

OF THE WEEK

population control in china	51
airplane hijackers	52
dinosaur extinction	53
freezing cells	53
300-gev protons	54
lunar uv pictures	54

NOTES

physical sciences	56
behavioral sciences	56
environment	57
earth sciences	57

ARTICLES

causes of schizophrenia	58
monitoring the atmosphere	60

DEPARTMENTS

letters	50
books	55
stars for august	62
new products	63

COVER: Schizophrenia seems to run in families so some researchers call it genetic. Schizophrenia can be the result of stress so others call it environmental. At present neither argument can be proved so a compromise solution implicates both factors. See p. 58. (Art: Joseph Jacobs)

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to the editor

ACS's PEP

The interview of me by Robert Trotter (SN: 5/13/72, p. 313) did a very good job of representing my thoughts, feelings, and hopes and I have received a number of compliments on the article.

I think things have been going fairly well since the interview. The various Committees of the American Chemical Society, the Council, and the Board of Directors all approved a Professional Enhancement Program (nicknamed Project PEP) and gave us the authority to try and raise a million dollars or more from the membership. At the recent meeting of the Board of Directors I got approval to get some professional help in raising the money and also got a loan of \$100,000 to start actually implementing the plan during the balance of this year while we are trying to raise the money. For this year we are trying to step-up our assistance to unemployed members, are initiating a study of mass terminations that occurred, and also taking a look at some of the employers who managed to come through this period without having to fire a lot of people. We're also increasing our interaction with people in the legislative halls and improving our monitoring of legislation that is on the books and is of interest to chemists.

Alan C. Nixon
President-Elect
American Chemical Society
Berkeley, Calif.

Flood control policy

In the discussion of the tragic flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes (SN: 7/1/72, p. 5), SCIENCE NEWS should have considered the views of others besides Corps of Engineers' spokesmen who advocate more structural solutions like dams and channelization. The 1966 Report by the Task Force on Federal Flood Control Policy (House Document 89-465) noted that despite the \$7 billion spent since 1936 on flood control projects, damages continue to exceed \$1 billion each year and show an upward trend. The report noted that the "river control" approach is championed by the Federal Government to the virtual exclusion of more ecologically sound techniques such as flood proofing buildings, land regulation and acquisition of the

flood plain. It's time that we take some of the recommendations of the Task Force seriously and change our whole strategy on flood control.

Brent Blackwelder
Washington Representative
Environmental Policy Center
Washington, D.C.

More on a legislation section

I concur with Joanne Ashley that her request for a science legislation section would be useful for those interested in learning about and influencing national science issues (SN: 6/3/72, p. 355). Depending upon the number and progress of pertinent bills, the column could be once a month, or weekly.

I find SCIENCE NEWS to be not only very informative in my field of earth science but also a very convenient and efficient means for learning about advances being made in the other scientific disciplines. Your publication provides an important service for those concerned with interdisciplinary problems and for stimulating applications of new findings to allied fields.

Deane Oberste-Lehn
Stanford, Calif.

I like Ms. Ashley's idea, but being a subscriber to various environmental publications which attempt something similar, I know what a massive job it can be. A possible compromise would be to present such a listing at least for bills recently reported in SN or for ones which are likely to make news in the future. It would be a great help to have more information of the type suggested at the committee stage of the legislative process.

James T. Wood
Colorado Springs, Colo.

The proposal is indeed a good one. A quick-reference section on science legislation would be useful.

M. D. Bernard Jr.
Merritt Island, Fla.

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