

to the editor

Human scale in housing

Stockholm's Vällingby Center (SN: 11/6/71, p. 308), that urban planners' dream, was featured on a recent "60 Minutes" program on CBS TV. It was interesting to note that the inhabitants of the center who were interviewed all disliked their regimented, sterile, prison-like environment. As one woman put it, "the people who designed this place don't live here, they live elsewhere in their own private cottages."

It is natural for people to want a piece of ground they can call their own, and it is natural for people to want to fix up their homes to suit their own personalities, instead of having virtually everything planned for them. People are not cattle.

I deplore urban sprawl, especially here in the Denver area where the "developers" are raping the beautiful foothills to the west. But it is also obvious that high-density, rental-type housing sooner or later leads to the worst kinds of problems.

The answer lies not in elimination of private home ownership or of single-family dwellings, but in wise and strict zoning, building codes that guarantee quality structures, preservation of large areas of unspoiled land that still exist through public ownership, encouragement of migration to rural towns that have lost population or could accommodate more people, and wise family planning so that more and more housing won't always be needed.

Protect the environment, but also protect people's right to be free human beings.

*John G. Pousma
Denver, Colo.*

Thorough treatment

We thought that your article on our new monograph "Dropping out of school: Problem or symptom?" (SN: 11/6/71, p. 310) was the most complete and thorough treatment of the monograph we had seen so far. We appreciate the accuracy with which you covered our findings.

*Diane Davidson
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Memory transfer

The article on memory transfer (SN: 11/6/71, p. 308) is an unbiased, well written summary of the present status of this difficult field. I certainly enjoyed reading it.

Perhaps I should call your attention to a recent volume on transfer: "Chemical Transfer of Learned Information," that I edited for Elsevier/North-Holland, and which you might find useful as a source of further information.

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1. DATE OF FILING: 10/26/71		2. TITLE OF PUBLICATION: SCIENCE NEWS
3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE: WEEKLY		
4. LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER: 1719 N STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20036		
5. LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER: 1719 N STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20036		
6. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR: PUBLISHER: S. G. SUBBURTINE, JR., 2110 HAWTHORNE STREET, WASH., DC 20008 EDITOR (Name and address): NONE MANAGING EDITOR (Name and address): DENDRICK FRAZIER, 5425 31st ST., NW WASHINGTON, DC 20015		
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A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Net Print Run): 116,000		
B. PAID CIRCULATION (Include sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales): 109,200		
C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION: 111,706		
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION (including samples by mail, carrier or other means): 954		
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D): 112,660		
F. OFFICE USE, LEFTOVERS, UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER PRINTING: 3,244		
G. TOTAL (Sum of E and F, should equal net print run shown in A): 116,000		

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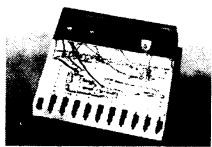
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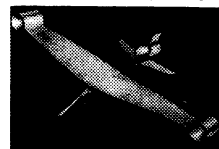
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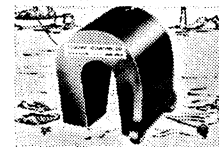
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