

to the editor

More on 'industrial democracy'

I wonder how many people were politically naive enough to believe that the letter "An industrial democracy" (SN: 7/29/72, p. 67) was *actually* concerned with *true* democracy. Ralph W. Muncy was clearly just giving the old tyranny, socialism, a new name—just as others have named it "Participatory Democracy."

There are many ways in which I could unveil this kind of obfuscation but the simplest and surest way is to point out that "... goods and services will be produced for the use and benefit of all of the people. . . ." The key word and emphasis here is "all of the people," which in socialist jargon means that *none* of the people will have *power* to produce for *themselves* and that *all* of the people will be the slaves of "all of the people." This is not mere semantical trickery. This is the standard operational propaganda for the standard operational tyranny of socialism.

Is purely political propaganda suitable for SCIENCE NEWS?

V. L. Chappell
Los Angeles, Calif.

Muncy has missed one of the greatest chances available in this country. He does not have to belong to the so-called "brains and brawn" and be on the verge of disaster. Muncy has a choice in this country of becoming an Industrialist, an Employer or a dirty old Capitalist.

All that is required to join this group is to work long hours, assume responsibility and invest one's own capital. Last, but not least he must be willing to find jobs for people who work half heartedly, if at all, and put up with absenteeism for which the employe expects to be paid, find markets for the product and sell enough to keep these people employed. It is a very simple process and Muncy might try joining this terrible group.

E. W. Lawler
Lawler Co.
Metuchen, N.J.

Conception 'danger'

A minor point, but one which jumps off the page at me: Your article on "Sperm and eggs on the go" (SN: 8/12/72, p.

108), says, "Or she might simply abstain from intercourse during those hours, until the dangers of conception is past."

For one, it's lousy grammar, but more importantly, it's biased reportage in an otherwise objective report. Instead of "dangers" write "likelihood" and you have eradicated your grammatical error and your editorial bias as well.

Lois Dean
Washington, D.C.

Moon model

Regarding your otherwise excellent summary of the offset moon model (SN: 8/12/72, p. 103), please notice that the Ransford-Sjogren moon model is represented as being about 700 kilometers smaller than is the real moon.

J. H. Tasch
Sudbury, Mass.

(A query to Ransford reveals that their report as published in NATURE contained a mechanical error. The figure of 700 kilometers in their report and in our article should have referred to the radius of the proposed core, not the diameter.—Ed.)

Aeons

The word "aeon" is used in your article "Earth's temperature: Life in a greenhouse" (SN: 7/15/72, p. 40) and refers to "life started 4 or 4.5 aeons ago." By my dictionary (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary), an aeon is "an immeasurably or indefinitely long period of time—age."

My question would therefore be: How long, according to the writer of this article, is an aeon?

Robert S. Moore
Consumers Power Co.
Jackson, Mich.

(You are correct about the "indefinite-period" definition in dictionaries, but "aeon" is being increasingly used by earth and planetary scientists as a convenient short synonym for "billion years."—Ed.)

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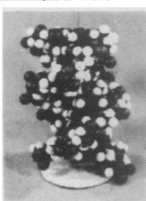


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THE NUMBAT. 16mm, color, 14 min. Excellent close-up photography, including feeding scenes, and shots of young numbats, hairy-tailed marsupials belonging to the cat family, makes this film a very interesting introduction to this little-known Australian animal. Purchase \$127 or rental \$3.75 from Films Officer, Australian News and Information Bureau, 636 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020, or in Western states, Press and Information Officer, Australian Consulate-General, Crocker Plaza, San Francisco, Calif. 94104.

THE 1ST POLLUTION. 16mm, color, sound, 26 min. Reports on current efforts to clean up our waters. A historical comparison relates earlier pollution problems to today's conditions in the Potomac River at Washington and the Kanawha River at Charleston, W. Va. Visits to the Armco Steel plant at Middletown, Ohio, Dow Chemical at Midland, Mich., and the infamous Houston Ship Channel show industrial water quality management technology. Also shown are the sewers in St. Paul and the Tahoe advanced waste treatment plant. Tomorrow's new pollution control potential is illustrated by the "living filter," which puts treated waste water on the ground instead of streams and lakes; San Francisco's irrigation of Golden Gate Park with waste water; and water reclamation in Los Angeles. Audience: general. Purchase and rental information from Stuart Finley Inc., Dept. SN, 3428 Mansfield Road, Falls Church, Va. 22041.

SCHLIERN. 16mm, color, sound, 18 min. The Schlieren technique of photography is a method of making visible any phenomenon where changes in the refractive index occur in transparent solids, liquid or gases. Though a black and white form of Schlieren photography has been known for many years, a similar color technique has only recently been perfected, partly through research efforts of the Shell Film Unit in the United Kingdom. This film provides some examples of Schlieren color photography, such as heat from a wall radiator, different liquids in association, and shock waves from a spark plug. Audience: scientists, engineers, photographers, general. Free loan to groups, club organizations, or schools, from Shell Film Library, Dept. SN, 450 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46104.

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

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