

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication
Volume 135, No. 25, June 24, 1989

E. G. Sherburne Jr.	Publisher
Patrick Young	Editor
Laurie Jackson	Managing Editor
Janice Rickerich	Production/Design Director
Bruce Bower	Behavioral Sciences
Ivan Amato	Chemistry/ Materials Science
Richard Monastersky	Earth Sciences
Janet Raloff	Environment/Policy
Kathy A. Fackelmann, Rick Weiss, Ingrid Wickelgren	Life Sciences/ Biomedicine
Ivars Peterson	Mathematics/Physics
Jonathan Eberhart	Space Sciences
Liz Marshall	Editorial Assistant
Ron Cowen	Science Writer Intern
Wendy McCarren	Books/Resource Manager
Donald R. Harless	Advertising/Business Manager

Copyright © 1989 by Science Service, Inc.,
Editorial and Business Offices,
1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS
without written permission of the publisher is
prohibited.

Subscription Department
231 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43305

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$34.50; 2 yrs., \$58.00.
(Foreign postage \$6.00 additional per year.) Change of
address: Four to six weeks' notice is required. Please
state exactly how magazine is to be addressed.
Include zip code. For new subscriptions only call
(1) 800-247-2160. Printed in U.S.A. POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to Science News, 231 West
Center Street, Marion, OH 43305. Second class
postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional
mailing offices. Title registered as trademark U.S. and
Canadian Patent Offices. Published every Saturday by
SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036. (202-785-2255)
ISSN 0036-8423

Letters

Plainly speaking

SCIENCE NEWS generally "tells it like it is," using words that portray the realities of the scientific situation. Deaths among animals and humans are properly called deaths, not "terminations" as in your report on researchers' growing "success" in aborting one of two fraternal twins (SN: 5/6/89, p.278).

Stop using the pro-abortion euphemisms when describing abortions. These doctors "killed" these living fetuses; they didn't "terminate" them.

Michael Stratton
Brea, Calif.

It's true that "kill" is more precise than "terminate," which means "to put an end to." Whether "terminate" functions as a euphemism in the article is debatable, since its meaning in this context is explicit. Strictly speaking, the term "abortion" would not apply to the procedure,

This Week

- 388 Building Chemicals the New-Fashioned Way
- 388 Human origins recede in southern Asia
- 389 Working women take one benefit to heart
- 389 Test diagnoses AIDS in newborns
- 389 More questions plague nuclear waste dump
- 390 Fish oil slows some developing cancers
- 390 Looking for Lyme in the nervous system
- 391 Rocky Flats radiation remains unexplained
- 391 The ups and downs of solar flares
- 391 Supernova mystery: Cracking the Crab
- 399 Brown dwarfs caught in the heat of youth

Articles

392 Blazing Blossoms

Cover: The cool white splendor of a flowering *Philodendron insigne* belies the warm reality of its heat-generating blossom. *P. insigne* is one of several plant species whose flowers — radiant in more than the usual sense — can warm themselves above ambient temperatures. Scientists studying the unusual metabolic pathways in these botanical oddities foresee theoretical and practical applications of their work. (Photo: Deni Bown)



Departments

- 386 Science on the Air
- 387 Letters
- 395 Semi-Annual Index

Science Service Institution for the public understanding of science founded 1921; a nonprofit corporation.
Board of Trustees — *President*, Glenn T. Seaborg; *Vice President*, Gerald F. Tape; *Treasurer*, Willis Harlow Shapley; Joseph W. Berg Jr.; Edward Bliss Jr.; Robert W. Fri; David A. Goslin; J. David Hann; Milton Harris; Leon M. Lederman; Elena O. Nightingale; Ben Patrusky; H. Guyford Stever; Deborah P. Wolfe.
Honorary Trustees — Bowen C. Dees; O.W. Riegel; John Troan.
Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr.; **Assistant Director**: Dorothy Schriver; **Business Manager**: Donald R. Harless.

connoting as it does an early expulsion of the dead fetus.

The author made no attempt to soft-pedal the medical details of this still-experimental procedure, while emphasizing its agonizing ethical and emotional implications. — the editors

Roots of violence

I was surprised to note that your report on Dorothy Otnow Lewis' presentation at the recent APA meeting ("Adding up violent vulnerabilities," SN: 5/20/89, p.318) contained no mention of participants' objections. Logically, Lewis' prediction is akin to predicting that, once one has established that most objects from a given agglomeration sharing similar attributes stem from some common cause, one can then assume that the cause isolated is the only reasonable one. More simply put, Lewis is assuming without proper substantiation that youth violence can be

expected to stem only from the sources she has isolated in her work.

Eric Scoles
Ithaca, N.Y.

Double-ring collider

In "SSC gets off to a magnetic start" (SN: 5/13/89, p.303), you report that the ring will be 53 miles, being made up of more than 83 miles (8,000 × 55 feet) of magnets. Perhaps it will be a bit *too* magnetic.

John R. Naples
DeKalb, Ill.

The Superconducting Super Collider will actually have two rings of magnets, one on top of the other, carrying beams of protons in opposite directions. Each ring will consist of roughly 4,000 dipole magnets to bend the protons into a curved path and about 750 quadrupole magnets to focus the beams.

— I. Peterson

JUNE 24, 1989

387