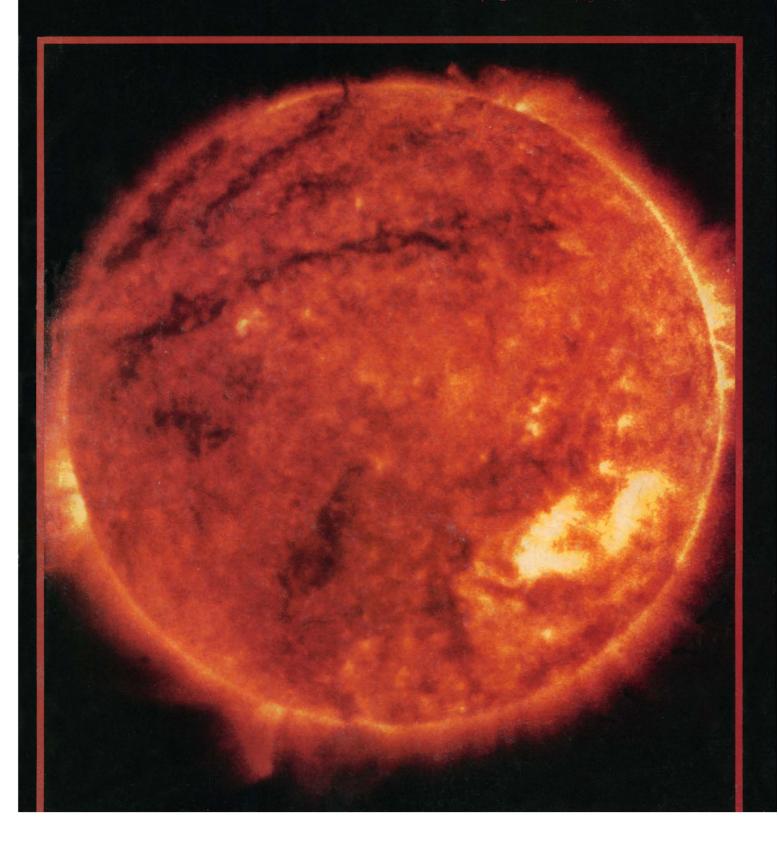
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# SCIENCE

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## Science

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J. E. Dahlberg



COVER The solar corona at 1,000,000 K photographed (23 October 1987) by a multilayer Cassegrain x-ray telescope on the Stanford/MSFC Rocket X-ray Spectroheliograph. This telescope provides images of solar emission between 171 and 175 Å which is dominated by Fe IX and Fe X emission lines. See page 1781. [Center for Space Science and Astrophysics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305; NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812; and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94550]

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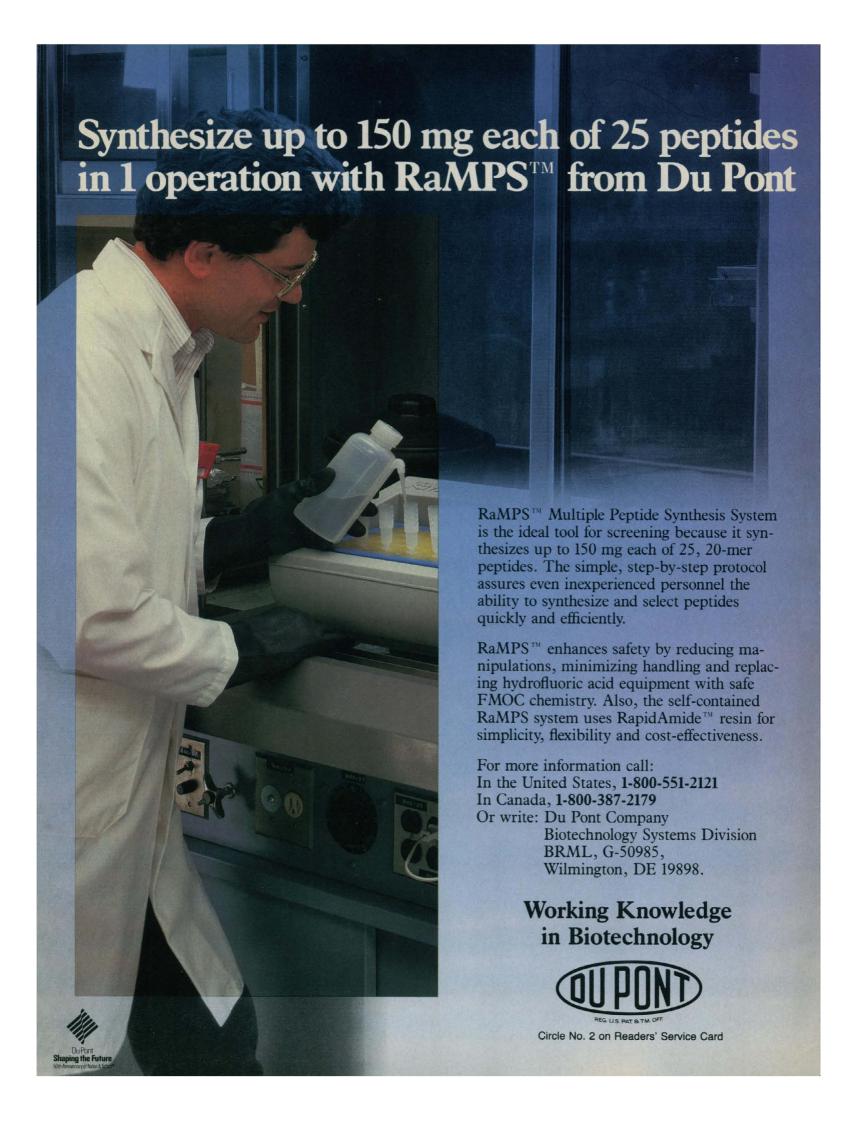
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### This Week in

### Science

#### Lobster body language

HEN two lobsters are put together in a tank they become aggressive, lock claws, push and shove, and engage in other "fighting" behaviors until one of the two (the larger one) emerges as dominant. This individual remains dominant as long as they are together or until one of them molts. The "standing tall" posture of the dominant lobster—it moves on the tips of its walking legs with claws open in front and abdomen tucked downward-can be elicited by injecting a freely moving lobster with the hormone serotonin; the crouching posture of the subordinate lobster can be induced by injecting the hormone octopamine. These amines appear to prime the lobster's nervous system, bringing it from one stable state to a second one that can respond quickly when an appropriate stimulus comes along. What is known of where and how these hormones act in the nervous system to influence behavior in the lobster model and also in other invertebrate and vertebrate models are the subjects of Kravitz's review (page 1775).

#### Solar corona

N the solar corona there are magnetically confined loops of hot plasma, polar holes devoid of closed magnetic structures in which hot plasma might be confined, loops of cool dense gas embedded in hotter coronal gas, plumes and streamers marking the interface with the solar wind, and other interesting substructures. Some of these features of the corona, described by Walker et al., were captured in images obtained with a normal-incidence Cassegrain multilayer telescope (page 1781). Evaluated in conjunction with observations made in other spectral regions, these images illustrate how the structure of the plasma varies with temperature and how magnetic fields help to shape the plasma. The telescope flew on a sounding rocket launched in 1987. Recordings were made in a narrow band in the soft x-ray to extreme ultraviolet region of the spectrum, one that corresponds to solar emissions at temperatures of  $0.8 \times 10^6$  to  $1.4 \times 10^6$  K. The multilayer optics provided images that were of both high spatial resolution (expected in the near future to achieve 0.1 arc second) and high spectral resolution (the surfaces are reflective only in a certain bandpass and therefore can isolate a particular emission line); such images could not be made with earlier x-ray telescope designs.

### Atomic resolution in multilayer structures

◀ HE precise locations of heavy atoms in ultrathin layered structures called Langmuir-Blodgett trilayer films, the spacing between the layers, and the widths of individual layers have been determined at the subangstrom level with a new x-ray technique (page 1788). Bedzyk et al. explain how the long-period x-ray standing waves are generated with x-ray beams, how the fluorescence of heavy atoms in this case cadmium and zinc—is monitored as the standing wave passes through the material, and how precise information on the position of the atoms in the layers is obtained from the raw fluorescence data. When the temperature of the layer was changed, the atomic structure of the multilayer underwent a corresponding change that could be mapped with the x-ray technique. Langmuir-Blodgett films have served in a number of previous studies as proxies of biologic membranes; they are expected to have many direct applications in electronics, optics, biosensing, energy conservation, and other fields.

### Neurologic disease of beef cattle

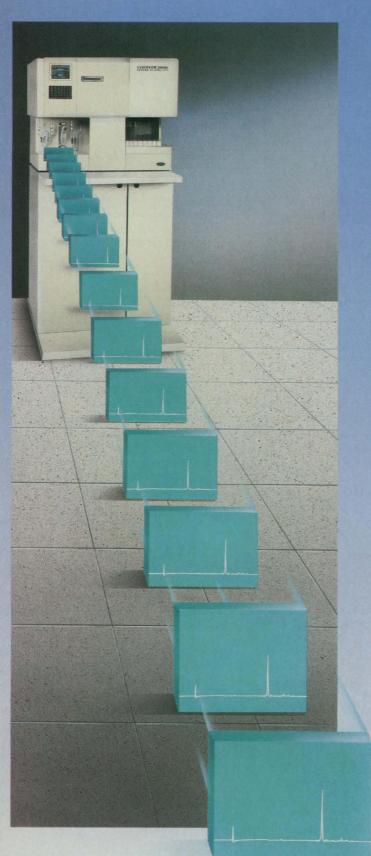
HE biochemical basis of a fatal disease of Poll Hereford calves has been determined (page 1807). Cattle that have inherited congenital myoclonus are hypersensitive to tactile, visual, and auditory stimuli; in response to such stimuli, or even without stimulation, they show uncon-

trolled jerking, muscle spasms, and convulsions; thus, they cannot stand or eat and consequently do not survive very long. Gundlach et al. show that the spinal cord membranes of affected animals lack or have defects in receptors for the amino acid glycine. The receptors normally take up glycine, and when this occurs neurotransmission is damped. In the affected animals, neurotransmission goes on unchecked because glycine is not absorbed postsynaptically; there is, however, compensatory uptake of glycine by receptors associated with nerve axons. These cattle are in many ways similar to spastic mutant mice, and both should be of value in providing information on how nervous system receptors function.

### Improved transplantation options

**▼** HE success of a kidney transplant or of other organ transplants depends on finding a donor organ that the recipient can tolerate. The best match is one in which the major histocompatibility complex antigens, called HLA antigens, match perfectly between donor and recipient, but, because such matches are not always available, kidneys that have "permissible mismatches" with the tissues of the host are often sought. Claas et al. report that among a group of patients who had received numerous blood transfusions and were sensitized as a result of the transfusions to a variety of "non-self" HLA antigens (and thus would not be able to tolerate kidneys expressing these antigens), a common permissible mismatch was one in which the kidney expressed those HLA antigens of the patient's mother that the patient had not inherited (page 1815). Eighty-five percent of such kidneys, when transplanted into a recipient, were still functional after 1 year. These results provide evidence that humans, like mice, may develop a lifelong tolerance to antigens that they are exposed to in utero or at birth. The finding should facilitate transplantation for multiply transfused patients by expanding for them the pool of acceptable grafts.

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American Association for the Advancement of Science

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#### Fetal Tissue in Research

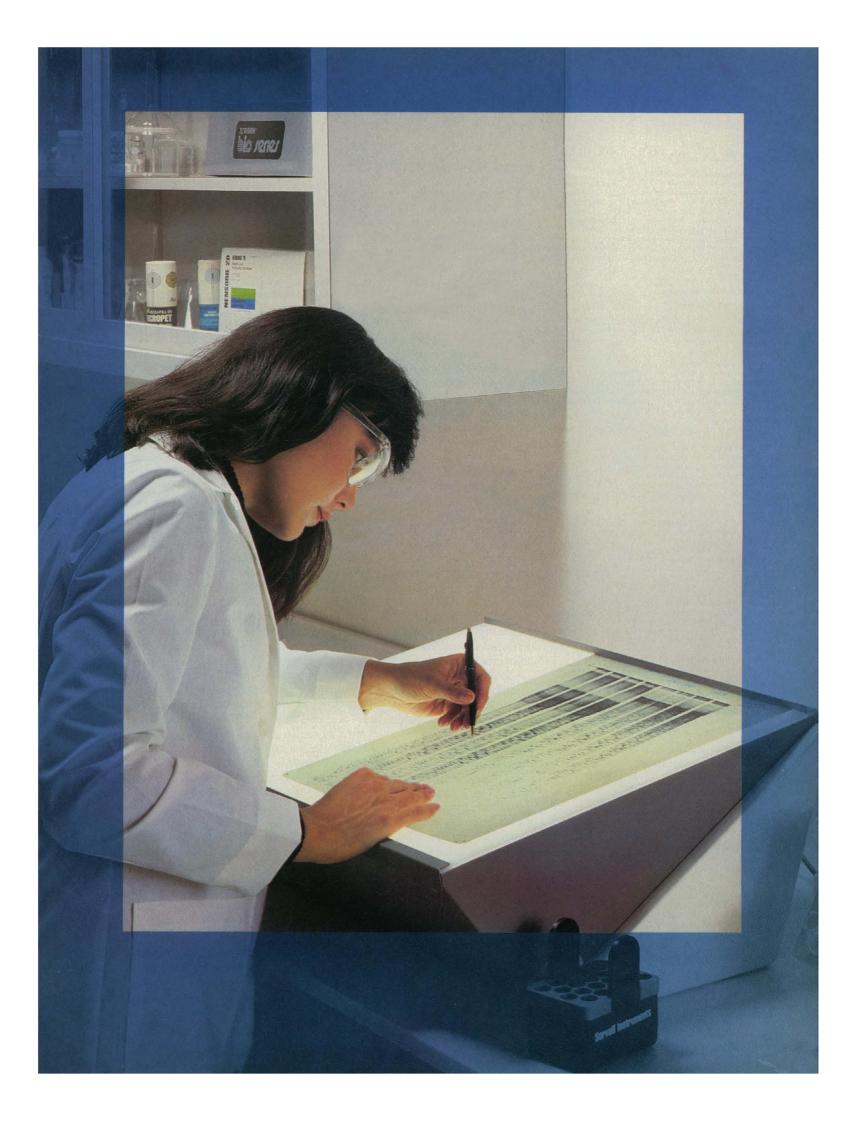
There is an element of nostalgia in many of the current attacks on research, a vague wish for a simpler era in which further scientific advances are not needed. The antivivisectionists in the 1800s said that research had gone far enough. Few take such an extreme stand now, but there is a wistful questioning. "What if we could do research without animals? What if we could do research that was never applied to weapons? What if we could do research with no toxic side products?" The list of "what if's" is endless. And scientists have their own nostalgia. What if we could be allowed to do our research without getting embroiled in moral and political issues? None of these "what if's" will be realized because each addresses part of a problem without examining it in its entirety.

The issue of fetal research was in the forefront of the news last week because it was the subject of a soul-searching debate, the focus of a possible executive order, and the source of a scientific breakthrough. To some it is a simple issue: fetal tissue is discarded tissue that cannot live on its own, cannot do the mother any good, and might provide us with research knowledge or medical therapy. Organs are donated from living people; blood is provided at request; placentas are routinely used for studies in medicine. Why should there be any particularly emotional response to discarded fetal tissue? The answer is that the most useful and appropriate fetal tissue is that from induced abortion, and the issue of induced abortion is highly controversial. Scientists, like all other citizens, have a right to political opinions on the controversy, but there is a big stake in making certain that the scientific aspects are separated from the political ones.

The importance of fetal tissue has already been demonstrated. The use of this material in therapy for certain kinds of neurological diseases has had some encouraging results in animals and some mixed results in humans. The incorporation of human fetal tissue into a mouse, reported in Science last week (see J. M. Mc Cune et al., page 1632), offers an opportunity of untold dimension for study of the development of the human immune system and for possible therapy in specific human diseases, such as AIDS. The alternative animal model in that case involves infection of chimpanzees, primates whose use creates emotional responses also, and they are a species that is endangered. Other applications of fetal tissue are for therapy against infectious diseases and in diabetes, for patients receiving cancer chemotherapy at levels that wipe out the bone marrow, and for bone marrow transplants in preparation for other organ transplants. To the nonscientist, fetal tissue may seem like any other, but fetal cells are less developed and are more malleable and willing to grow than mature cells. Mature cells are too differentiated to be useful in many circumstances.

Prohibition of use of such a major new means to prevent and alleviate suffering seems unthinkable. And yet such a prohibition may come about if scientists are not sensitive to the inevitable consequences of such advances on moral precepts and social traditions that are centuries old. It will be crucial for scientists to make it clear that they do not intend to encourage induced abortion in order to supply material for research. Encouragement of abortion for the purpose of research is unacceptable. Scientists must take the stand that the decisions to live or die, decisions in such cases as abortion, brain-dead individuals on life support, or terminally ill individuals, are matters for decision based on political considerations in a complex society. Once the live or die decision has been made on these grounds, the decision to use tissue that would otherwise be discarded seems straightforward. Taking the kidney from a brain-dead victim of an automobile crash has not led scientists to encourage automobile accidents, and fetal tissue can be used without reference to the arguments surrounding induced abortion. There are some who will regard all such options around death as ghoulish. But to most individuals donation of organs to help others provides a touch of altruism and an intimation of immortality that mitigate the sting of death.

The nostalgia of those who long for a smaller and simpler world is romanticized to include only those features that the wisher advocates. What if we had all the advantages of modern civilization with one-tenth the people on the globe? A far better world, as long as I am one of those who survive. What if research had been stopped in the 1800s? We would have had no polyethylene or nuclear bombs or chlorinated insecticides, but we also would have had no penicillin, no vaccines, no television, and no central heating. The fetal research issue is one of many in which shouting about rights—the right to choice, the right to life, the right to do research—is not helpful. A modus vivendi in which progress is ensured and sensitivities are recognized is the only right way.—Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.



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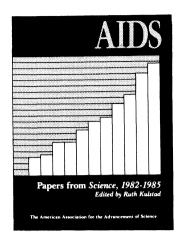
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Edited by Ruth Kulstad

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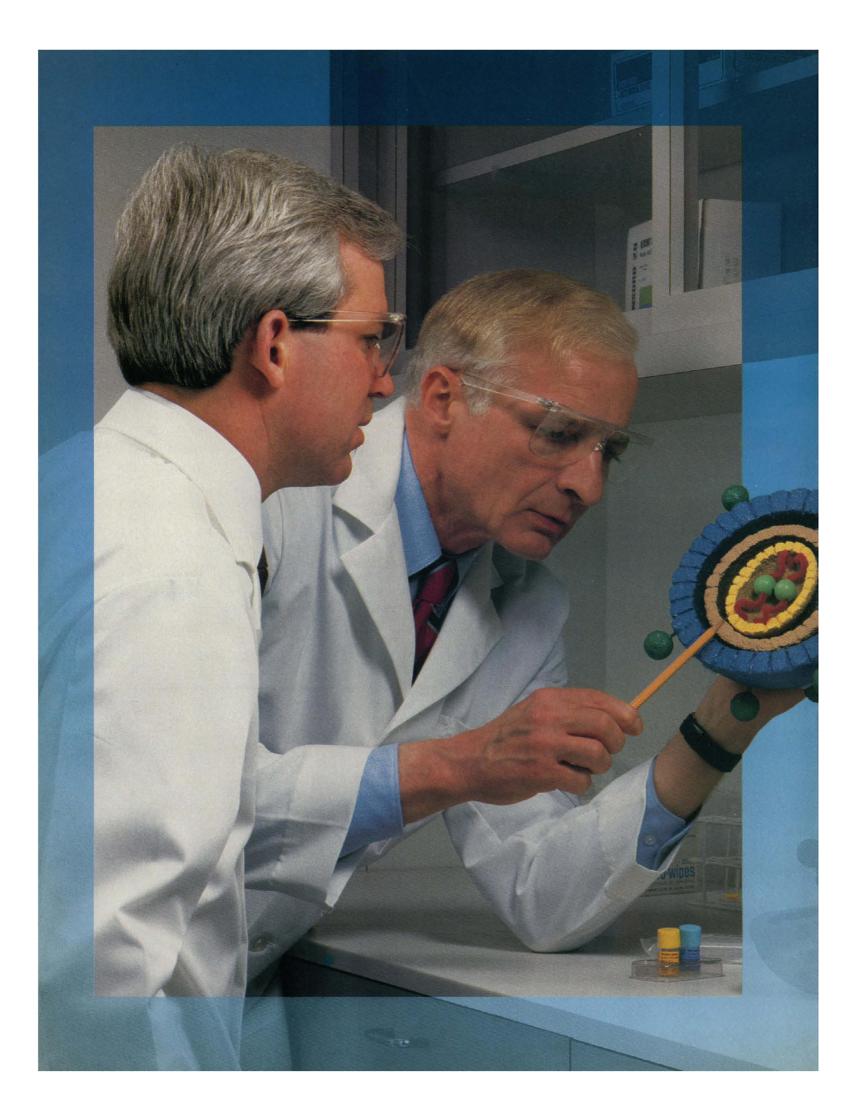
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