

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.



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films OF THE WEEK

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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