

Healthy Discussion of Planetary Science Goals

of this trend, which is the economic recession that preceded the Brazilian economic plan Real of 1994 (6). The highest deforestation was in 1995. The best measure of frontier governance is the enforcement of Brazil's ambitious environmental regulations on the active agricultural frontier, as Mato Grosso state has begun to achieve in the target areas of its deforestation regulation program.

As for Laurance and Fearnside's comment that the idea of a highway toll on the Cuiabá-Santarém highway does "stretch plausibility," this idea comes from soy producers themselves. We have discussed with them the possibility of using part of such a toll to finance conservation and development activities along the corridor.

In conclusion, the Brazilian government has taken historical steps toward frontier governance that must be evaluated and reported by the scientific community, even as continuing environmental and social problems are analyzed and documented. The scientific challenge is to move beyond sweeping condemnation of infrastructure investments that are already made, and being made, or risk fostering a self-fulfilling prophecy of business-as-usual forest destruction.

DANIEL NEPSTAD,^{1,2*} DAVID MCGRATH,^{1,2,3}

ANE ALENCAR,² ANA CRISTINA BARROS,²

GEORGIA CARVALHO,^{1,2} MARCIO SANTILLI,²

MARIA DEL C. VERA DIAZ²

¹Woods Hole Research Center, Woods Hole, MA 02543-0296, USA. ²Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM), Avenida Nazaré, 669 Bairro, Nazaré, 66035-170 Belém, Pará, Brazil. ³Universidade Federal Do Pará, Avenida Augusto Corre, n° 01, Campus da Universidade—Guamá, CEP 66.059, Belém, Pará, Brazil

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: dneptad@whrc.org

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6. D. McGrath, unpublished data.

Letters to the Editor

Letters (~300 words) discuss material published in *Science* in the previous 6 months or issues of general interest. They can be submitted by e-mail (science_letters@aaas.org), the Web (www.letter2science.org), or regular mail (1200 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not acknowledged upon receipt, nor are authors generally consulted before publication. Whether published in full or in part, letters are subject to editing for clarity and space.

IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THE NATIONAL Research Council's ongoing prioritization of solar system missions, Andrew Lawler says that some Washington observers see the discipline as being in disarray (News Focus, "Planetary science's defining moment," 4 Jan., p. 32). To the contrary, we are a community having ardent, but entirely appropriate and healthy, debates about our long-term goals.

To choose the most productive missions for the next decade is a substantial challenge: Exciting opportunities for significant advances abound, from torrid Mercury to

"Is exploration of mysterious Pluto to be preferred over revisiting enigmatic Venus or the rich Neptune system?"

the icy Kuiper Belt. Should the space program strive to better understand Earth, or to explore new worlds, or to learn how sentient beings came to be? Do we focus on surfaces, atmospheres, or magnetospheres to truly comprehend a planet's workings? Is exploration of mysterious Pluto to be preferred over revisiting enigmatic Venus or the rich Neptune system? Is Mars, Europa, or Titan a better choice to seek insights into life's origins? Should we retrieve martian surface samples soon or wait until further reconnaissance is completed?

Each is a defensible objective, but with diminished federal discretionary funds, just a few can be attempted. Thus, community consensus is essential before bold initiatives can be undertaken. Fortunately, the whole planetary community—from novices to popes—has been deeply involved as future objectives have been defined and refined. Our tradition of lively debates about scientific priorities, balanced with realism about cost and technical feasibility, is leading to a decadal survey that will make both scientific and political sense.

Planetary scientists are welcoming this opportunity to recall our accomplishments, to carefully select our most important objectives, and to then speak with one voice to policy-makers. Now, as the open debate ends, we are solidifying ranks, just as we have done previously.

JOSEPH A. BURNS,*†† STEVEN W. SQUYRES‡

Department of Astronomy, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA. E-mail: jab16@cornell.edu
Co-signatories: M. A'Hearn,*† University of Maryland; E. Barker,* University of Texas; M. Belton,*†|| Belton Space Exploration Initiatives; R. Binzel,*¶ Massachusetts Institute of Technology; C. Chapman,* Southwest Research Institute; J. Cuzzi,¶ NASA-Ames; M. Drake,# University of Arizona; L. Esposito,‡ University of Colorado; P. Feldman, Johns Hopkins University; R. Greeley,†‡ Arizona State University; W. Hartmann, Planetary Science Institute; J. Head,†** Brown University; W. Huntress,*† Carnegie Institution; A. Ingersoll,† California Institute of Technology; T. Johnson,**†† Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL); J. Lunine,‡‡ University of Arizona; W. McKinnon,¶ Washington University; R. Millis,* Lowell Observatory; R. Nelson,* JPL; T. Owen, University of Hawaii; C. Pieters,*†** Brown University; C. C. Porco,†§§ S. A. Stern,†† Southwest Research Institute; J. Wood,‡†† Harvard University

*Former, present, or incoming Chair of Division for Planetary Sciences, American Astronomical Society.

†Steering Committee of the NRC Solar System Exploration Survey (SSES).

‡Former Chair of the NRC Committee on Planetary and Lunar Exploration.

§Chair, NASA Space Science Advisory Committee, 1998–2001.

||Chair of NRC's SSES.

¶Member, NASA's SSE Subcommittee.

#Chair of NASA's SSE Subcommittee.

**Former or current President of Planetary Sciences Section, American Geophysical Union.

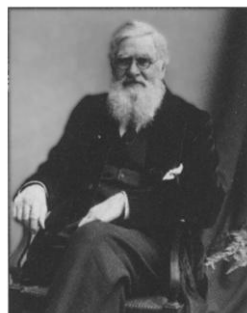
††Member of NRC's SSES.

‡‡Member of the NRC's Space Studies Board.

§§Vice-Chair of NRC's SSES.

The Nationality of a Naturalist

THE LETTER FROM W. H. EVANS AND D. LLOYD regarding the nationality of Alfred Russel Wallace as given on my Web site (1) is accurate as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough (1 Feb., p. 797). Wallace's mother and father were of English and English-Scottish descent, respectively. They moved from St. Georges, South-



wark, to Usk in southern Wales about 1820, probably for financial reasons. At that time Usk was part of the area

known as Monmouthshire, nominally an administrative division of England.

Wallace himself was born in Usk in 1823, but in 1828, a death in the extended family allowed Wallace's family to move again, this time to Hertford. They never returned to Wales as a family. Wallace did, however, re-

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turn to Wales for two 3-year periods (1840–1843 and 1845–1848) during the time he was working as a journeyman surveyor. In later life, Wallace revisited Wales only on a few short occasions.

On this basis, I feel it is difficult to fairly consider Wallace a Welshman (though it is clear enough, as Evans and Lloyd suggest, that Wales figured importantly in several respects in his early life). Apparently, Wallace himself agreed: although on many occasions he drew attention to his ancestral connections with the Scots, to my knowledge he never once referred to himself as a Welshman, and indeed always gave his place of birth as Monmouthshire, not Gwent. Further, his contemporaries referred to him as an Englishman. Last, and not insignificantly, when early in the century the University of Wales voted to award him an honorary doctorate, he declined the offer (despite having previously accepted ones from Dublin and Cambridge): not exactly a ringing endorsement of a supposed national affinity.

CHARLES H. SMITH

University Libraries, Western Kentucky University,
Bowling Green, KY 42104, USA. E-mail:
charles.smith@wku.edu

References and Notes

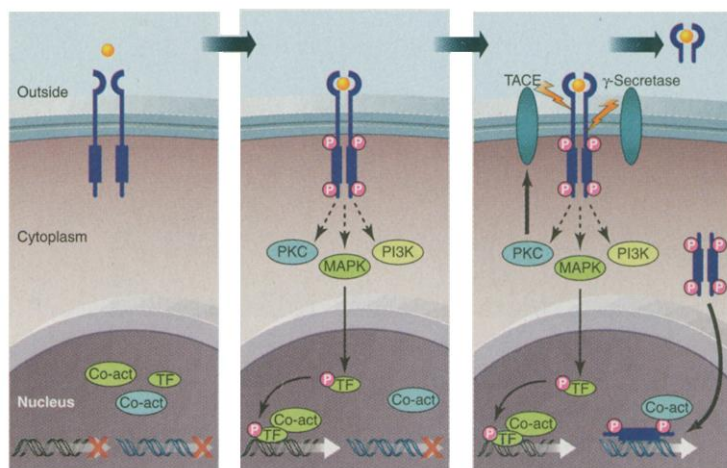
1. The site is at www.wku.edu/~smithch/index1.htm

NEWS OF THE WEEK: “Study of brain dead sparks debate” by J. Couzin (15 Feb., p. 1210). The bottom image was misidentified as skin blood vessels. In fact, the image depicts a control sample of prostate blood vessels, to which a skin-homing peptide failed to bind.

PERSPECTIVES: “Mediator meets morpheus” by M. Meisterernst (8 Feb., p. 984). Unpublished information regarding the configuration of CRSP induced by the carboxyl-terminal domain of RNA polymerase II was inadvertently included in the Perspective as a result of an editorial oversight. Citation of note 12 for this unpublished result is also in error. The remaining reference to note 12 is correct.

PERSPECTIVES:

“Ripping tyrosine kinase receptors apart” by C.-H. Heldin and J. Ericsson (7 Dec., p. 2111). The penultimate version of the accompanying figure, which used only one color for the molecules, was mistakenly published. The final version appears here.



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