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COVER: Somewhere in the universe a black hole may be forming right now. The history of such an event is schematically represented in the Minkowski space-time diagram. Some astronomers think they are observing two black holes: one in our galaxy, one in the Small Magellanic Cloud. See p. 28. (Design: Davida Daemon)

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Doomsday syndrome

While I agree with Mr. Kendrick Frazier (the Editor) that John Maddox should be heard in his *The Doomsday Syndrome*, I do not believe that we should overlook—which Mr. Frazier did—that the book was "Complaint" (by the author's own admission) and that it was also invective, not the reasoned argument which one would expect from a scientist of Mr. Maddox's stature.

Further, Mr. Frazier fails to note the rash language Maddox uses to condemn above all Rachel Carson. He also dismisses the following for various reasons: Paul Ehrlich for being the new Malthus; René Dubos for acting as an enemy of technology; Gofman and Tamplin for impugning the nuclear establishment; Garrett Hardin for magnifying the side-effects of technological innovation; John Kenneth Galbraith for casting blame on the masters of the technostructure; and Kenneth Boulding for shooting silly barbs at the GNP.

It must also be mentioned that Maddox offers no approaches other than a little more caution with business as usual. While he should be read and pondered, his voice is as shrill—if not more so—than the most wild-eyed of the eco-nuts.

Edward Schriver
Associate Professor of History
University of Maine
Orono, Me.

You are not the only one "annoyed by exaggeration and overstatement." Thank you and Maddox.

W. S. Webster
Fairlawn, N.J.

IBP program directors

While the article written on the International Biological Program (SN: 12/9/72, p. 373) was generally good, I must point out several inaccuracies. I am not director of the IBP Human Adaptability studies. Rather, I acted as spokesman for this group during the press conference that served as the basis for this story. My own personal research involves only high-altitude studies of Peruvian Indians living in the Andes. Other human adaptability research described in the article has been conducted under the leadership of six other IBP program directors. In particular, the work attributed to me concerning Amazonian Indians is actually that of Dr.

James V. Neel of the University of Michigan and his fine international team of IBP scientists. I regret that this article made it appear as if I was directing all human adaptability research within the U.S. IBP. This is definitely not the case, since human adaptability studies are cooperative efforts not only of the seven directors involved but also of the many other scientists, both nationally and internationally who make up the various research teams.

Paul T. Baker
Professor of Anthropology
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University Park, Pa.

Quotable wall-adornment

I very much enjoyed Robert J. Trotter's writing in "This is going to hurt you more than it hurts me" (SN: 11/18/72, p. 332). Two passages impressed me in particular, since they seem to hold not only for the behaviorist, but for the humanistic and transpersonal thinker as well.

1. (His statement) "The child who learns the golden rule to the tune of the hickory stick is likely to apply the hickory stick unto others." (Yes, I've heard it said similarly, but not as quotably.)

2. (From Alan Button) "Name-calling sets up the conditions for a self-fulfilling prophesy."

These will be wall-adornment for some time to come. My sincere thanks.

J. B. Grant
Lamplighters Roadway Press
Los Gatos, Calif.

Type of curve

The note "Biological pollution monitors" (SN: 11/4/72, p. 296) is excellent. I have only one minor suggestion and that is for the laymen—the second sentence in the third paragraph might better read "from somewhat lower concentrations," etc. This may be nit-picking but it has to do with the fact that fishes respond linearly to a log series of concentrations rather than to an arithmetic series, and therefore the differences on this type of curve are much less than they would appear in terms of straight numbers.

I appreciate your inclusion of this note because it otherwise takes a long time for such information to reach the general scientific community.

John Cairns Jr.
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