NEWS & COMMENT

The Aftermath of the Gallo Case 20

National Academy of Sciences: Members Seek More Active Role 23

Regulation: German Geneticists Get Some Relief 23

A Hearty Endorsement for Aspirin 24

Scientists Count a Rising Tide of Whales in the Seas 25

RESEARCH NEWS

Neutrino Watchers Go to Extremes 28

Cell Biologists Get the Message in New Orleans 30

Genes Point to a New Identity for Pacific Pioneers 32

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Neutrino Watchers Go to Extremes 28

Cell Biologists Get the Message in New Orleans 30

Genes Point to a New Identity for Pacific Pioneers 32

DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 9

EDITORIAL High-Energy Astrophysics 11

LETTERS Frog Endancement: M. P. Jones • Smallpox Virus Stocks: D. Baltimore • The Importance of Restaurants in Superconductivity Research: B. Raveau • Is Dioxin a Human Carcinogen?: A. Apostolou; A. Gibbons • Accelerator Power Plants: C. D. Bowman • Basic Research and Weather Prediction: P. V. Hobbs 13

LETTERS Frog Endancement: M. P. Jones • Smallpox Virus Stocks: D. Baltimore • The Importance of Restaurants in Superconductivity Research: B. Raveau • Is Dioxin a Human Carcinogen?: A. Apostolou; A. Gibbons • Accelerator Power Plants: C. D. Bowman • Basic Research and Weather Prediction: P. V. Hobbs 13

SCIENCESCOPE 19

RANDOM SAMPLES 27

Fighting HIV: A Clue from Hemophilia • Torture Test Nets a New Prime • Fewer Weapons in the Pie 37

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS 27

BOOK REVIEWS 105

Bad Science, reviewed by R. M. Crooks • Pauper and Prince, G. A. Good • The Natural History of Inbreeding and Outbreeding, P. Hedrick • Thinking in Sound, W. Yost • Vignettes: Mentoring • Books Received 110

PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 110

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Science • Vol. 263 • 7 January 1994

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In the void

Whales on the rebound

on April 20, 2017
Emission from gas clouds in the active galaxy NGC 1068 observed by the Hubble Space Telescope. The gas is ionized by radiation from the galaxy nucleus, which is thought to be encircled by a dusty torus that allows the radiation to escape only within the conical region indicated on the image. Depending on the orientation of the torus relative to the disk of the galaxy it inhabits, this model can explain many types of galactic activity. See the Perspective on page 40. [Image: National Aeronautics and Space Administration]