

ing for considerations made by Walpole *et al.* will thus help to elucidate the mode of application of the chance-of-listing approach, rather than limit its scope.

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Where Is the Missing Generation?

IT IS AMUSING TO HEAR SENIOR INDIAN scientists complain about the lack of leadership in Indian science today ("Missing generation leaves holes in fabric of research," P. Bagla, *News Focus*, 25 Oct., p. 733). Bemoaning the loss of past glory is typical of men (please note, there are few women in the senior ranks) who have fallen behind their times. Perhaps these gentlemen also believe that India would have been better off under the British. If indeed their complaint that there is a lack of leaders in the age group of 45 to 55 years is factually correct, who is to blame? It is this class in the age group of 55 to 75 years who have ruled the roost these past few decades and have brought Indian science to its present regrettable state. The complaint about brain drain is a familiar refrain. What does it matter if a million or so Indians emigrate, when 999 million have chosen to stay? Now that these aging fossils are being slowly weeded out by the the passage of time, perhaps the ground will be broken for the emergence of the "missing generation" of scientists. But from what Bagla reports, even this seems to be in doubt.

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A Clarification from the IEDT

ALEXANDER STONE'S ARTICLE "U.S. RESEARCH on sedatives in combat sets off alarms" (*News Focus*, 2 Aug., p. 764) misleads the reader into thinking that the Institute for Emerging Defense Technologies (IEDT) is working on the use of drugs as weapons on the battlefield in international military conflict. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In 1999, the IEDT produced a report to present the results of a literature search on calmatives. The literature search was never a part, nor ever considered a part, of any effort to create military weapons for the battlefield. Rather, it was intended to list possible humane alternatives to deadly force for crisis situations. The literature search was never directed, tasked, or funded by anyone or any organization within the Department of Defense.

Stone also inaccurately describes an investigation we are currently conducting at the request of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) as a study that tries to gauge the effects on humans of breathing in an aerosolized mixture of calmatives (substances that depress or inhibit central nervous system function and produce tranquil or calm behavior) and pepper spray. In fact, we are conducting a 6-month feasibility study to investigate whether combining a state-of-the-art anesthetic in small, harmless doses with pepper spray might reduce the very violent reaction that often occurs when it is used in domestic law enforcement.

Stone's article also includes speculation implying that the IEDT could be being used in an effort to violate or circumvent the Chemical Weapons Convention. Neither the literature search nor the pepper spray study Stone describes is intended to be applied in a battlefield environment covered by the Convention.

The IEDT develops new, less-than-lethal approaches for homeland security and U.S. military response and also conducts assessments of existing technologies. Among its most recent successes is an inexpensive approach to equipping new or existing fences with the capability to detect, locate, and classify intruders.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "Survey confirms coral reefs are in peril" by E. Pennisi (6 Sept., p. 1622). The caption beneath the photograph on the left on p. 1623 misidentified a fish as a Nassau grouper. The probable species is a saddleback grouper.

RANDOM SAMPLES: "Old map, new ink?" by E. Goldman, Ed. (9 Aug., p. 931). It was stated that the Council of Basel (1431–49) had convened in Belgium. Basel is a city in Switzerland, although it was an independent city-state in the 1430s, when the council took place.

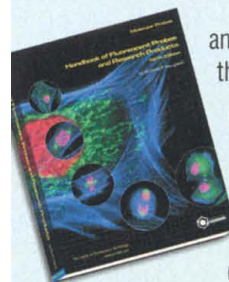
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