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A Menacing New Pollutant

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The peregrine falcon, a bird of prey that once abounded all over America, is bearing a bitter warning to man:

A newly-identified chemical pollutant has arisen on our planet: it threatens not only the existence of falcons and countless other birds, but its molecules are already entering the bodies of humans.

Its long-term hazards at low levels to the human species are wholly unknown — although in concentrated gaseous form the chemical is highly poisonous, and chemicals closely related to it are known cancer-causers.

In California the pollutant is widespread; in the San Francisco Bay Area, where many industries use many varieties of the compound, the chemicals have concentrated heavily.

The new pollution threat is a class of organic chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls. Few laymen have ever heard of them, yet they

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