

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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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

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