

## New Scientist 14 December 2013

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americans have become resigned to seeing congress vote money for porkbarrel projects of all kinds roads dams post offices military installations in the districts of influential legislators in recent years congress has almost without public notice extended this form of vote buying and pandering into a new domain science where formerly scientific funding proposals were evaluated by outside experts on the basis of merit there is now an increasing consideration of congressional districts and fair geographical distribution in this ground breaking volume joseph p martino offers a critical examination of special interest funding and the danger it poses to the integrity of american society as a whole as well as to its scientific component science funding is distinguished by its comprehensive approach to the structural and historical background of the current situation it examines the history of science funding from the early twentieth century through present public vs to taxpayers instances of fraud and the effects of government funding for research in universities martino s survey demonstrates conclusively that government has been inefficient in its funding capacity and that the shortcomings are inherent political criteria for the support of science congressional micromanagement freezing out of innovative ideas and the favoring of massive projects big science over small but significant experimental programs in his concluding chapter martino provides an agenda for new thinking on the funding of science he proposes alternatives that suggest a plurality of approaches is preferable to the current monolithic model and shows how industrial support philanthropy and contributions from the public can be made more effective science funding is a major work on the interaction of science politics and society it will be of interest to sociologists policymakers and political scientist and the research science community

lean back and settle in for cutting edge scientific snippets from the trend setting dr karl kruszelnicki in short back science dr karl combs through some of the greatest scientific conundrums of our age such as what is killing half the bacteria on earth every two days and why don t mole rats get cancer why would anyone pay 40 million for a cup of tea and how did a toilet seat help to end the first world war are bananas really slippery radioactive and loaded with potassium what do clouds weigh and why are there scientists running around naked in the antarctic brushing aside any hype about coconuts and antioxidants there is no one better to trim down to the facts than australia s most trusted scientist dr karl this is a specially formatted fixed layout ebook that retains the look and feel of the

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