

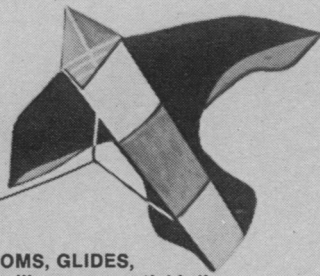
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to the editor

Combining fossil and nuclear

Your brief article "Fossil fuels vs. nuclear" (SN: 2/5/72, p. 90) was particularly interesting to me because of my work in this area, but it falls into the common error of ignoring an effectively combined cycle.

If and until the fast breeder or fusion reactor provides a better answer to our thermal pollution problems, there are no reasons other than prejudice and fear of innovation that prevent us topping conventional nuclear plants with fossil fuel superheaters.

A gas turbine-fossil fuel-nuclear cycle is equally feasible and would provide maximum efficiency with minimum thermal and (presently recognized) atmospheric pollutants.

Pollutants still unrecognized are another matter and may be the problem of another (human) generation.

James Welford (P.E.)
Amnesty International
Group U.S.A. 15
Weston, Mass.

TV as a release

As regards your article "TV and violence: 'A modest relationship'" (SN: 1/22/72, p. 55) I'd like to point out the fact that as recently as 20 years ago, Dr. Loretta Bender found that the children on the disturbed ward at Bellevue here in New York were much calmed and fortified by the cathartic value to be found in their "exposure" to comic-book and TV violence. I hope the finding that *some* few children are incited beyond control by these and allied stimuli will not stop our good legislators from looking at the *other* side of the coin—i.e. how many potentially violent kids obtain vicarious release by the same means? Ditto for nonaddictive drugs and tobacco (how many users do *not* develop the sequelae which investigators are looking for?).

Bradford Wilson, M.A.
Licensed psychologist
New York, N.Y.

Physics and society

There are, for the radical physicist who cares, more important problems facing his profession than engendering poetic visions of the sun ("Radical chic at the APS," SN: 2/12/72, p. 103). It is sadly true that physicists and engineers have provided society with the ultimate means of self destruction. The deadly use of science is not, I believe, sanctioned by either the APS or the AIP. From my experience as an engineer in a nuclear weapons laboratory I can heartily attest that some physics, in fact, is not good for you, however many ludicrous bumper stickers to the contrary. Much of the popular hostility toward science is simply a healthy social reaction to the hostility some scientists have shown toward life.

David Wuchinich
Electrical engineer
New York, N.Y.

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