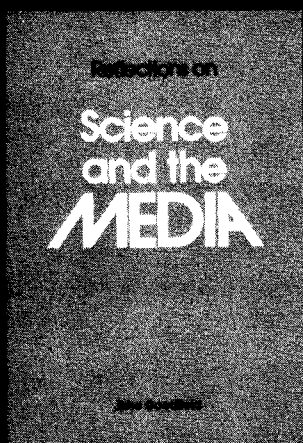


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a number of alternatives in a proposed rule indicated EPA's lack of a favored approach, and certainly the absence of a predetermined outcome. The issue before EPA is not whether lead is good or bad but whether the current regulatory approach is the most appropriate way to achieve our goal of reduced lead exposure, since in the long term continued growth in unleaded gasoline use will result in a reduction in the use of lead in gasoline.

With regard to the meeting between the administrator of EPA and representatives of the Thriftway company, Marshall does not indicate that a report of the inspector general of EPA, after an investigation requested by Representative Moffett, failed to find any wrongdoing on the part of the administrator. As established in guidelines that have been in existence since 1979 (44 Fed. Reg. 58953, 12 October 1979), one factor used to determine whether or not any penalty is appropriate for violation of the lead standard is economic hardship. My staff is evaluating the claim of economic hardship presented to the administrator, and we will treat Thriftway in accordance with our existing guidelines and appropriate enforcement procedure.

As EPA's assistant administrator in charge of this program, I can assure *Science's* readers that no decision has been made on whether changes to the lead phase-down regulations are appropriate. We plan to make a sound decision based on the record before us; we invite readers to supply any information they believe would be helpful in enabling us to reach a well-founded decision.

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Science Instruction and Religion

In response to the letters by J. C. Hickman and R. M. Joyce (16 Apr., p. 242) concerning the teaching of evolution, I do not advocate mixing religion with science instruction or teaching the assertions of Genesis literalists. I do advocate teaching concepts of evolution in a manner that avoids unnecessary strife and misunderstanding. Most of some 40 million American Christian "fundamentalists" still take a dim, if not hostile, view of Darwinian evolution, largely because they mistakenly perceive its emphasis as anti-God. This impression can rather easily be corrected.

Judge Overton (19 Feb., p. 938) makes the essential point as follows: "The theory of evolution assumes the existence of life and is directed to an explanation of *how* life evolved. Evolution does not presuppose the absence of a creator or God. . . ." I would add that concepts of creation and evolution are quite compatible if evolution is viewed as a creative process continuing over many millions of years. Individual writers or lecturers could, of course, say much more about divergent beliefs or theories concerning origins, depending on the audience. The integrity of science is not compromised by stating that the *ultimate* origins of matter and life are unknown and open to conjecture. Indeed, evolutionary scientists, among whom I count myself, could well take greater care in separating facts from conjecture.

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Journal Prices

James E. Heath (Letters, 14 May, p. 684) raises several important points regarding the cost of new journals; however, the problem of the cost of journals to institutional libraries applies equally to established journals. The majority of research journals (old and new) impose higher subscription rates to libraries than to individuals. Publishers seem to forget that their relationships with libraries are symbiotic. The researcher/scholar requires the collections and services of libraries in order to research a topic, produce a paper, and provide the publisher with publishable material. Why then do publishers seek to punish that which provides them with their income?

As journal prices escalate, libraries are forced to cancel more and more subscriptions, thus providing poorer collections for the scholar. Although the library market accounts for only a small income, without this reliable base income publishers cannot exist. Witness the demise of many secondary publications and publishers, and falling circulations. Increasing prices without an equivalent increase in quantity or quality is not the answer.

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