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■ "Not-Even-a-Draft?"

The headline of a Science Scope item (18 Aug., p. 911) declares, "Major EMF report warns of health risks." There is no report. This is acknowledged in the text that follows, but the implication is that it's just a matter of time. It is more likely that the not-even-a-draft was leaked by its authors precisely because they knew its prospects for adoption by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) lie somewhere between slim and zero. It is based on information that other organizations, including the American Physical Society (APS), have dismissed as inconclusive or worse.

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Response: Park correctly points out that the information on which the NCRP panel based

its draft report has been dismissed by others, including Park's own organization. We should have stated that explicitly. However, Park oversteps the mark. In a widely disseminated electronic newsletter, Park said the draft report "hasn't even been approved by the panel itself," and in his letter he calls it "not-even-a-draft." That's news to the panel members with whom we spoke and the executive director of the NCRP, who all told *Science* that the draft has been approved by the panel and sent on to the NCRP for review. As our item pointed out, it now faces an extensive and rigorous review process, standard practice for NCRP reports.—**Editors**

■ Pioneering Work

In the introduction of their Research Article reporting the total nucleotide sequence of the *Haemophilus influenzae* genome (R. D. Fleischmann *et al.*, 28 July, p. 496), J. Craig Venter and his colleagues write that bacteriophage ϕ X174 was the first viral or organellar genome to be completely sequenced in 1977 by F. Sanger and his colleagues. May I point out that, although this is true for DNA molecules, the first viral genome to be completely sequenced was

that of the RNA bacteriophage MS2 (1).

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References

1. W. Fiers *et al.*, *Nature* **260**, 500 (1976).

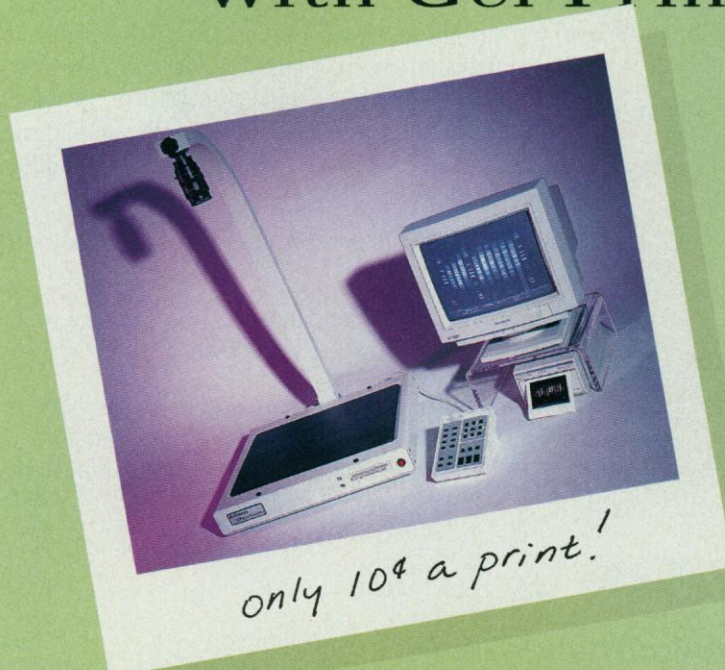
Response: We wish to add to our Research Article acknowledgment of the pioneering work of Fiers and his colleagues and that of Joachim Messing and his colleagues. Fiers completed the publication of the sequence of the 3569 base pair (bp) RNA bacteriophage MS2 in April 1976 with the sequence of the third gene (replicase gene) from bacteriophage MS2. Messing's contributions of a set of M13-derived vectors, his pioneering work in the development of shotgun sequencing strategies, and the sequencing of the 8031-bp cauliflower mosaic virus in 1981 (1) are lasting contributions that we continue to build on today.

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1. J. Messing *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* **9**, 2871 (1981).

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