

Gonzo Science

Anomalies, Heresies,
and Conspiracies

www.gonzoscience.com

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Of all the controversies we've addressed, genetically modified organisms (GMOs, or transgenics) are the clearest case of science going off the rails. Time and again, we reserve special opprobrium for this out-of-control and irresponsible technology.

Puzzling Sports

Jesse Ross

www.PuzzlingSports.com

Double Play

Instructions: Each of the 26 clues below has a twin - the same word answers both clues. Half the clues are baseball related (A-L), while the other half (M-Z) mean something completely different. When you find the pair, fill it in to the correct spot below. Good luck!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| A: Swingless way to first | N: Legs do this |
| B: Batter Motion | O: It's illegal to do this |
| C: Position | P: Type of dance |
| D: Piece of equipment | Q: Union workers can do this |
| E: At plate | R: Holds water |
| F: The infield | S: Sailors are found here |
| G: A good pitcher brings this | T: Nocturnal creature |
| H: Next batter is... | U: Found on the side of the roads and all over cities |
| I: Type of hitter | V: Becomes Pancakes (or muffins, donuts, cookies etc.) |
| J: Players do this on the pine | W: Bicyclists do this |
| K: Catchers send these | X: The sun makes this |
| L: Way to advance runners | Y: Arguably worse than a tickle |
| M: Pitchers try to get this | Z: Found on many rings |

- 1) Clues A + ___ = _____
- 2) Clues B + ___ = _____
- 3) Clues C + ___ = _____

Introducing RudeGMOCritics.com

Unlike many of the topics we examine, the GMO issue (and technology in general, but particularly the GMO issue) has real-world consequences and a huge political component.

It's all very interesting whether or not certain cosmic structures disprove the Big Bang theory, but there are practically zero real-world implications and it *doesn't really matter who's right*.

But with GMOs, you're mixing a little justice in there. We have let so many curses pass our lips when referring to this issue, we finally said to ourselves, *Why not give all this bile a very special home on the web?*

So we ponied up and, at great expense to the number of blog updates on the Gonzo Science homepage, we created RudeGMOcritics.com (NSFW on account of language). Come on by, sign in, and start arguing.

Why be rude? We're glad you asked.

First of all, we are not actual scientists. We are *science writers*. Therefore, we are not bound to the normal limits of polite scientific discourse.

There is no *need* to be polite when we are not trying to protect our access to science journals or funding.

Secondly, the world of GMOs is filled to bursting with scientists of such breathtaking arrogance, such hoity-toity preciousness, such thundering disregard for the common good, that a little rudeness is *required* to express oneself honestly.

Cast your mind back to the glory days of leaded gasoline. Industry, fronted by the scientists in their hip pocket, insisted the cure for "engine knock" was adding lead to gasoline.

This situation persisted for decades, until a critical mass of politeness built into a pushback strong enough to force *scientific facts* into daylight, whereupon it became obvious that leaded gasoline was a horrible idea.

Imagine how much quicker that course correction could have happened if more cursing had been injected into the mix.

The same holds true for the halcyon years of DDT, the poster child of chemical industry excess. "DDT is good for me" went the industry jingle.

This travesty, an environmental and public health disaster, was backed by scientists for whom it was (publicly anyway) inconceivable that DDT had a downside.

Gradually, a mass of polite dissent built—again, over decades—into a movement to ban the chemical in the US. We baldly assert that *nothing could have gone any worse* if a hefty dose of rage and cussing had been added to that debate.

Swear words and rudeness have a way of shocking people out of complacency.

Such zesty communication is frowned upon in the polite society of scientific discourse, where everything must be dispassionately bandied about like a teatime conversation with the Queen of England over the color of the drapes in Buckingham Palace.

But the GMO situation has gone on quite long enough without a significant infusion of bitch-slapping.

God forbid anyone show a visceral connection to the issue, any strong opinions about the environment or the public good.

Heaven help the poor scientists if someone should direct them—appropriately—to quit being such wankers and stuff it where the sun don't shine.

Little to no long-term GMO feeding trials ever take place and yet such transgenic crops are uncontrollable. So the consumption of these untested products is essentially mandatory.



If you don't wish to consume Monsanto's artificial genetic constructs, well, you're screwed ain'tcha?

And while the pro-GMO forces of scientific douchebaggery accuse their *scientist* opponents of being unscientific and cherry-picking data, they hypocritically do the exact same thing. In a word: Fuck that.

Somebody has to hold these hypocrites to account and, for the severity of their stupidity and/or evilness, they get cussed out too. That is *only fair*.

You have to communicate with people in the common parlance. We don't know anybody who doesn't curse like a sailor and neither do you.

The objective fact that pro-GMO forces are acting like douchebags means you would be in error *not* to call them douchebags.

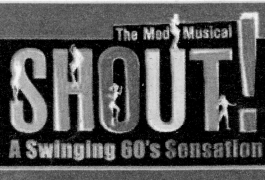



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