

This would lead us to believe that the 'solvophobic' interactions in hydrazine would be similar to the hydrophobic forces in water—and it would be of interest to see whether globular proteins maintain their native conformations in hydrazines or whether lipids like lecithin would vesiculate in this solvent.

The proceedings of the meeting will be published shortly by Plenum Press.

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN  
Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology,  
Hyderabad, 500 007

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## NEWS

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### THE WALLS HAVE EARS. . . AND THE HOUSE A BRAIN

. . . Although "nothing that today's home control systems offer has proved especially compelling to the consumer. . . the next generation of home control will offer more interesting capabilities, such as two-way communication. Appliances will be able to send signals to the command unit and to each other—not simply receive orders. . . . More futuristic visions of home control come from the NAHB Research Foundation (Rockville, Md.), an arm of the Natl. Assn. of Home Builders. NAHB's proposed Smart House would . . . combine all of a dwelling's various electrical transmissions—power, telephone, cable TV, security, control signals for lights and appliances, and even the doorbell—onto the same cables. A micro-

processor would monitor and direct the flow of power and information. . . . New semiconductor devices will help make Smart House feasible. The key: integrated circuits that combine logic and power switching—brain and brawn—on the same chip. These devices could respond to low-voltage signals (say, from the central computer) to turn the flow of household line current on and off."

[(Herb Brody in *High Technology* 5(5):60-4, May 85). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 29, July 22, 1985, p. 13. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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### KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SKIN CANCER

. . . "A five-minute monthly self-examination can help fight a deadly skin cancer whose rate has more than doubled in 10 years, an expert in the disease says. The examination can reveal a malignancy early enough that a cure is virtually guaranteed, said Darrell Rigel [New York U. Medical Ctr.]. He said that in addition to an annual skin examination by a doctor, people should be examining their skin themselves every month. 'It takes five minutes of your time to do it effectively,' he said. . . . Early melanomas [skin cancer tumors] can be distinguished from harmless moles by remembering an 'ABCD' rule, Rigel said. The letters stand for asymmetry, border, color and diameter.

Unlike common moles, melanomas may be asymmetrical, meaning they cannot be divided into matching halves with an imaginary line. Their borders are often uneven or notched, rather than smooth. They show mixed shades of color rather than a uniform hue. And they tend to be wider than a pencil eraser, Rigel said."

[(In *New York Times* 20 May 85, p. B12 (From Associated Press)). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 29, July 22, 1985, p. 14. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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