Science

Famous French Scientist Worries About American Lakes



Jacques Cousteau is worried about the Great Lakes.

Millions Drink from Polluted Waters

I'm not going to drink that water. You can't tell what's in it. I buy my drinking water at the store. Even then I'm not really sure it's safe.

New Orleans, La.—More and more Americans are worried about the water they drink. Much of America's drinking water comes from lakes and rivers. But many of these lakes and rivers are used as dumps for dangerous chemicals.

One worried person is Jacques Cousteau, the famous French scientist. Cousteau worries about the pollution in America's Great Lakes.

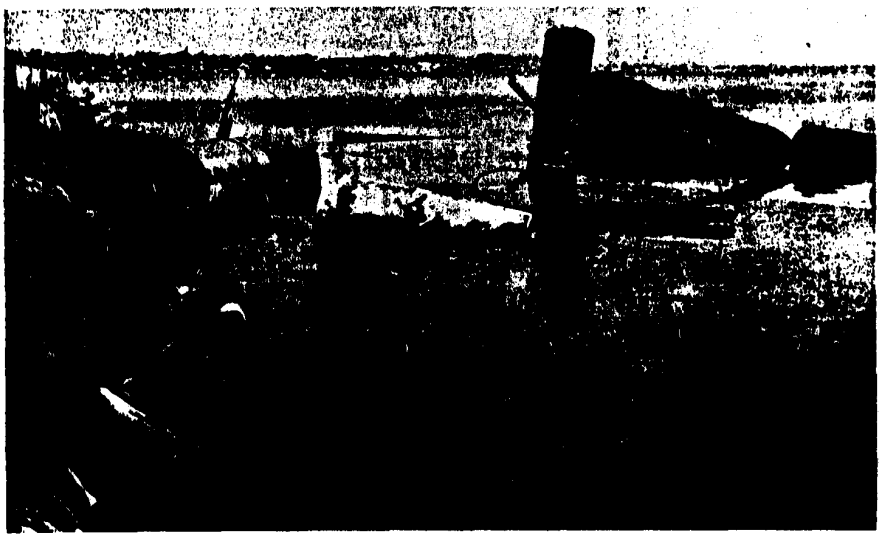
U.S. Government scientists agree with Cousteau. They say that all five Great Lakes are becoming more polluted each year. But millions of Americans get their drinking water from these lakes.

PCB's Cause Cancer

The lake that worries scientists most is Lake Erie. Chemicals called *PCB's* can be found in Lake Erie. Too many PCB's can cause a person to get a deadly disease called cancer.

Not long ago scientists studied the drinking water here in the city of New Orleans. They found 66 different harmful chemicals in the water. Many of these chemicals are believed to cause cancer.

Where do these dangerous



Many of America's lakes and rivers have been used as dumps.

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chemicals come from? Some come from factories and other businesses. Others come from farms or even from home washing machines.

Still other harmful chemicals come when cities try to clean up their water. City water plants often add a chemical to kill the germs in lake or river water. But this chemical mixes with other chemicals already in the water. Then the germ-killer can become a people-killer.

No One Is Sure

No one is sure just how dangerous such drinking water is. But more and more people are buying bottled water—hoping it's safer.

Cousteau says Americans have the know-how to clean up their lakes and rivers. But the job will take a lot of work and a lot of money.

Which man will do the better job of leading America back toward safe drinking water—Gerald Ford or Jimmy Carter? That's one more question American voters must answer before picking a President three weeks from now.



Poisonous chemicals called *PCB's* can be found in Lake Erie.

Quiz of the Week

First read the news stories on pp. 2 to 7. Then try the following questions. Just put A, B, or C in the blank before each number.

____ 1. The number of U.S. high school students now getting in-school job training is 15 (A) hundred, (B) thousand, (C) million.

____ 2. Real-life education includes courses in (A) car repair, homebuilding, and hotel work; (B) police, restaurant, and farm work; (C) both of these.

____ 3. In the past three years the number of arrests of under-21-year-olds has continued to (A) rise, (B) fall, (C) go up and down.

____ 4. Some people say tougher punishments will (A) cut down on crime by under-21-year-olds, (B) turn troubled young people into real criminals, (C) both of these.

____ 5. Dentist Larry Meskin says people trust a person who (A) doesn't show his teeth when he smiles, (B) smiles openly, (C) never smiles.

____ 6. In seven years the number of people who have paid to have their bodies frozen and stored after death is (A) 24, (B) 50,000, (C) 15 million.

____ 7. Manolito Lopez (A) has cerebral palsy, (B) is a baseball umpire, (C) both of these.

____ 8. Too many PCB's can cause a person to get (A) cerebral palsy, (B) cancer, (C) neither of these.

____ 9. The American lake that worries scientists most is (A) Michigan, (B) Mississippi, (C) Erie.

____ 10. Scientists found 66 harmful chemicals in the drinking water of (A) New Orleans, (B) Miami, (C) Minneapolis.

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