

CONTENTS

The features marked with a star (*) are based entirely on material taken straight from standard research (and other Official and Therefore Always Correct) literature. Many of the other articles are genuine, too, but we don't know which ones.

ANNALS OF

IMPROBABLE RESEARCH



Special Section: The 31st First Annual Ig Nobel Prizes

- 5 The 31st First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony*
- 10 The 2021 Ig Nobel Prize Winners*
- 17 A Grizzly (Bear) Note*
- 18 The Acceptance Speeches*
- 23 The 24/7 Lectures*
- 25 Opera Libretto: "A Bridge Between People"
- 31 Ig Nobel Limericks: Stinky Feet, Community Dad*
- 32 Ig® and Beyond: Speaking Up to Superiors, Dogs and Magnets*

Improbable Research Reviews*

- 3 Improbable Research: Bats, Rats, and Flies, Indoors
- 4 Medical: Deathly Kiss, Ritual Enema*
- 33 May We Recommend: Continuous Burning of Fake Feces*

News & Notes

- 2 AIR Vents: Dr. Ralph O. Clock's 12-Year Study*
- 15 Teacher's Guide
- 34 Editorial Board
- 34 Index of Special Issues
- IBC Unclassified Ads

Where There's More

There's always new improbable — it's not what you expect! — stuff on the **Improbable Research blog** at [IMPROBABLE.COM](https://www.improbable.com)

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category/the-weekly-improbable-research-podcast/](https://www.improbable.com/category/the-weekly-improbable-research-podcast/)

On the Front Cover

A composite photo of rhinoceroses being transported upside-down, suspended from a helicopter. The research that led to this was honored with the 2021 Ig Nobel Prize for Transportation.



On the Back Cover

The main exhibition hall at the Ig Nobel Prizes exhibition in Fukuoka, Japan, October 2021.



Some Coming Events

The Covid-19 pandemic has introduced excitingly boundless uncertainty as to whether, when, and where public activities will happen in the near future. In 2021 some will happen teledistantly.

See [IMPROBABLE.COM](https://www.improbable.com) for details of these and other events:

January 14, 2022—

Arisia, Boston, USA

January 20, 2022—

Improbable Conversation (premiere of a new series, online)

February, 2022—

AAAS Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA

March/April 2022

Ig Nobel Euro (and Britannia) Tour (if the pandemic allows)

September, 2022—

The 32nd First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony

Date TBA

Ig Nobel EuroTour



IG NOBEL LIMERICKS: STINKY FEET, COMMUNITY DAD

Ig Nobel achievements distilled into limerick form

by Martin Eiger, Improbable Research Limerick Laureate

The Ig Nobel Prizes honor achievements that first make people LAUGH, then make them THINK. For details of all the Ig Nobel Prize-winning achievements, see each year's special Ig Nobel issue of the magazine, and also our web site www.improbable.com/ig/winners.

1992 Ig Nobel Medicine Prize

The prize was awarded to F. Kanda, E. Yagi, M. Fukuda, K. Nakajima, T. Ohta, and O. Nakata of the Shisedo Research Center in Yokohama for their pioneering research study "Elucidation of Chemical Compounds Responsible for Foot Malodour," especially for their conclusion that people who think they have foot odor do, and those who don't, don't. They published that study in *British Journal of Dermatology*, vol. 122, no. 6, June 1990, pp. 771-776.

WHAT'S THE REASON THAT PEOPLE'S FEET STINK?

WHAT WE EAT? WHAT WE DRINK? WHAT'S THE LINK?

DO THE SHOES THAT WE WEAR

CAUSE MALODOUR DOWN THERE?

NO, THE STINK'S CAUSED BY WHAT PEOPLE THINK.

1992 Ig Nobel Biology Prize

The prize was awarded to Dr. Cecil Jacobson, relentlessly generous sperm donor and prolific patriarch of sperm banking, for devising a simple, single-handed method of quality control. For a detailed description of Dr. Jacobson's paternal achievement, see the book *The Babymaker: Fertility Fraud and the Fall of Dr. Cecil Jacobson* by Rick Nelson, Bantam Books, 1994.

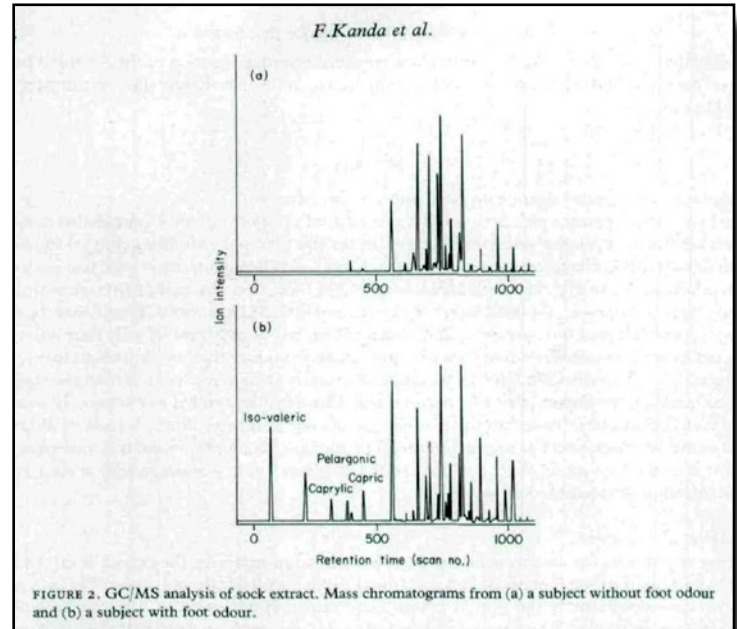
MY MOM, LIKE, SHE GOT REALLY MAD,

AS IF I HAD DONE SOMETHING BAD,

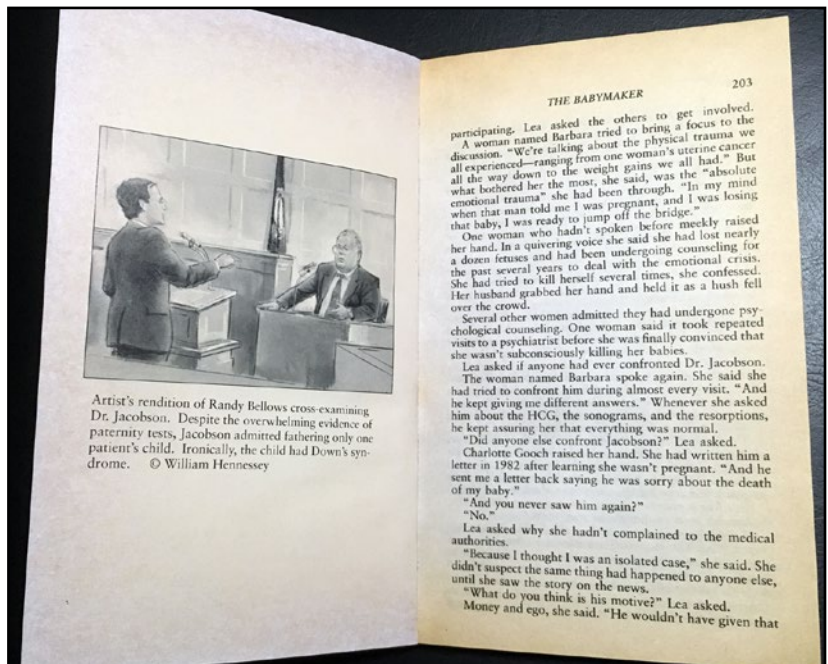
LIKE A FRAUDULENT PRANK,

OR LIKE ROBBING A BANK.

ALL I DID WAS ASK, "MOM, WHO'S MY DAD?"



Detail from the study "Elucidation of Chemical Compounds Responsible for Foot Malodour."



*A look inside the book *The Babymaker: Fertility Fraud and the Fall of Dr. Cecil Jacobson*.*