

The "facts" offered by opponents of evolutionary science are indeed a danger, because they are not facts—radiometric dating grossly in error, no fossil forms intermediate between existing species, "Darwinism" not accounting for complexity, the Grand Canyon formed in the Noachian flood, the Paluxy River "footprints," and the like. And as one commentator has observed, creationists *can* tell more lies in "debate" than an honest disputant can skewer. Nevertheless, the advice given by Eugenie Scott of the National Center for Science Education—that individual scientists should probably not enter debates—is self-defeating. If not scientists, then who? The claim that to enter such debates is demeaning, or is a lost cause, or might harden the opposition, is an invitation to quietism. It is the same advice as that given, for too long, to opponents of animal rights extremism. It is bad advice.

Paul R. Gross
Department of Biology,
University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, VA 22903, USA

The oxymoron of "creation science" is as farcical as are the terms "abrupt appearance theory." It is distressing that creationists' bills use tactics to intimidate teachers and their job security to the point that evolu-

tion is not taught, or worse that the teachings provide misinformation. It is also unfortunate that creationists continue to prey on the young and ignorant.

Sanford J. Madigan
Post Office Box 13402,
La Jolla, CA 92039, USA

Charges of Anti-Semitism

Constance Holden's article "Publisher draws censorship charge" (News, 12 July, p. 177) is a concise and accurate synopsis of a protracted and nasty series of events. Although charges of anti-Semitism against me are wrong, they are also understandable. My review (1) of Kevin MacDonald's excellent book, *A People That Shall Dwell Alone: Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy* (2), made unrealistic assumptions about readers' familiarity with issues at hand, and so drew conclusions based on inadequately supplied information.

Unfortunately, one way to make charges of anti-Semitism stick is to publish a submission that draws such charges, then refuse to publish a rejoinder (3) that apologizes for shortcomings, attempts to clarify misunderstandings, and refers readers to ad hoc sources of relevant information (4). Five

editorial board members of *Ethology and Sociobiology* judged my rejoinder to be such a submission, but the journal's publisher, Elsevier Inc., still refuses to publish it.

I ask interested readers to withhold judgment until they have a fuller explanation of my views—which can be obtained (including a copy of the accepted-but-censored addendum) by forwarding an address label to the address below.

John Hartung
Health Science Center at Brooklyn,
State University of New York,
450 Clarkson Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098, USA

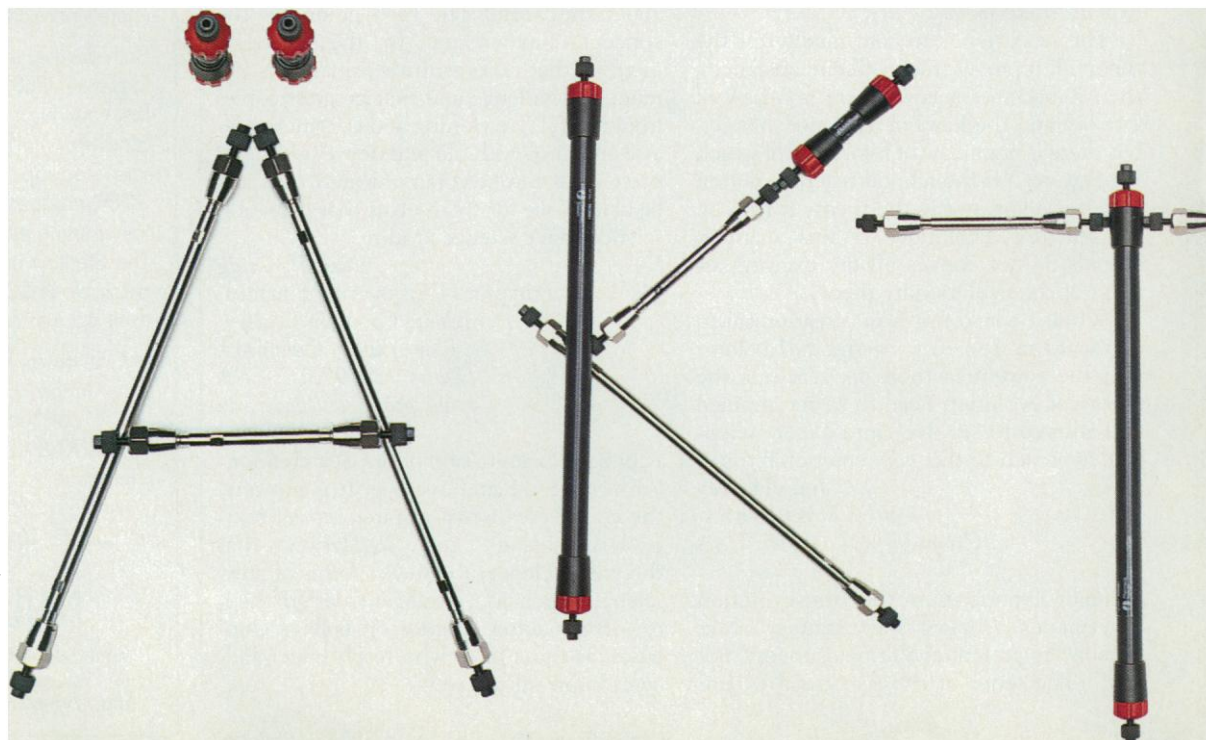
References

1. J. Hartung, *Ethol. Sociobiol.* **16**, 335 (1995).
2. K. MacDonald, *A People That Shall Dwell Alone: Judaism as a Group Evolutionary Strategy* [Praeger (Greenwood), Westport, CT, 1994].
3. ———, in preparation.
4. ———, *Skeptic* **3**, 86 (1995); *ibid.* **4**, 24 (1996); *ibid.*, p. 62.

Tobacco Research: One Researcher's Experience

James F. Glenn's statement (Letters, 12 July, p. 167) that "CTR [the Council for Tobacco Research] has always encouraged

New Swedish solutions for purifying peptides of any source using any technique



INTRODUCING:

- ten new reversed phase chromatography columns
- two new ion exchange chromatography columns
- a new size exclusion chromatography column
- one completely new system for peptide, oligonucleotides and other biomolecules (AKTA is the Swedish word for real, it's pronounced eckta).

investigators to publish results of research, whether favorable or unfavorable to the tobacco industry" contradicts my personal experience when the CTR, through Robert Hockett, then its director of research, and E. Jacob, then its lawyer, came to call on me and threatened that "we would never get another penny from CTR" if we published a paper, submitted for their approval, reporting that inhaling cigarette smoke caused laryngeal cancer in a certain inbred Syrian hamster. This happened in the early 1970s after our research at Tufts University and at the Bio-Research Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, had received continuous support since the early 1950s from CTR totaling more than \$800,000.

As a witness in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, I have stated in detail and under oath what happened (1). When I presented our results at a conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, before our paper appeared, a scheduled press conference to follow my paper was sabotaged (according to a later boast by a CTR public relations person in an internal memorandum of a tobacco company). We never received another penny from CTR after we published our paper in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* in October 1974 (2).

Continued research was made possible by support from a British consortium of the Celanese Company and British tobacco companies, as well as the British Hunter Committee, which found our method useful to evaluate the relative carcinogenicity of cigarette smoke.

Glenn's statement may be true for the more recent phases of CTR activity, but studies implicating cigarette smoke as a health hazard have not been getting support from CTR or are limited to projects with predictably negative outcome, such as having mice inhale cigarette smoke that kills them because of their sensitivity to nicotine before carcinogenic doses are reached.

Freddy Homburger

*Department of Pathology,
Boston University School of Medicine,
Boston, MA 02118, USA, and
Bio-Research Consultants,
675 Massachusetts Avenue,
Cambridge, MA 02139, USA*

References

1. U.S. District Court of New Jersey, Civil Action No. 83-2864(SA), *A. Cipollone vs. Tobacco Companies*, Litigation Document 3.6 TPLR 3.431-3.467, Newark, NJ, 19 January 1987.
2. P. Bernfeld, F. Homburger, A. B. Russfield, *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* **53**, 1141 (1974).

Chernobyl Analysis

I would like to comment on Richard Stone's fine article of 19 April (Special News Report, p. 352). My visits to Chernobyl to conduct the research for and prepare "The Chernobyl 4 Accident Sequence: Update—April 1995" (1) and the work reported on was supported by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, foundation grants, and me. The background to the report is contained in the introduction by Academician V. G. Baryakhtar, Vice President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (UNAS).

The report (1) provided and discussed estimates of the fuel in the lava. The source of most of the lava information contained in the report was Edward Pazukhin of UNAS's Intersectoral Scientific and Technical Center and the Khlopin Radium Institute. Current estimates of the fuel in the lava range from about 27 tons to more than 130 tons [the referenced paper (2) was presented at "Sarcophagus Safety '94" by C. Gotovchits (head of the Ukrainian MinChernobyl) and N. Steinberg (chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety)]. The wide range of the estimates is cited in the report as a key uncertainty. Although I told Stone

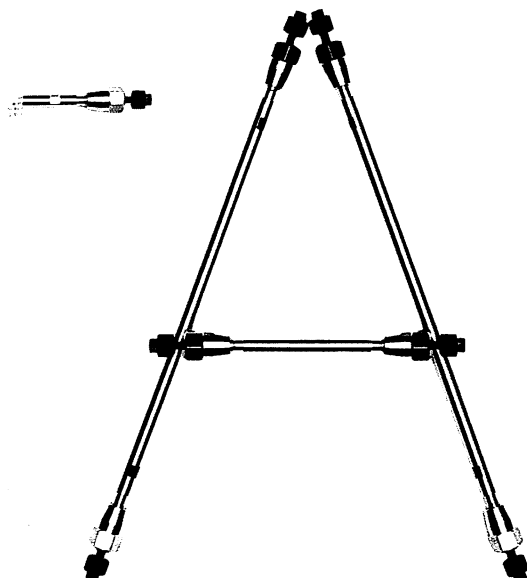
Are you working with natural peptides? Synthetic peptides? Recombinant peptides? Peptide fragments? Or all of them? Whatever peptide you work with, your options for purifying them just increased.

With ten new columns for reversed phase chromatography, you're nearly certain of finding the selectivity you need in our extensive range. All of these new RPC columns deliver high resolution; combined, they'll take you from purification and analysis to peptide mapping.

We can support you with advice and solutions for other peptide purification techniques as well. Are you separating peptides with poor solubility? Our new size exclusion column withstands high pH and solvents. Do you need an extra technique to help you with a difficult-to-separate peptide? We have two new ion exchange columns that permit very high resolution and withstand high pH ranges.

What's more, all 13 columns are supported by ÄKTApurifier—a revolutionary new purification system for peptides, oligonucleotides and other biomolecules. Its preset protocols let you resolve all major purification tasks quickly and easily. Its control system lets you instantly transfer your methods to purification systems at all scales.

Want to know more about our peptide purification solutions? Call us: 1 (800) 526 3593 from the USA; +81 (0)3 3492 6949 from Japan; or +46 (0)18 16 50 11 from Europe and the rest of the world; or meet us on the Internet at <http://www.biotech.pharmacia.se>.



**Pharmacia
Biotech**
Uppsala, Sweden. (And the rest of the world)

Circle No. 39 on Readers' Service Card