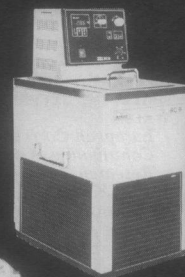
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