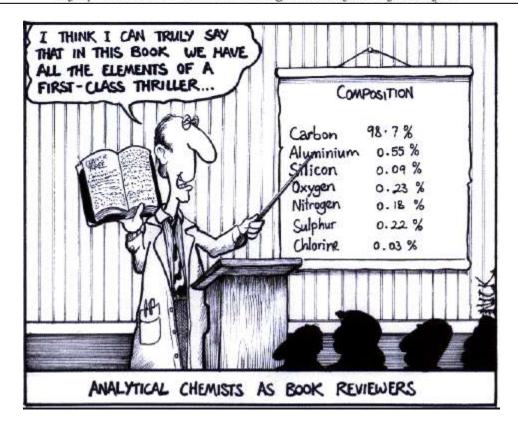
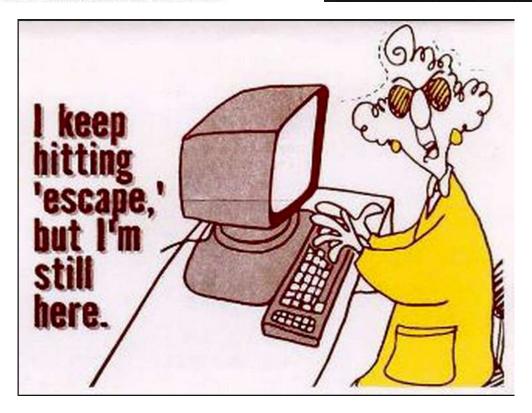


"When I was young I used to feel so alive, so dangerous..! In fact, would you believe that I started out life as a Uranium-238? Then one day I accidentally ejected an alpha particle, and that's where it all began. Now look at me, a spent old atom of Lead-206. It seems that all my life since then has been nothing but decay, decay, decay...."

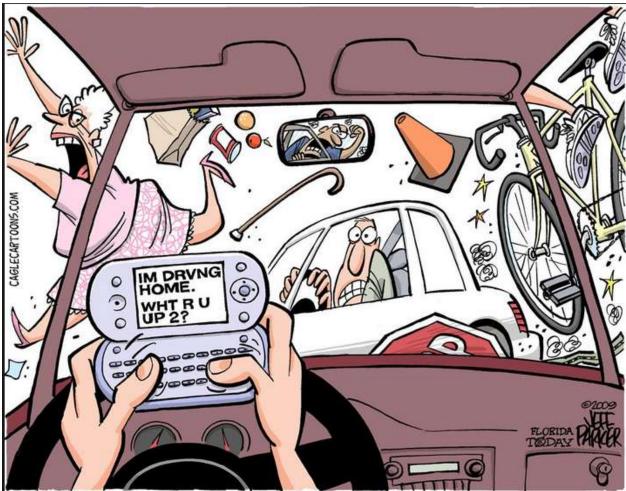


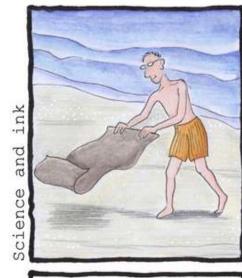


"Gee, I don't know... I guess if I had to choose between you I:d say that Jerry's formula has the most hideous side effects."







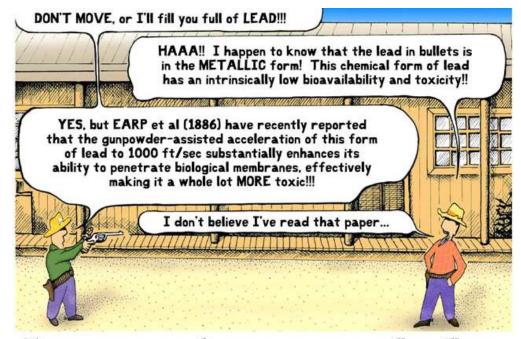






Henderson unfurled his towel over the sparkling sands, stretched out luxuriously under a cobalt sky, and sighed. *Fitting compensation* for a hectic year of research, they'd said. Just get out there and relax. Think of anything but science for once. The rhythmic collapse of waves on the shore was reminiscent of something in quantum mechanics. *I'll bet the sand is mainly tectosilicates,* he thought, *probably alphaquartz.* The towel was cotton, and his trunks were Rayon, produced he recalled by acetylation of cellulose. *Cobalt blue probably represents a range of wavelengths centered somewhere between* 420 and 460 nanometres...

Henderson's right hand idly toyed with the portable Dobson Spectrophotometer before he raised it to his eye for another look. *No doubt about it,* he thought, concentrations of ozone over this part of the beach are higher than elsewhere...



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS IN THE WILD WEST

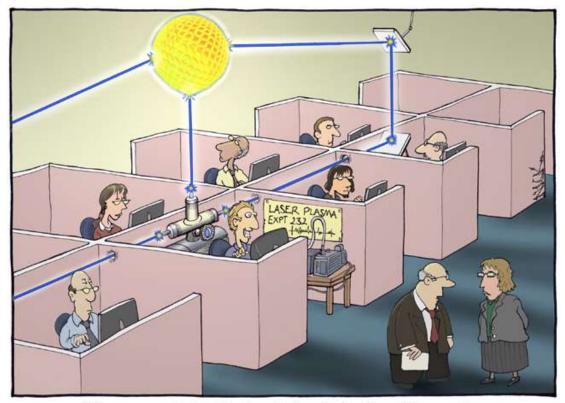




"Have you seen that weedy little rat that we're using to test out our new growth hormone..?"



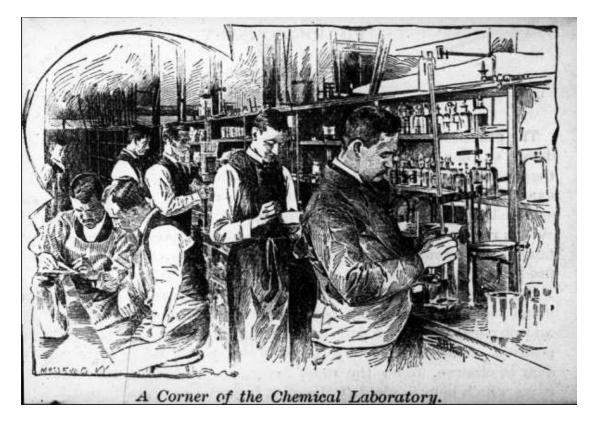
"This composition was produced during the artist's 'Hay-Fever' period, and is simply entitled 'The Sneeze'."



"I'm concerned about Davies. He's enjoying himself too much. And whatever he's doing, it's not accounting."



Labs ain't what they used to be ...





AT WORK IN A CHEMISTRY LABORATORY



Margaret MacDonald, seen here in her chemistry lab circa 1915, was only the second women recruited to Penn State's agricultural faculty (in 1907). By then, she was already a pioneer. In 1895, she was among the first female graduates of Penn State's two-year chemistry course. "At that time, women chemists-in-the-making were not in demand," she recalled, so she continued to pursue her academic training, earning a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1898, accepting Phi Beta Kappa membership, and going on to become one of a handful of women to hold Ph.D.'s in chemistry. "After receiving a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr in 1902, I taught chemistry wherever I could get a job," she wrote, including Vassar and colleges in New Jersey and Delaware. She taught agricultural chemistry at Penn State until 1921 and served as acting department head. MacDonald also rallied other alumnae to establish one of the University's first student loan funds for women, and led Penn State's affiliation with the American Association of University Women.

http://www.sesquicentennial.psu.edu/pix/archive/macdonald.html



Miss Margaret D. Foster, Uncle Sam's Only Woman Chemist



Margaret D. Foster (1895-1970) working in the lab in 1919. Foster was the first woman chemist to work for the United States Geological Survey, starting in 1918, just three days after receiving her A.B. from Illinois College. Foster's studies primarily focused on the analysis of natural waters. Her work on the Manhattan Project resulted in two new quantitative methods of analysis, one for uranium and one for thorium.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/smithsonian/4405670925/