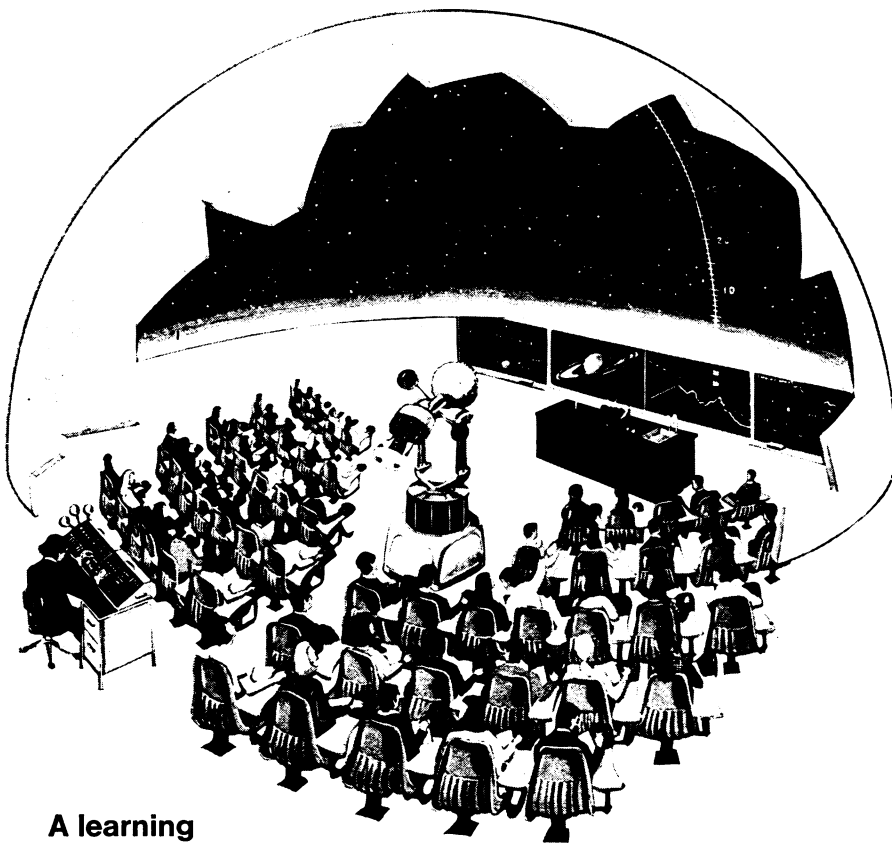


## Spitz planetarium classroom



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\*To paraphrase Marshall McLuhan

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(i.e., "intelligence") to overcome conditions imposed "naturally," whether by heredity, nature or society. Neither Parsons, Etzioni nor Ardrey, so far as I know, agrees with the idea that intelligence is determined primarily by heredity, which was the hypothesis of major concern. Each of their ideas is worthwhile, of course, just as is Jensen's hypothesis that heredity has a good deal to do with intelligence. But it seems clear that no one hypothesis about human behavior adequately encompasses the varied contexts of action men engage in.

Richard F. Devine  
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## Gigahertz and Googol

Mr. J. M. Reynolds' letter inquiring about the gigahertz (SN: 6/14, p. 568) reminded me of the googol. Invented by the American mathematician Edward Kasner, who died in 1955, the googol is equal to 1 with 100 zeros after it ( $1 \times 10^{100}$ ), or "ten to the tenth to the tenth."

Dr. Kasner reportedly coined the word to help his students handle huge numbers. Has it ever come into general use in the scientific community?

Walter Benjamin  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

*(Among scientists who habitually use large numbers, the general custom is that anything over a million is usually written in figures and spoken that way, e.g.,  $10^{40}$  pronounced "ten to the fortieth." In more than 10 years we cannot recall anyone saying or writing googol. Ed.)*

## Viewing with alarm

Thank you for forwarding the June 28 issue of SCIENCE NEWS, with the very interesting article on disposal of CBW materials at sea. While I don't recall referring to the potential as "truly catastrophic" I suppose that in a literal sense this is true; the possibility certainly exists. The remainder of the material discussing Atlantic oceanography is very well put.

I believe that most oceanographers would join me in viewing with alarm the long-range use of the ocean as a promiscuous dumping ground.

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Washington, D. C.

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