

Break the Hate Habit.

Hate Blacks! Hate Whites! Hate Jews!
Hate Gentiles! What sane person needs
any of that noise? So how do you turn
it off? With love. And all the caring,
kindness and consideration that love
means. Start today, lover.



**Break the hate habit:
love your neighbor.**

Advertising contributed for the public good



BOOK ORDER SERVICE

For the convenient purchase of any U.S. book
in print you may avail yourself of Science
News Book Order Service, 1719 N St., N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20036. We pay postage. 25¢
handling charge if price is less than \$2.00.
Regular retail prices on all books.

GAMES MATH BUFFS PLAY—

THE MATH ENTERTAINER is the title of
a brand new treasure
trove of mathematical
teasers, ticklers, traps,
and twisters, gems,
jests and gyrations—
by the hundreds—to
beguile, bemuse, and
bewilder (perchance—
whisper it softly!—to
instruct). Some of the
posers will seem easy, others hard, some will
amuse, other exasperate—but none are dull.

Answers and complete explanations are given
for all problems. Illustrated **ORDER NOW!**

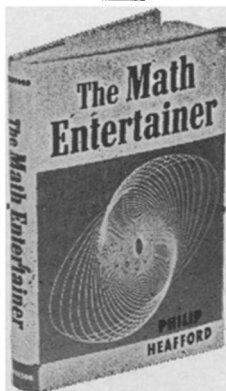
THE MATH ENTERTAINER by Philip Heafford

\$4.95

10-day Money-Back Guarantee

EMERSON BOOKS, Inc.

Dept. 549-S, 251 W. 19 St., New York 10011



Now, you can make hanging, swinging, rocking,
swirling, spinning, swooping, dancing **MOBILES!**
Decorate your home with the extra dimensions of
motion, sound, and flashing color. Here it is—a
basic handbook by an expert on this fast-growing
pastime—a creative art form that is inexpensive,
amazingly simple to do, and uniquely satisfying.

Work with bright colored paper . . . string . . .
wire . . . wood . . . gleaming glass and plastics . . .
shimmering metals, etc. Get stunning effects with
wall ornaments, tree ornaments, chandeliers, and
so on, endlessly. Here is an art to enjoy instantly as
you expand your originality, creativity, and
ingenuity.

OVER 100 Detailed Diagrams & Photos
making mobiles by Guy Williams

\$4.95 plus 25¢ handling

10-Day Money-Back Guarantee

EMERSON BOOKS, Inc. Dept. 548-S
251 W. 19 Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

to the editor

Truth/fiction

I'm beginning to wonder if truth
really is stranger than fiction. Your re-
port on research concerning a substance
called "polywater" (SN: 1/3, p. 17)
tallied detail for detail with a substance
described by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in his
novel "Cat's Cradle."

Vonnegut called it "ice-nine"; a chip
of the stuff, carried around in a Ther-
mos bottle, eventually accounted for
the solidification of every liquid in the
world, including that in human bodies.
Someone dropped it.

Brrr!

Susan Leigh Smith
Washington, D.C.

*(Science fiction often precedes sci-
ence in a most uncanny way. As a
matter of fact, as we pointed out in a
previous report, there were hints of
polywater in the chemical literature of
a few decades ago (SN: 7/12, p. 23).
Some chemists are worried that the
present polywater will turn the oceans
to sludge if someone drops it, but the
majority seem convinced this could not
happen. Ed.)*

Predictably touchy

Your article (SN: 11/29, p. 496) on
the aftermath of the fire at the AEC
plant in Rocky Flats, Colo., could un-
justifiably add fuel to the flames of de-
bate already raging between the AEC
and citizens and groups in Colorado.

Plutonium was described as unpre-
dictable and the statement was made that
". . . small plutonium fires are almost
an everyday occurrence in Atomic En-
ergy Commission plants that handle it."
A neutral reader is left with the impres-
sion that the chemistry of plutonium
production operations is poorly known
and that unexpected and dangerous
happenings in its manufacture are the
rule rather than the exception. This is

certainly not the case. Plutonium chem-
istry, physics and metallurgy are quite
well known and documented for typical
production processes. A good summary,
with ample reference, is given in the
two-volume "Plutonium Handbook,"
Gordon and Breach, New York, 1967.
Of course, unexpected problems do
sometimes arise in plutonium produc-
tion, as they do in all manufacturing
processes, but rarely because of un-
known plutonium phenomena. It is be-
cause of the widely recognized hazards
of plutonium that production opera-
tions are so carefully developed and
piloted; this caution hardly warrants
the term "unpredictable."

The claim that small plutonium fires
are an almost everyday occurrence ap-
pears to apply to all AEC plants han-
dling elemental plutonium. And it is
most certainly false, at least in one case
I am familiar with. Indeed, in this case
such a fire is a rare thing (when it does
occur, the reason is apparent: usually a
mistake). Perhaps the writer intended
a more limited meaning but, as stated,
it is misleading.

R. F. Rogers
Aiken, S.C.

Tritium research

I congratulate you on your concise
and accurate interpretation of my hur-
ricane tritium research (SN: 12/13,
p. 553).

For your information, I would men-
tion that I am a long-time subscriber to
your magazine, which I enjoy very much
and find very informative. Keep up the
good work!

Dr. H. Gote Ostlund
Prof. of Marine and
Atmospheric Sciences
University of Miami
Institute of Marine Sciences
Miami, Fla.

SCIENCE NEWS

Copyright © 1970 by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Repub-
lication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS is strictly prohibited.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT
231 WEST CENTER STREET
MARION, OHIO 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$7.50; 2 yrs., \$13.50; 3 yrs., 19.50. Special trial offer: 39 weeks, \$3.97.
Single copy, 25 cents. \$1.00 per year for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks'
notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to be addressed. Include zip code.
Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Established as Science News
Letter ® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian
Patent Offices. Indexed in last Science News of June and December, in Reader's Guide to
Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of
Circulation. UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS will not be returned unless accompanied by a
stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.
North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

Director: EARL J. SCHERAGO Advertising Sales Manager: RICHARD L. CHARLES
Address all advertising to Sherago Associates, 11 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

Sales: New York, N.Y. 10036: Robert S. Bugbee, 11 W. 42 St. (212-PE 6-1858); Scotch Plains, N.J.
07076: C. Richard Callis, 12 Unami Lane (201-889-4873); Medford, Mass. 02052: Richard M.
Ezequiel, 4 Rolling Lane (617-444-1439); Chicago, Ill. 60611: Herbert L. Burkland, Room 2107,
919 N. Michigan Ave. (312-DE 7-4973); Beverly Hills, Calif. 90211: Winn Nance, 111 N. La
Cienega Blvd. (213-657-2772).