

SCIENCE

Published by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**, *Science* serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objectives are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to foster scientific freedom and responsibility, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, to advance education in science, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.

Membership/Circulation

Director: Michael Spinella
Fulfillment: Marlene Zendell, *Manager*; Mary Curry, *Member Service Supervisor*; Pat Butler, Helen Williams, Laurie Baker, *Member Service Representatives*
Promotions: Dee Valencia, *Manager*; Hilary Baar, Angela Mumeka, *Coordinators*
Research: Kathleen Markey, *Manager*; Robert Smariga, *Assistant*
Financial Analyst: Jacquelyn Roberts
Administrative Assistant: Nina Araujo de Kobes
Science Member Services
Marion, Ohio: 800-347-6969;
Washington, DC: 202-326-6417
Other AAAS Programs: 202-326-6400

Advertising and Finance

Associate Publisher: Beth Rosner
Advertising Sales Manager: Susan A. Meredith
Recruitment Advertising Manager: Janis Crowley
Advertising Business Manager: Deborah Rivera-Wienhold
Traffic Manager: Tina Turano
Recruitment: Michele Pearl, *Operations Manager*; Dan Moran, *Traffic Manager*; Debbie Cummings, Celeste Wakefield, Angela Wheeler, *Sales*
Marketing Associate: Allison Pritchard
Reprints Manager: Corrine Harris
Permissions Manager: Arlene Ennis
Sales Associate: Carol Maddox

ADVERTISING SALES: East Coast/E. Canada: Richard Teeling, 201-904-9774, FAX 201-904-9701 • Southeast: Mark Anderson, 305-856-8567, FAX 305-856-1056 • Midwest: Donald Holbrook, 708-516-8882, FAX 708-516-8883 • West Coast/W. Canada: Neil Boylan, 415-673-9265, FAX 415-673-9267 • UK, Scandinavia, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands: Andrew Davies, (44) 457-838-519, FAX (44) 457-838-898 • Germany/Switzerland/Austria: Tracey Peers, (44) 270-760-108, FAX (44) 270-759-597 • Japan: Mashy Yoshikawa, (3) 3235-5961, FAX (3) 3235-5852
Recruitment: 202-326-6555, FAX 202-682-0816
European Recruitment: AnneMarie Vis, (44) 0223-302067, FAX (44) 0223-302068
Australia/New Zealand Recruitment: Keith Sandell, (61) 02-922-2977, FAX (61) 02-922-1100
Send materials to *Science* Advertising, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Information for Contributors appears on pages 40–42 of the 1 January 1993 issue. Editorial correspondence, including requests for permission to reprint and reprint orders, should be sent to 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

LETTERS

Elimination of Scholarships

Jay Hegde (Letters, 29 Oct., p. 637) asserts that science students “enter graduate school for the wrong reasons” when they seek “wholesale tuition waivers and stipends.” The implication is that students, with their sights set only on the big bucks they’ll rake in as graduate students, disregard that they may be unemployed after receiving their doctorate because of the lack of professional-level positions. Anyone who has gone through graduate school on a tuition waiver and stipend knows that big bucks it ain’t, so that is unlikely to be the major reason someone chooses to continue his or her education.

There are a number of reasons why elimination of scholarships is not in the best interest of scientists and the future of science. For one, eliminating scholarships would eliminate students who come from low-income families. Second, scholarships provide an incentive for all undergraduate students to compete and do their best. In addition to financial return, scholarships bring prestige and afford students the opportunity to focus on academic endeavors either unencumbered or in conjunction with research-related jobs. Finally, departments that offer attractive scholarships are able to woo outstanding students who have varied talents and interests. A published, summa cum laude biology student who also has a flair for chemistry may get an offer from the chemistry department that would be hard to pass up.

Regardless of the number of students who could not or chose not to pursue science due to the elimination of scholarships, if the aim of science education is to secure the best interest of future scientists and the future of science, then the goal should be to gain the broadest spectrum of talented science students. This is because, of course, a broad base of input tends to stimulate innovation. Scholarships are certainly one means to that end.

Sue Ann Lewandowski
Lumcon Library,

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium,
8124 Highway 56, Chauvin, LA 70344

The reduction or elimination of stipends and tuition waivers would have two immediate and counterproductive effects: it would greatly bias the applicant pool toward those from wealthy families, just at a time when recruitment efforts need to be broadened. It would also necessitate even larger undergraduate laboratory sections (absent sufficient teaching assistants), also just when the

quality of science education is being challenged by classes that are too large.

I know of no evidence that the paltry subsidies our graduate students receive are an incentive sufficient to encourage entering graduate schools “for the wrong reason.” Doctors and lawyers, unlike most scientists, can usually manage to pay off loans accumulated during their studies. I doubt a zoology graduate student would even find a bank foolhardy enough to make a tuition loan.

Peter H. Klopfer
Department of Zoology,
Duke University,
Durham, NC 27708-0325

Women in Biomedicine

With regard to the Random Samples item “Women in biomedicine: Still slugging it out” (29 Oct., p. 650), we are pleased to see the issue of women in science being directly addressed, both by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and in *Science*. However, we would like to mention several additional points that we addressed in our discussion and place some of the quotes into context.

As women at various stages of our scientific careers, we think it is useful to talk about the problems that women often face, the factors in our own lives that have helped us overcome some of them, and potential solutions to those that we are still struggling with. We believe both positive and negative experiences should be included if such a dialogue is to be of any value. Because the positive aspects of our discussion were not reported in the Random Samples piece, our comments appeared to have a negative tone that did not accurately reflect our feelings.

We are particularly concerned about how our comments about having children were conveyed. Many women either drop out of or do not pursue academic positions because of the difficulty in combining such a demanding profession with the responsibilities of caring for young children. This conflict is not a problem unique to science or to women. Our purpose was to discuss ways to ameliorate the problem, not to suggest that women in science would “be well advised to forget about babies.” We suggested (as have many others) that the scientific establishment should recognize and respect the fact that people who have committed themselves to caring for a dependent family member