

they could eliminate the snails in the waterways where barefoot peasants picked up the infection. It was decided that they needed the human fertilizer and must somehow get rid of the snails. After a careful study of the habits of the host snail, a massive nationwide education campaign about the disease and steps necessary to eradicate it was initiated. Then the voluntary labor of millions of peasants, assisted by students, teachers, office workers, and the army, was mobilized to drain the rivers and ditches, dig away the soil along the banks where the snails made their homes, and bury the soil. The effort involved scientists but, just as important, the direct knowledge of the peasants, who could see to it that the waterways would be drained in a logical order, avoiding serious problems of waterlogging or dehydrating various areas.

The campaign continues today village by village and county by county. It has required repeated political decisions to use vast amounts of human labor for the fight against snails, at the expense of many other priorities, during years which saw political attacks from the Soviet Union and several natural disasters. By 1983, the number of infected Chinese had been reduced from an estimated 10 million (2) to about 1 million (3).

Although the war on schistosomiasis in China could perhaps not have been waged in the same labor-intensive way elsewhere, different strategies might have been adopted in other suffering countries. The story is a dramatic illustration that massive public health measures are dependent less on expensive, technology-intensive research than on political will and trust in the strength, power, and intelligence of ordinary people.

FRAN CONRAD  
661 West Johnson Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

#### REFERENCES

1. J. Horn, *Away with All Pests* (Monthly Review Press, New York, 1971).
2. S. P. Mao and B. R. Shao, *Am. J. Trop. Med.* 31, 92 (1982).
3. S. P. Mao, *Chin. Med. J.* 99, 439 (1986).

#### Plastic Wrappers

I was disappointed to see that *Science* is now being mailed in a plastic wrapper. We hear a lot about how communities are having to confront the problems associated with excessive solid waste. Does it make sense to encourage the use of materials that do not

easily disappear from the environment? It seems to me that a simple address stamp would suffice. The American Association for the Advancement of Science should be setting a better example.

JOSEPH F. PETOLINO  
Technology Development,  
United AgriSeeds, Inc.,  
Post Office Box 4011,  
Champaign, IL 61820

At last the striking covers of *Science* can now be enjoyed without being defaced by the address label. I had written several years ago about this "problem" and found that the attitude was that it was a "hopeless problem." I am delighted that a solution has been found.

FRANKLIN G. FISK  
College of General Studies, Science,  
Western Michigan University,  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

*Erratum:* In Roger Lewin's Research News article "Recount on Amazon trees" (5 Feb., p. 563), two errors occurred. At the end of the third paragraph, the quote from Alwyn Gentry should have ended, "... with 63% of species represented by single individuals and only 15% of species represented by more than two individuals." The last word of the article should have been "importance."

## BURN YOUR REFERENCE CARDS!

# REF-11™

Computerizes your REFERENCES  
and prepares your BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- ☐ Maintains a data base of references
- ☐ Searches for any combination of authors, years of publication, reference title, publication title, keywords or abstract
- ☐ Formats bibliographies exactly as you want them
- ☐ Reads your paper, inserts citations into the paper, and prepares a bibliography of the references cited (optional)
- ☐ Downloads references from MedLine data bases such as NLM, BRS and DIALOG (optional)

IBM PC/XT/AT, MS-DOS, CP/M 80 ... **\$195<sup>00</sup>**

RT-11, TSX-Plus, RSX-11, P/OS ..... **\$250<sup>00</sup>**

VAX/VMS (native mode) ..... **\$350<sup>00</sup>**



ANY  
MANUAL **\$15<sup>00</sup>**

ANY  
MANUAL  
& DEMO **\$20<sup>00</sup>**

322 Prospect Ave., Hartford, CT 06106  
(203) 247-8500

Connecticut residents add 7½% sales tax.

Circle No. 36 on Readers' Service Card

# CUSTOM PEPTIDES

## SPECIAL OFFER BEFORE PRICE INCREASE

- Synthesis
- Radioactive Labeling
- Amino Acid Analysis
- Milligram to Gram Amounts
- Personalized Consultation
- Oriented to the Small Research Laboratory

For more Information Contact:

John B. Bruins  
PEPTIDE SYNTHESIS FACILITY  
DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
300 LONGWOOD AVENUE  
BOSTON, MA 02115

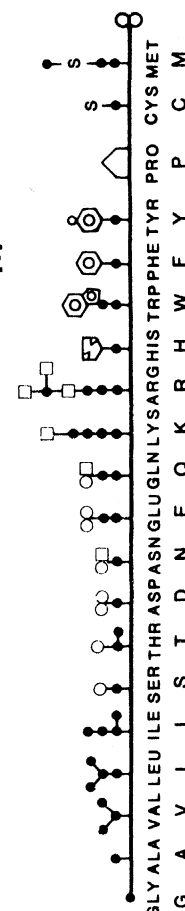
(617) 735-8310

FAX: (617) 735-8387

6:00 PM - 6:00 AM EST

Amino Acid Symbols: Copyright AAAS

Circle No. 106 on Readers' Service Card



SCIENCE, VOL. 239