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**COVER:** Stylized poster of Copernicus, one of several prepared in Poland in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the astronomer's birth. A series of events are planned in Washington this month to celebrate the anniversary. See p. 236. (Poster: Smithsonian Institution)

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# to the editor

## Classifying homosexuality

Your report on "Redefining homosexuality's label" (SN: 2/24/73, p. 121) requires some amplification. When you state that "[a] major factor" in social disapproval of homosexuality is that its component sexual desires are viewed as "mental aberrations," you overlook the fact that the current sickness theory is but the evolution of the earlier view that homosexuality is a sin. The concept of sin no longer being sufficiently respectable, prejudice against homosexuality has had to resort to pseudo-science for reinforcement.

Classification of homosexuality as pathological is simply the latest manifestation of age-old prejudice. A principal criticism of many inconclusive studies of homosexuality is that they rely on clinical data developed in the course of dealing with homosexuals who, for whatever reason, find their way to therapists. These homosexuals are comparatively few, and the connection between their sexuality and their perceived need for therapy is tenuous, tortured, or nonexistent. Other methodological objections to other studies are also possible, but the gross error of skewing the sample to favor a conclusion that being gay is pathological seems the most inexplicable (except in terms of overt or repressed bias on the investigator's part).

You state that "to most homosexuals these desires are real, no matter what their basis." I must respond that to most homosexuals "these desires" are not only real but good; their "basis" is irrelevant.

William B. Kelley  
Vice President  
Chicago Gay Alliance  
Chicago, Ill.

## Alaskan wolves

Although your recent article on wolves (SN: 2/17/73, p. 109) is based on the best known facts generally, the two paragraphs near the end of the article which discuss Alaska are incorrect.

The statement that "the animals are faring little better" in Alaska is just not true. There are probably between 10,000 and 15,000 wolves in Alaska now and their number is on the increase.

I will grant the battle to improve the wolf's image generally is an "up-hill battle." However, to deny that gains are being

made in Alaska is foolish. The real danger in Alaska is not from aerial hunting (although I agree this is a despicable act and must not appear again in the future) or from trappers, but from destruction of habitat.

Jim Hunter  
Arctic Field Representative  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Fairbanks, Alaska

## Protein guide

In "Nutrition briefs" (SN: 3/10/73, p. 150) one of the subjects discussed was the "cost-per-protein-equivalent" guide issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I'm sure many of your readers would be interested in obtaining a copy of this guide. I would appreciate any information you could give on this.

John J. Dempsey  
Livermore, Calif.

(The guide was part of an article that appeared in the December 1972 Family Economics Review, a quarterly report issued by the Department of Agriculture. The report is no longer available but reprints of the article, "The Cost of Meats and Meat Alternates," can be obtained by writing to Consumer and Food Economics Institute, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Federal Center Building No. 1, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.—Ed.)

## Stress of teenage pregnancy

Your abstract of our article on teenage abortion (SN: 2/10/73, p. 88) left us with an impression opposite to the one our paper in ARCHIVES OF GENERAL PSYCHIATRY, was intended to convey. We find that it is the pregnancy in a teenage girl which is stressful, whereas the abortion is therapeutic in that it relieves this stress.

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