

## ENERGY

### the debate continues

President Carter's National Energy Plan was examined and evaluated during a one-day conference in May 1977 sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Carnegie Institute of Washington, and The MITRE Corporation. The conference was arranged to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of viewpoints from independent experts in energy and related fields.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
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## LETTERS

### Cloning and Maternal Inheritance

In response to Paul R. Gross's illuminating discussion of maternal inheritance and the cloning hysteria (Letters, 14 Apr., p. 126), Mitchel Sayare (Letters, 5 May, p. 486) contends that a literal replica of an individual would result "... if the donor of the somatic nucleus were the same person as the source of the ovum." On a date so close to Mother's Day, the facts must be set straight. A truly identical copy of the donor of a nucleus would need to have developed under the influence of egg cytoplasm identical to that which influenced the donor's development. Therefore, the production of exact copies is not limited to persons capable of oogenesis, but to those with living mothers. Since the size of a woman's oocyte pool declines progressively from a maximum attained before birth, and since human oocytes apparently undergo senescence, as indicated by the increase in chromosomal nondisjunction with age, the candidates for exact duplication may be further restricted to those with young mothers, a category which presumably excludes millionaires in their 60's.

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Mitchel Sayare seems to be accusing me of having overlooked those members of the human race who are capable of oogenesis. I hate to respond, for fear of spoiling the fun of cloning stories, and because a more detailed exposition leads away from my original point. These days, however, no man should take a charge of sexism lying down.

"What if the donor of the somatic nucleus," Sayare asks, "were the same person as the source of the ovum? Here, the 'maternal' messenger RNA would be transcribed from a nucleus virtually identical with the one to be inserted."

True, but beside the point. At issue is the genotype of the oocyte that gives rise to the somatic nucleus donor. That genotype can never have been the same as the donor's, which arises after fertilization. It must have been the genotype of her *mother*, 46,XX before reduction and 23,X afterward.

I put this argument in another way, in case it isn't clear. If you want to make an exact copy of yourself, you had best try by joining one of your body-cell nuclei with an ovulated, enucleate secondary oocyte taken from your mother. Since you are already taking the trouble, you

might as well arrange for her to serve as the implant recipient. If she is then the same age and in the same shape as she was when you were yourself implanting, there is a good chance of seeing yourself emerge some 38 weeks later.

Therein my reluctance to pursue this further: I find it hard to imagine such vanity. I fear, also, the wrath of my classicist colleagues. They have never taken kindly to my amateur exegesis of *Oedipus Rex*. They surely won't take *this* lying down.

PAUL R. GROSS

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### Language, Projection, and Computer Therapy

Constance Holden (News and Comment, 7 Oct. 1977, p. 32) reported a symposium honoring Carl Rogers on his 75th birthday. Coincidentally, she cited material from a computer program fashioned by Weizenbaum (*1*) to provide Rogerian therapy to clients answering questionnaires translated into the machine. Her comments elicited a series of letters from Weizenbaum (28 Oct. 1977, p. 354), Palmén (3 Mar., p. 934), and Schmidt (31 Mar., p. 1390) dealing with various aspects of "real" and "mechanized" therapy.

Arguments in this correspondence pivot on different interpretations of what cognitive and affective signals are required for therapeutic change and what signals pass from programmer, through machine, to client. Schmidt (quoting from Holden who cites Rogers) takes the view that the computer cannot provide "authentic 'unconditional positive regard' " for the client and therefore cannot replace a therapist. Palmén, by contrast, points out that a love letter, even though sent through the mail or processed by a computer, is none the less an influential affective link between two persons. Palmén's position may be reinforced by considering the play *Hamlet* stored in a computer and subsequently drawn from that source. Shakespeare and the printout reader are in a genuine affective link. The reader's insights and emotional reactions are a function of life experiences shared with the playwright, including a set of common linguistic associations of awesome subtlety and complexity. It appears that language acts as an affective link whether or not accompanied by feedback devices, facial expressions, voice tone, and other such cues which contribute to empathic reactions in a live therapeutic session.

## NEW CONCEPTS SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP ON DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF EXPLOSIVES

A symposium/workshop to **solicit new and imaginative approaches** for the detection and identification of illegally used explosives is being sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Treasury, Energy, Justice and Transportation on October 30, 31 and November 1, 1978 in Reston, Virginia. The purpose of this symposium is to disseminate to a broad range of currently uninvolved members of the scientific and technical community: 1) current needs and problems 2) state of current research and 3) interest of the federal sector in new ideas and approaches. General and poster sessions will be used to describe operational requirements and the state of current technology. Small workshop sessions will be utilized to explore new approaches. Registration will be held on October 29 between 6 PM and 8 PM.

Examples of current research which will be discussed include:

### Vapor Detection Methods

Natural vapor characterization  
Vapor tagging of explosives  
Detection instrumentation  
Animals

### Non-Vapor Detection Methods

Nonionizing; e.g., NMR, FIR  
Ionizing; e.g., X/Yray, CT  
Deactivation of Blasting Caps  
Non-Vapor Taggants

### Identification Methods

Identification Taggants  
Debris Analysis

### Taggant Incorporation Methods

Microencapsulation  
Vapor Absorption  
Coatings/Alloying

Limited funds may be available to encourage the participation of a few researchers. Applications for travel support are currently available and must be returned to the Symposium Chairman by 1 August 1978.

Researchers are also encouraged to submit papers and poster session displays. A short outline of proposed papers or displays should be submitted to the Symposium Chairman by July 17, 1978. Anyone interested in attending, presenting papers or displays, or otherwise participating in this symposium should contact: A. Atley Peterson, Symposium Chairman, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20226 (202) 566-7436.

The main reason language has this capacity lies in the reader's ability to assign significance to symbols. This talent must be taken into account to understand the scope of the interface between man and machine. In clinical terms I refer to projection, transference, and cathexis; in experimental terms—cognitive and affective association bonds. These processes operate in political, religious, economic, and scientific domains to produce familiar results. A wooden cross may have profound influence on the feelings and behaviors of a devout Christian; a \$20 bill has purchasing power because we all agree with the Secretary of the Treasury that it has purchasing power; soldiers die to defend their flag because they have been persuaded that foreign soldiers will destroy them to defend foreign flags; mathematicians let  $X$  equal all prime numbers from zero to infinity (or anything else) to facilitate investigating the world of logic.

Thus, linked with a reasonable amount of religious fervor, political propaganda, money sense, and mathematical logic, computers may come to dominate the therapeutic scene. My comment is not facetious, no more than was Shakespeare when he anticipated our correspondence with the remark: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so" (2).

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### References

1. J. Weizenbaum, *Computer Power and Human Reason: From Judgement to Calculation* (Freeman, San Francisco, 1976).
2. *Hamlet*, act II, scene ii, line 259.

## Equine VD: Isolating the Agent

In the News and Comment section of the 14 April issue of *Science*, it is stated (p. 181) that the causative agent of the current outbreak of equine venereal disease in Kentucky is an organism that "like the human gonococcus, is anaerobic . . ." and therefore did not grow under the aerobic conditions used for initial isolation. Although the gonococcus grows under conditions of reduced oxygen tension, it is by no means considered an anaerobic organism. Any attempt to isolate an unknown causative agent of equine venereal disease should certainly have included anaerobe culturing quite early in the diagnostic scheme.

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