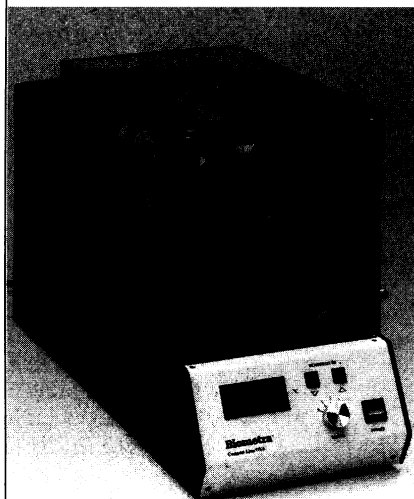


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human subject committees support this interpretation of research ethical standards applied to our study (4).

Marc Lallemand, Sophie Le Coeur, Kenneth McIntosh, Troyen Brennan, Richard Gelber, Tun-Hou Lee, Scott Hammer, Max Essex, Harvard AIDS Institute, 665 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA; Vicharn Vithayasai, Pannee Sirivatanapa, Prakong Vithayasai, Prapasri Rangsiyanond, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Wiput Phoolcharen, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand; and Roger Luckmann, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA 01655, USA

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2. M. Lallemand, S. Le Coeur, D. Tarantola, J. Mann, M. Essex, *Lancet* **343**, 1429 (1994).
3. Editorial, *Bangkok Post* (23 August 1995), p. 2; *Formulating National Antiretroviral Drug Policies* (AIDS Division, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, Bangkok, 1995), p. 182.
4. Committee of Ethics of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand (1995); Harvard University Human Subject Committee (1994).

Faculty Dismissals in Japan

With respect to the Japanese Ministry of Education (Monbusho) and its campaign to dismiss foreign faculty at national universities (D. Normile, "Universities yank welcome mat for longtime foreign faculty," 7 July, p. 26), several points should be added.

1) In September an advisory committee to Monbusho recommended the elimination of tenure for all faculty at national universities. The fate of this proposal is not yet certain, but it would seem to give the lie to Monbusho's statement that they are not trying to save money by dismissing higher-paid, older instructors. (There are, though, other possible motives, as suggested in an internal memo circulated at one national university—to keep foreigners from exerting influence on policy and to avoid odious comparisons with the often higher productivity of foreign faculty.)

2) These are neither layoffs nor dismissals with cause; instructors whose qualifications are not in question, and who when hired were given no reason to expect non-renewal of their contracts (indeed, were often explicitly assured this would never happen), are being replaced by younger instructors. This is firing without cause, despite the fact that Japanese labor law imposes a burden of proof on the employer to show why a contract that has been renewed should not be renewed again.

3) However strong the legal position of the victims of Monbusho's policy, legal action, especially against the state, is highly unlikely to prove of much use in a country

where lawsuits routinely take 10 or more years, only to be resolved in favor of the state. However, Monbusho and the universities are sensitive to criticism from overseas peers and vulnerable to the glare of publicity. (One instructor who has been active in fighting her university's plans to dismiss her has already been offered her job back, on condition that she keep quiet.) Thus I urge readers to write in protest to the Minister of Education, Yoshinobu Shimamura, Ministry of Education, 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

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Biopolymer Sequence Availability

In his article "On-line archives let biologists interrogate the genome" (*Computers '95: News*, 8 Sept., p. 1356), M. Mitchell Waldrop lists the major sequence archives—GenBank, the Genome Sequence Database, the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ), and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) database.

Readers should be aware that there are many biopolymer sequences that have never been registered with GenBank, EMBL, or DDBJ. These include sequences from patent records and shorter novel peptide and nucleotide sequences, such as primers, probes, binding sites, and promoter regulatory elements. The CAS Registry file on the Scientific and Technical Information Network (STN), offered by Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), includes these sequences in addition to the data found in GenBank.

The value of the sequence data available on STN is further enhanced because the Registry file provides complete annotation and useful links to the 190 other STN files and services, such as CAS's CAPLUS; MARPAT, a Markush structure database; and CASREACT, a reaction search service.

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Russian Mathematics

The Random Samples item about the current reorganization of the Euler International Mathematical Institute (EIMI) in St.

Petersburg, Russia (23 June, p. 1695), provokes some thoughts. One may have different opinions about who is right in the conflict between the director of EIMI, Ludwig Faddeev, and his deputy Sergei Khrushchev and whether or not folding EIMI into the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of St. Petersburg mathematicians. EIMI has existed in its present form, as a separate and independent unit, for many years, although it was clear to many St. Petersburg mathematicians that their needs could have been better served if they had been allowed to use the facilities of EIMI.

However, none of them challenged the status quo (to the best of my knowledge), that is, not until Faddeev initiated the current process.

I see this as a recurrence of an old Russian disease in which the community rushes to support decisions already made by the authorities. One would feel more comfortable about the atmosphere in Russian mathematics if such a controversial action had resulted not from a conflict between the director and his deputy but at the request of the mathematicians.

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Dioxin Research in Vietnam

We share the opinion of A. H. Westing and E. W. Pfeiffer (Letters, 13 Oct., p. 217) that the United States should pursue opportunities to study the environmental and health effects of exposure to dioxin (tetrachlorobenzodioxin) in Vietnam. Even before the reestablishment of full diplomatic relations with Vietnam, the U.S. Senate mandated that the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)/National Institutes of Health explore the feasibility of conducting dioxin-related research in Vietnam. To address this mandate, the NIEHS (in collaboration with the World Health Organization) sponsored and organized a scientific mission to Vietnam in June 1995 to identify possible areas for collaborative research and to initiate an exchange program for promising collaborative research opportunities. Efforts are currently under way to use existing funding and obtain additional funding to implement a number of collaborative projects regarding identification of exposed populations and associated health effects.

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T. Damstra
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Corrections and Clarifications

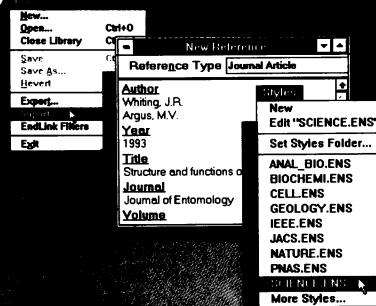
In the Research News article, "Snaring the genes that divide the sexes for mammals," by Jean Marx (29 Sept., p. 1824), the quote that read "the animals lost their kidneys and gonads," should have read "the animals lost their adrenals and gonads."

The obituary of John Merlie (1945–1995) on page 363 in the issue of 21 July was not credited. It was written by Zach W. Hall.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaaas.org), fax (202-289-7562), or regular mail (Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005). Letters will not be routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. Beginning in October 1995, our previous policy of consulting with all letter authors before publication will be discontinued.

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