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COVER

Mythical chinthe standing guard at the entrance to a pagoda, along the road from Mandalay to the remote Pondaung Hills of western Burma. Near the village of Mogaung in 40-millionyear-old sediments of the Pondaung Formation a new fossil jaw of the earliest known higher primate, Amphipithecus, was discovered recently. This fossil substantiates the view that southeast Asia was the center of anthropoid origins. See page 756. [R. L. Ciochon, Department of Anatomical Sciences, State University of New York, Stony Brook 11794]

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PROTEINS

Ecosystems at deep-sea vents

On the ocean floor, several thousand meters below the surface, exotic marine communities are alive and well, thriving near deep-sea geothermal springs (pages 713 and 717). The seawater at these springs percolates down through the earth's crust and is heated by contact with hot rock. The water is then vented at the sea floor through warm (5° to 23°C) or hot (270° to 380°C) springs, carrying with it inorganic compounds from the earth's interior. Because bacteria are extremely versatile and can grow at many temperatures with the use of different energy sources, it was expected that they would be found at vent openings; but the emergence of a diversified population of marine animals and the development of an unusual food chain around the vents was not expected. Jannasch and Mottl and Grassle describe in two articles how the mixing of vent fluids with oxygen-rich seawater permits chemosynthetic bacteria to use reduced sulfur compounds and other inorganics as energy sources for synthesizing organic compounds, just as their photosynthetic counterparts on land use the sun's energy for organic syntheses. Mats of microorganisms at the vents then support the growth of clams, mussels, tube worms, and other invertebrates in which ingestive and digestive organs have actually been replaced by symbiotic microbes. Crabs and other scavengers near the vents eat mussels and tube worms as well as microorganisms that they scrape off the tubes. The vent animals produce larvae luxuriantly and disperse them widely in the sea, ensuring the perpetuation of the species at newly opened vents great distances away. Individual vents remain geologically active for years or decades, as do the communities that develop around them, and evidence indicates that such communities were extant as far back as the Paleozoic, more than 200 million years ago.

Higher primate ancestor in Asia

A 40- to 44-million-year-old jaw fragment found in Burma has features that link it to those characterizing higher primates; this new specimen may help define evolutionary steps in the lineage leading to monkeys, apes, and man (anthropoids) (page 756). The depth of the jaw and size and shape of the molars (such as the square second molar) are anthropoid features. The fragment predates by 5 million years the earliest known fossil of a higher primate from the African continent, indicating that diversification among anthropoids was also occurring in Southeast Asia. Ciochon et al. were able to reconstruct a left mandible for this primate by using details and measurements from the new specimen and from the original specimen of its type found at a nearby site in Burma in 1923. The animal appears to have had a mosaic of higher and lower primate features and may represent a transitional form in early primate evolution.

Dissolving blood clots

Thrombolytic agents degrade fibrin, the structural component of blood clots; the value of these agents has been limited because they also degrade fibrinogen, the precursor of fibrin, and severe bleeding may ensue (page 765). Bode *et al.* have prepared a new agent; it is a conjugate of (i) an antibody that specifically binds to fibrin but not to fibrinogen and (ii) urokinase, an activator of the enzyme that initiates clot dissolution. The antibody's affinity for fibrin brings the conjugate to the clot, increasing the likelihood that fibrin and not fibrinogen will be degraded. In laboratory tests, the conjugate was 100 times more effective than urokinase alone at destroying fibrin. If effective in the body, this conjugate could be important in treating coronary thrombosis.

Nervous system regeneration

Spinal cord injuries that sever axons—conductors of electrochemical impulses between nerve cells—produce permanent neurologic disability. Axon regeneration studies in primitive vertebrate nervous systems suggest that someday such damage may be reversible (page 774). Mackler and Selzer measured conductivity between pairs of nerve cells in larvae of sea lamprey during recovery from experimental spinal transection. Nerve cells were impaled with microelectrodes and the potential measured between pairs. Fifty percent of pairs in normal larvae had measurable electrochemical potentials compared with four of 30 pairs sampled in experimental larvae. Functional connections between uncoupled nerve cells can thus be reestablished along with anatomic regeneration.

Testing for Huntington's disease

Presymptomatic diagnosis of Huntington's disease (HD)—a fatal neuropsychiatric condition characterized by chorea (rapid jerky involuntary movements), depression, dementia, and other symptoms—would distinguish among at-risk individuals those who will and will not develop the disease (page 776). Offspring of affected individuals have a 50 percent chance of developing HD; reassurance for those who have not inherited disease could allay years of anxiety since symptoms typically do not develop until mid-adult life. Folstein et al. evaluated 140 people in two large affected families for linkage of HD traits with a chromosomal probe, G8, to which disease had earlier been associated. Close but not absolute linkage was found: in each family, a number of affected individuals had the G8 pattern expected for unaffected individuals. Four HD families evaluated to date differ in ethnic background, age at onset of disease, and symptomatology. The shared G8 linkage enhances the likelihood that all HD families have mutations at the same chromosomal site and that a chromosomal marker near this site will become a useful diagnostic tool.

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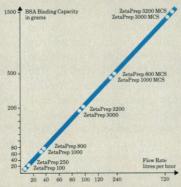
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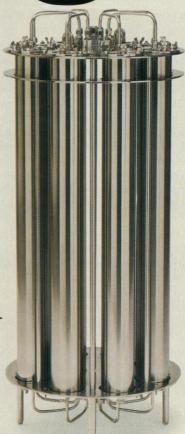


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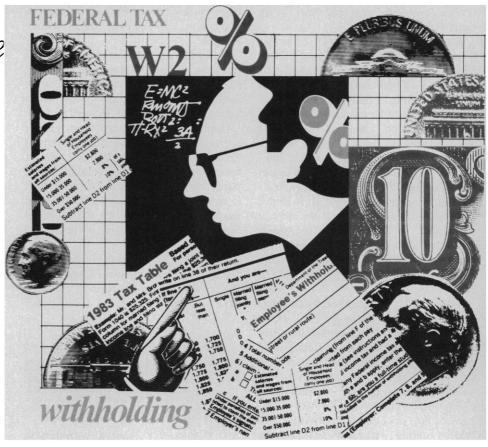
The Case of the Tax-Perplexed Professor

It is the eve of April 15th. As midnight strikes, Professor Gregg G. Burnett is poring over a pile of papers. "Taxes, taxes, taxes," he groans, "Why do I have to pay all this money in taxes? How does everyone else manage? And still put a little extra aside for retirement?" Gregg sighs. "It's all a mystery to me."

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Associations and Democracy

"Americans of all ages, all conditions, and all dispositions constantly form associations. They have not only commercial and manufacturing companies, in which all take part, but associations of a thousand other kinds, religious, moral, serious, futile, general or restricted, enormous or diminutive. The Americans make associations to give entertainments, to found seminaries, to build inns, to construct churches, to diffuse books, to send missionaries to the antipodes. If it is proposed to inculcate some truth or to foster some feeling by the encouragement of a great example, they form a society. Wherever at the head of some new undertaking you see the government in France, or a man of rank in England, in the United States you will be sure to find an association.

"The first time I heard in the United States that a hundred thousand men had bound themselves publicly to abstain from spirituous liquors, it appeared to me more like a joke than a serious engagement, and I did not at once perceive why these temperate citizens could not content themselves with drinking water by their own firesides. I at last understood that these hundred thousand Americans, alarmed by the progress of drunkenness around them, had made up their minds to patronize temperance. . . .

'[I]f these hundred thousand men had lived in France, each of them would singly have memorialized the government. . . . In aristocratic societies men do not need to combine in order to act, because . . . every wealthy and powerful citizen constitutes the head of a permanent and compulsory association, composed of all those who are dependent upon him or whom he makes subservient to the execution of his designs. . . . Among democratic nations, on the contrary, all the citizens are independent and feeble; they can do hardly anything by themselves, and none of them can oblige his fellow men to lend him their assistance. They all, therefore, become powerless if they do not learn voluntarily to help one another. Governments, therefore, should not be the only active powers; associations ought, in democratic nations, to stand in lieu of those powerful private individuals whom the equality of conditions has swept away."*

De Tocqueville in his prescient way predicted the vital role of associations in a pluralistic and increasingly specialized society. Associations of scientists have proliferated, from subspecialties such as clinical chemists to umbrella organizations such as the AAAS and the National Academy of Sciences. They compete for attention with associations of lawyers, nurses, and librarians. How can Congress and the Executive Branch respond to messages from all these associations? On the basis of the numbers? Ideally no, but practically somewhat. On the significance and wisdom of the message? Ideally yes, but practically, not entirely. If the content of the message were all important, would not that of a farsighted individual contribute more than the blandly worded compromise of an association? It is often said that "a camel is a horse designed by a committee." A message from an association involves a filtering process. Politicians are comforted that crackpot ideas are eliminated. The price may be elimination of the most brilliant ones also.

Are, in fact, our associations doing their jobs well? In certain respects publishing journals, providing communication, and running meetings—they have proved most adept. In others—evaluating the future of their professions, identifying employment prospects for students, explaining their needs to Washington—their performance is episodic. Some do well; others poorly. If science is to play an increasingly important role in modern society, then the associations that de Tocqueville predicted would be so important to a democracy must constantly prove their effectiveness. We scientists should both contribute to and demand performance from our professional societies.—Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.

^{*}A. de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, first U.S. edition 1840, quoted from Knopf edition (New York, 1946), vol. 2, chap. 5

Tales of Chemists:

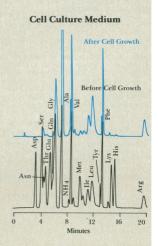
The Amino Acid Story



"Ion exchange is really specific for analyzing amino acids in complex samples like cell culture media. The problem is that it's just too slow. So I investigated prederivatization HPLC. It was faster, but now I had interferences to contend with. Not to mention all the time I ended up spending on sample preparation.

"The other day I finally discovered the best of both worlds. It's called Dionex. Now I get fast analysis, excellent specificity *and* reproducibility, with precious little sample prep. Most of the time I just dilute, filter, and inject.

"Also, with column switching I can use my Dionex to analyze organic acids, carbohydrates, organic amines, and inorganic ions."





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AAAS announces the

National Forum for School Science

10-11 October 1985

Forum '85, **Science Teaching**, is designed to meet the challenge of improving the quality of science instruction in our nation's schools. The participants in Forum '85 will develop a plan of action to restructure science teaching to meet the increasing demands of our technological society.

What are the topics?

- ■Setting and Maintaining
 Standards of Quality for Science
 Teachers
- ■Changing the Social, Economic, and Professional Environment of Teaching
- ■What Rational Policy Is Possible?

Who should attend?

- **■**Scientists
- ■School educators and administrators
- **■**Business leaders
- ■State and local political leaders
- ■All who care about the quality of school science instruction

Who are the speakers?

- ■Paul Peterson, Brookings Institution
- ■Donald N. Langenberg, University of Illinois at Chicago
- ■Edward Harvey, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
- ■Patricia A. Graham, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- ■Newt Gingrich (R-GA), Member of Congress
- ■Other speakers to be announced.

To register, please use the form on the following page.

If you need further information, please write or call: National Forum for School Science, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone: (202) 326-6620.

Jointly funded by AAAS and the Carnegie Corporation of New York

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August 1985

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to attend the National Forum for School Science, 10—11 October, in Washington, D.C.

The Forum has been established to do two things:

- 1. Bring scientists, educators, and policymakers together to explore the issues that determine the quality of science education in the nation's schools, and
- 2. Set a course of action to improve science education and technological literacy, thereby providing the essential foundation for our nation's continued growth and development.

Attainment of the Forum's goals requires input of scientific professionals. For example, what is taught in school science must reflect science and technology as it is actually practiced. You can bring this important perspective to the Forum and make it an integral part of the evolving plan for the future of school science. Additionally, the Forum will enhance your effectiveness as an informed advocate for school science by alerting you to the complex social, economic, and political issues that attend educational reform.

The topic of Forum '85 is science teaching; the details are on the opposite page. If you feel a responsibility for the future of science education in this country, register today for Forum '85.

I look forward to meeting you at Forum '85 in Washington this fall.

Sincerely yours,

Audrey B. Champagne

Project Director

National Forum for School Science

audicy Champagne

23 AUGUST 1985 749



National Forum for School Science

10-11 October 1985 The Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Advance Registration Form

Registrant's Name(last name		(first name and initial)
Affiliation		
Mailing Address	(street address)
(city)	(state & zip)	(telephone number)
☐ Please check here if you need s	special services due to handicap. We wil	ll contact you before the meeting.
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