

to the editor

Support earlier data

My attention was drawn to the discussion of the results obtained by Drs. E. Irving and J. K. Park in *SCIENCE NEWS* (12/26/70, p. 479). These results were originally published in *NATURE*, Dec. 5, 1970. However, the interpretation of these results in terms of the curious decrease in the intensity of the magnetic anomalies with distance from the axis of the mid-Atlantic Ridge is exactly that proposed earlier by members of the Geological Survey of Canada in the *CANADIAN JOURNAL OF EARTH SCIENCES*, April 1970, p. 268. It is correct to state that the results of Irving et al support the conclusion drawn from the original work.

E. J. Schwarz
Exploration Geophysics Div.
Geological Survey of Canada
Ottawa, Canada

Niagara Falls erosion

I think your article on my paper on Niagara Falls (SN: 2/6/71, p. 103) related my points very well as far as the behavior of the Horseshoe is concerned. However, somewhere we are a little at cross purposes.

The period of 4,200 years refers only to the time during which the Horseshoe was eroding the Upper Great Gorge and does not include the additional time necessary for the falls to retreat upstream.

I made no comparison between rates of erosion of the American and Horseshoe Falls. The Horseshoe has traveled several hundred feet upstream during the same time interval that the American Falls has retreated a very much smaller distance. This is almost the reverse of the inference which you state.

Dr. Sailer S. Philbrick
Department of Geological Sciences
Cornell University
Ithaca, N.Y.

Superciliousness

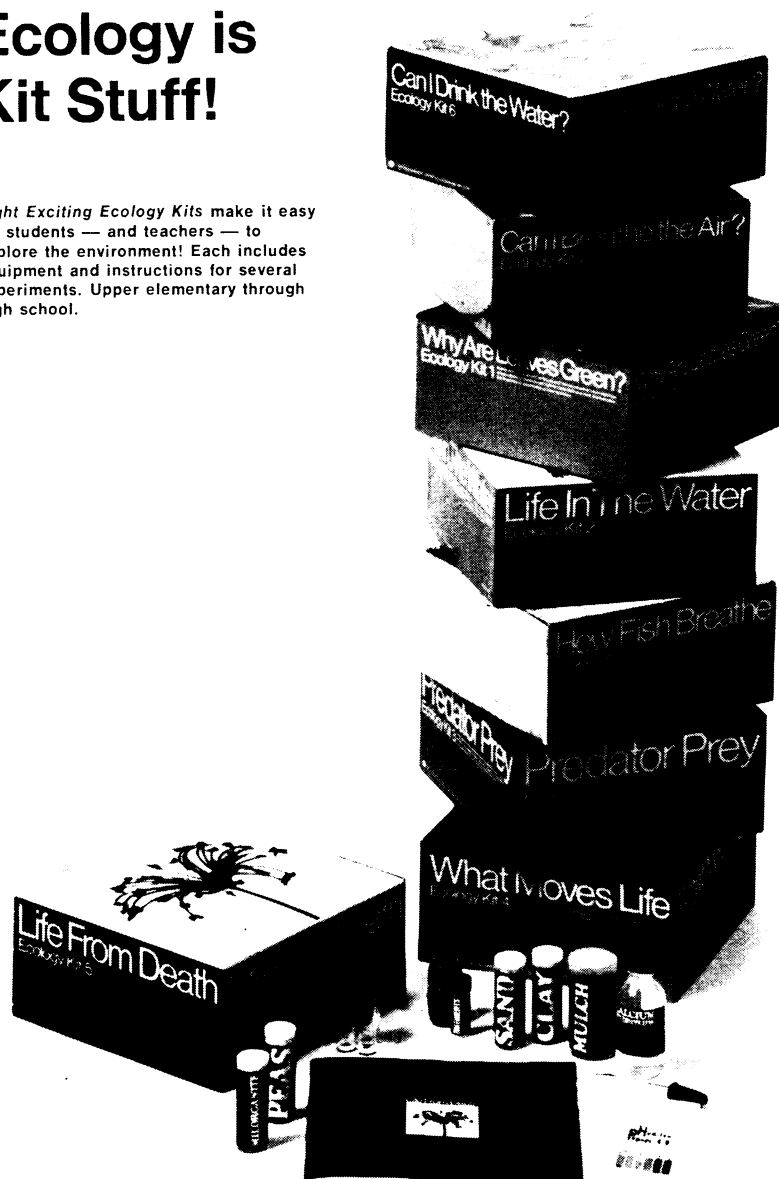
The letter by Dr. Robert G. Tucker (SN: 1/30/71, p. 76), criticizing your article "A time of torment for science" (SN: 1/2/71, p. 5), merely indicates a superciliousness which too many Ph.D.s develop (especially toward non-Ph.D.s), but which is not likely to be condoned by most people, whether or not they regard themselves as scientists.

I would not worry about it, but it serves as a warning, that if you are not a Ph.D., and try to do things which Ph.D.s think they do better, you are liable to get that sort of dig for your efforts.

Enrico Farini
Chicago, Ill.

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