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LETTERS

to the editor

Accurate report

You have a report (SN: 12/21/68, p. 617), on the gas turbine session at the recent ASME meeting.

My only comment is to tell you how much I appreciate Edward Gross' courtesy in verifying what I said before you published it. I am currently involved with other magazines which have erroneously reported what our fellows have said, and so I deeply appreciate your interest in accuracy. If all other publications paid as much attention to the importance of accurate reporting, we engineers would not be so fearful of speaking to reporters.

*A. F. Underwood, Manager
Research Laboratories
General Motors Corporation*

Resources and population

I am in full agreement with the statements made by Dr. Robert V. Kline in his letter (SN: 12/7/68, p. 566).

There is no doubt in my mind that the introduction of the most effective means of birth control is one of the most pressing measures for preventing an imminent worldwide crisis which will certainly involve the United States. Anybody who has the stomach to digest this (and other) gloomy facts should read "Moment in the Sun" (Rienow & Rienow, Dial, 1967). The book is sub-

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56/science news/vol. 95/18 january 1969

titled "a report on the deteriorating quality of the American Environment." It is very well-written and well-documented, though the facts and statements presented are very depressing and leave not much room for optimism.

I can see no reasons why the present boom in population growth is ignored by some or even considered as a blessing. It is an imminent menace to our physical and mental health since it implies not only a shortage in food but a rising tide of pollution in our entire environment.

I sincerely wish that books such as "Moment in the Sun" receive widespread attention and be studied even in classrooms, so that the present downward trends can be reversed before it is too late.

*Hans U. Weber, Ph.D.
Research biochemist
Foundation for
Nutrition and Stress Research
Redwood City, Calif.*

Not quite lawless

The title "On a Lawless Frontier" that appears on the cover of SCIENCE NEWS appears somewhat misleading inasmuch as the article by Jonathan Eberhart "Law for Space" (SN: 12/14/68, p. 599) makes clear the existence of a body of international law that is applicable to activities in outer space as well as the rapid development of international agreement on and controls for activity in outer space. Second, regarding the article itself, the term "ISL" is in error and should have read "IISL" for the International Institute of Space Law (which is a bureau of the International Astronautical Federation).

Finally, to complete the remarks I had made concerning the 1968 Treaty on Rescue and Return of astronauts and spacecraft, it would have been desirable to indicate that I had suggested the treaty be amended to account for foreseeable rescue situations in outer space with the aim of making the treaty serviceable for rescue both on earth and in outer space.

*R. Cargill Hall, Historian
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, Calif.*

The little that is left

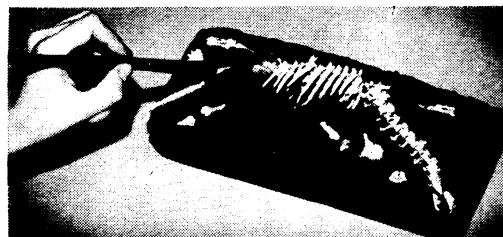
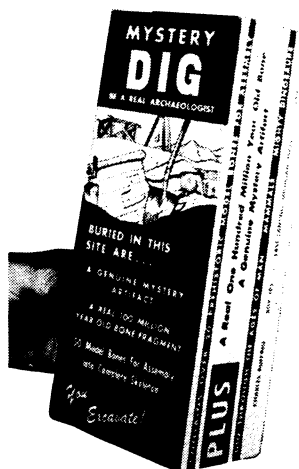
In regard to some recent letters in your publication concerning its intellectual plane, I would like to add the view of one of the greatest minds ever, Albert Einstein. I will quote.

"Anyone who has ever tried to present a scientific subject in a popular manner knows the great difficulties of such an attempt. Either he succeeds in being intelligible by concealing the core

(See p. 58)

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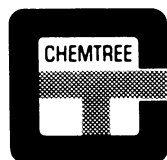
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