

should I get a research job making \$40,000 to \$50,000? No decision to be made there!

KIMBERLY ENGEL, Batavia, Ohio

Let the market work. If there is truly a shortage, then the invisible hand of the market will bring companies to offer rewards and opportunity that will draw talented people into the field.

CARL MALLY, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

We will continue to have a hard time inspiring more kids to pursue the sciences until a top science student is awarded a multimillion-dollar contract just like the one that the D-average standout athlete next to him in class will get.

DAVE OBERG, Anchorage, Alaska

Pay Day

HAVING WORKED in human resources in both the private and public sectors, I, too, was concerned about government workers who save unused sick days and cash out at retirement (That's Outrageous! "Just Sick of It"). Most good companies today provide some form of sick days for "an unexpected flu and nothing more."

If it were a program designed to reward employees who were well and able to work, it would have been called a "wellness bonus" or "attendance reward." It was never intended to be an "entitlement program," or outright gift, that you can bank or cash in later.

To pay employees extra for com-

RD Giving to the Gulf

Regina Benjamin, MD, our "Everyday Hero" in January 2003, runs a nonprofit clinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, where seafood is the main source of income. She takes care of everybody, regardless of their ability to pay. So when Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, we wanted to know how she made out.

Turns out the clinic was destroyed and most residents were out of work. Contributing editor Lynn Rosellini caught up with Dr. B as she struggled to rebuild. See our story on page 144.

Reader's Digest also reached out in a very personal way to the hard-hit region. Employees donated more than \$50,000 to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, and every dollar was matched by the company. In addition, The Reader's Digest Foundation gave \$50,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of America to assist in reopening clubs along the coast, and \$75,000 to Operation Comeback of the Preservation Alliance of New Orleans. And we sent Dr. B \$25,000 to help restore her clinic. For more information, go to rd.com/hurricanehelp.



Dr. B, in front of her clinic. It will be bigger and better.

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