

## LETTERS

not, their evaluations are used, almost verbatim, by government health regulators worldwide. A regulator ignoring an agent classified by the IARC as a "2A carcinogen" ("an agent probably causing cancer in the human") does so at his or her peril. Vainio *et al.* insist they are scientists merely making objective reviews and that "[r]eaders may . . . accept or reject them"; many a manufacturer only wishes this were the case. This advice may well apply to the casual reader who has the good fortune not to be a responsible government regulator.

It is my view that either these evaluations should be done according to the logical procedures of the toxicologist that take into account dose, route of exposure, and mechanisms of action or they should be objective evaluations of the scientific literature without arbitrary indices of potential hazard to humans. I would favor the latter approach and a return to the original format of the IARC monograph series.

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## Excluded Gender?

Was it with a taste for irony that 1 week after reporting the resolution of a gender-bias lawsuit at the University of California, Berkeley, mathematics department (ScienceScope, 19 Mar., p. 1683), *Science* published a book review titled "Mathematical malaises" (26 Mar., p. 1928) restating the principle of the excluded middle?

A man of Seville is shaved by the Barber of Seville if and only if the man does not shave himself. Does the Barber shave himself?

The review says, "The statement can be neither true nor false. The conclusion: the barber cannot exist." Excluded middle or excluded gender? Clearly, the Barber is a woman!

**David Arnosti**

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## Volcanology in Europe

Paolo Gasparini's Perspective "Research on volcanic hazards in Europe" (18 June, p. 1759) provides an excellent updated summary of recent achievements of European research in the field of volcanic hazard mitigation. One should note, however, that the "laboratory volcanoes" project, initiated in 1992, is entirely financed by the Commission For the European Communi-

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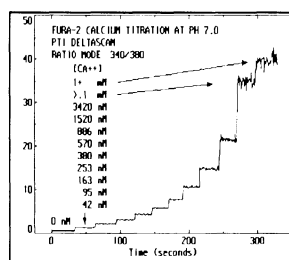
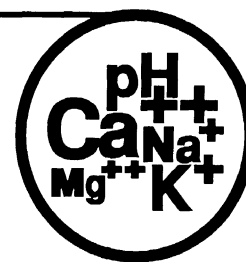
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