

Wrong Hookworm

In his otherwise informative article "New anticoagulant prompts bad blood between partners" (News & Comment, 29 Mar., p. 1800), Jock Friedly erroneously reports that the hookworm *Ancylostoma caninum* is believed to be the world's leading cause of anemia. Actually, *A. caninum*, a parasite of dogs, does not cause human hookworm disease, but is often used as an experimental model for hookworm research. The true human hookworms, *Ancylostoma duodenale* and *Necator americanus*, are believed to be a leading cause of iron-deficiency anemia.

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Importance of Teaching

I strongly agree with the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) education chief, Luther Williams, who is quoted by Jeffrey Mervis as stating that NSF alone cannot promote teaching at traditional research universities (News, 19 Apr., p. 345). Until

the culture of tenure and promotion at these institutions changes, why should tenure-track faculty members focus their efforts on the scholarship of teaching at the risk of "publish or perish" and of not obtaining prestigious research grants? It is a well-known fact that most senior faculty who make tenure-promotion decisions do not equate excellence in the scholarship of teaching with excellence in the scholarship of basic research!

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International Openness

The editorial "Keep borders open for U.S. science" by Felice J. Levine (22 Mar., p. 1649) concerning potential changes in immigration policy for foreign scientists prompts me to describe an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a visa for a postdoctoral fellow. The candidate, who is from India, applied to the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer for a fellowship to spend 1 year in my

laboratory to learn immunological methods for monitoring human exposure to chemical carcinogens; he subsequently received this prestigious and competitive award. Unfortunately, his visa application has been rejected because he could not provide documentation that he would return home after the 1-year training. This documentation must consist of a bank account, property, a job offer, or family ties. How many unmarried, recent Ph.D.'s in the United States could meet these criteria if they were required for a postdoctoral position?

The experience makes me wonder whether there is already an unofficial policy to restrict visas from certain countries for fear that such individuals will not return home. Such a policy would be detrimental to research both here and abroad.

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Levine appears to confuse science with scientists. There is absolutely nothing in S.1394 which inhibits "international openness in knowledge and expertise." What is proposed is a limitation on immigrants (scientists and others), not any limitation on the free international flow of scientific in-

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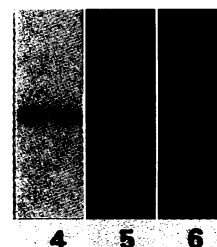
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