

Health Commissioner M. D. Jarrett stated "We do not believe that the health and environment of the citizens of South Carolina can be assured if these trials are conducted. Therefore, we cannot allow these proposed field trials to proceed." Whereas Virginia health authorities were satisfied that the risks, if any, of conducting the proposed trial were minimal and acceptable with respect to the potential benefits resulting from the trial, South Carolina health authorities asked for absolute assurance that such risks did not exist.

Another issue which arose in both states is whether the relevant parties in each state would be adequately protected by means of indemnification and an insurance policy provided by Rhône-Mérieux, the manufacturer of the vaccine, against monetary judgments resulting from suits brought by third parties. Contrary to the remark attributed to a South Carolina health official, such insurance has been in place for over a year, is current, and has never lapsed. Although Virginia health officials were satisfied by the indemnification and insurance provided by Rhône-Mérieux, the owner of Parramore Island in Virginia is a private group, the Nature Conservancy, which must also grant its approval for use of the island for the vaccine trial.

In a sense, the existence of such wide divergences among state health authorities may be a blessing for organizations wishing to test novel biological materials and who must obtain approval at the state and the federal level. A major element of the local decision process is a reading by state officials of the local political scene. The result of this reading may override any judgment by state health officials based solely on scientific considerations. In selecting sites for field trials, scientists must also be acutely aware of the local political scene and not base their choice of sites on scientific considerations alone.

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Mirror, Mirror . . .

No wonder women need new sources of support in the sciences, when we are referred to as members of the "fair sex" in as august a publication as *Science* (News & Comment, 14 July, p. 126).

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I was surprised by Constance Holden's arch reference to women as "the fair sex" in her article "New support for women scientists." It is unfortunate that an article that was intended to encourage women should instead reinforce the use of such patronizing language.

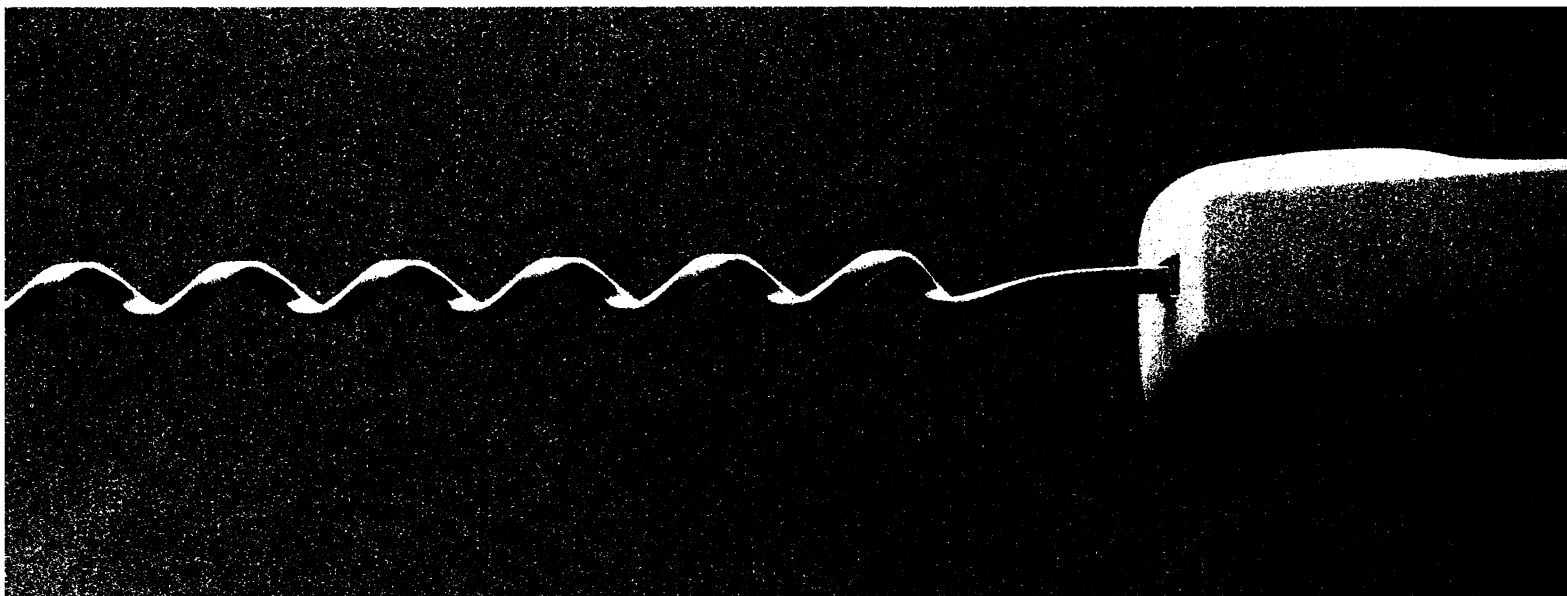
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Response: The phrase was a modest attempt to spoof stereotypes. Obviously, it misfired.—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Erratum: In Eliot Marshall's News & Comment article "Clean air?" Don't hold your breath" (5 May, p. 517), Bernard D. Goldstein's affiliation was incomplete. Dr. Goldstein is a professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Science Institute, a joint program of Rutgers University and UMDNJ—Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

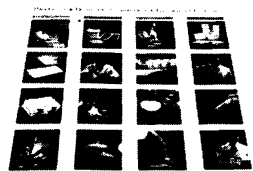
Erratum: In the report "The reservoir for HIV-1 in human peripheral blood is a T cell that maintains expression of CD4" by S. M. Schnittman *et al.* (21 July, p. 305), reference 10 on page 308 should have read, "K. Clouse *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 142, 431 (1989)."



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