physical laws, which our brains are attuned to understand, have such broad scope that they offer a framework for interpreting not just the everyday world but even the behaviour of the remote cosmos. The physicist Eugene Wigner described this as the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the physical sciences. The proverbial rational man who loses his keys at night searches only under the street lamps: not because that is necessarily where he dropped them, but because his quest is otherwise quite certain to fail. Cosmologists approach their subject in a similar way. They start by using the physics that is validated locally, and making simplifying assumptions about symmetry, homogeneity etc. There seems no reason why the Universe *should* be so ordered that this permits any real progess-why the physics we study in the laboratory applies in quasars billions of light years away, and in the early stages of the big bang. But unless there is a firm link with local physics, cosmology risks degeneration into 'ad hoc' explanations on the level of 'just so' stories. What does seem amazing is that this has led to some progress, that the Universe *is* comprehensible. Questions about the end-point of gravitational collapse, how the Universe began and how it will end can now be addressed scientifically, and not just in our unprofessional moments.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SCHOOL ON TOXICOLOGY OF PESTICIDES

The School on Toxicology of Pesticides, being organised at Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, will be held during November 7–19, 1983. It primarily aims at providing to the participants the benefit of a rich experience available in the areas of: biological evaluation of new/known compounds against target and non-target organisms acute, sub-acute and supplementary toxicity, structure activity relationship, target enzyme interaction and selectivity, delayed neurotoxicity, immunotoxicology, metabolism, synergism and potentiation, residues, persistence, hazards and toxicological statistics.

The School will be conducted at the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad from November 7 to 19, 1983 and consists of 24 hours of lecture sessions and 48 hours of workshop.

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