

have been associated with environmental agents (6), it is likely that synergy in estrogen signaling and also in other endocrine systems is partly responsible for the reported effects.

John A. McLachlan
Tulane-Xavier Center for
Bioenvironmental Research,
Tulane University MC,
1430 Tulane Avenue, SL3,
New Orleans, LA 70112, USA
E-mail: jmcloch@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu

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"Quantum Voodoo"

There is a very old method of communicating faster than the speed of light. You take a red marble and a green marble, and—without looking—place them in two different boxes. Your assistant takes one box and saunters off to the East Coast. You take your box and proceed to the West Coast. Then at a previously agreed upon time, you open your boxes. You will both "instantaneously" know what color marble your partner is looking at—even though you're thousands of miles apart! This experiment is even more impressive if you assume that until one of you actually looks at a marble, either one "could" be either color. (Try disproving that some time!)

I see now that quantum mechanics are experimenting with making "the quantum state of a particle . . . disappear, then reappear elsewhere . . . without physically making the trip" (G. Taubes, *Research News*, 25 Oct., p. 504). These are, indeed, exciting times.

Eric Geislinger
Transoniq,
1402 SW Upland Drive,
Portland, OR 97221, USA
E-mail: trnsoniq@teleport.com

Flights from Reason?

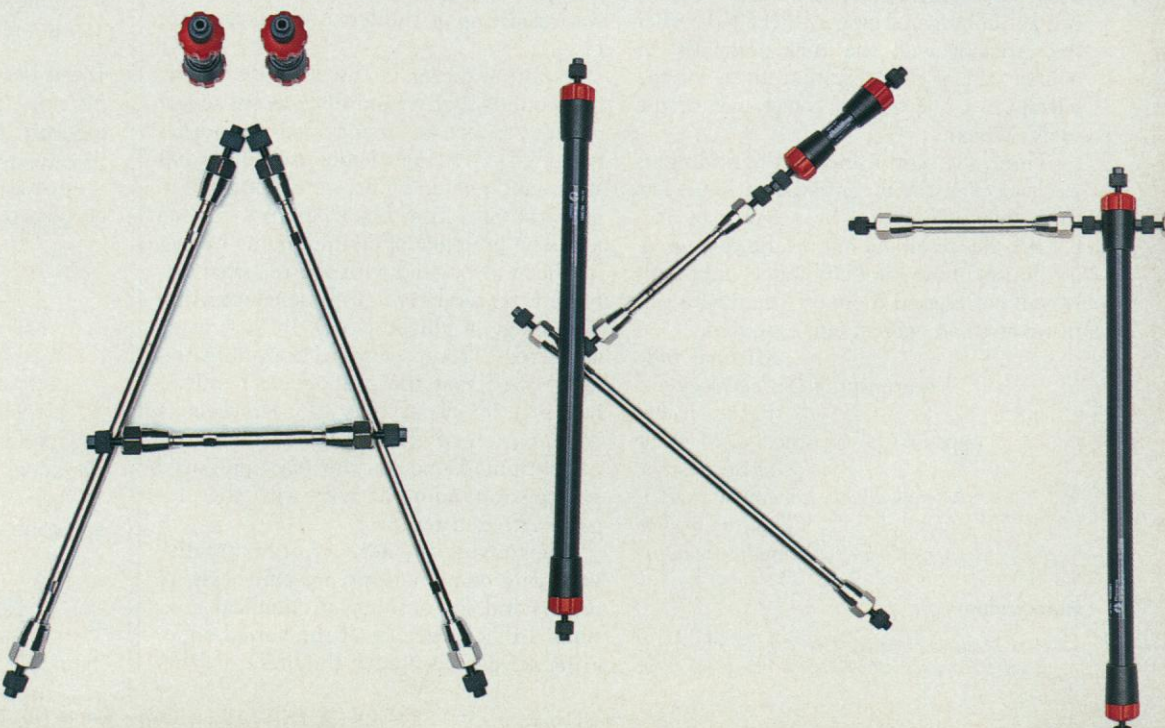
The quote (Random Samples, 11 Oct., p. 183) from Norman Levitt's book *The Flight from Science and Reason* (1) exhibits a flight from reason equivalent to that apparent in many postmodernistic critiques of "science." Specifically, "the idea that the cultural critic can meaningfully analyze . . ." anything or everything does not follow from the premise that "everything that people do is 'cultural.'" It may be "distinctly weird to listen to pronouncements on the nature of mathematics from the lips of someone who cannot tell you what a complex number is," but it does not follow that those pronouncements have no empirical validity. The explicit methods of study that constitute "science" were created to address the question of how we can establish empirical validity. This question arises only because all human understanding is "culture."

W. Penn Handwerker
Department of Anthropology,
University of Connecticut,
Storrs, CT 06269-2176, USA
E-mail: handwerk@uconnvm.uconn.edu

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1. N. Levitt, in *The Flight from Science and Reason*, P. R. Gross, N. Levitt, M. W. Lewis, Eds. (New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1996), p. 50.

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