

## OF THE WEEK

copernicus celebration	236
farthest quasar	237
christmas comet	237
jupiter spacecraft	237
soviet space station	237
new chemical compounds	238
innovation case studies	238
honoring innovators	238
science education	239
porpoise transmitters	239
radio-source measurement	239

## NOTES

earth sciences	240
behavioral sciences	240
environment	244
astronomy	244

## ARTICLES

protons at high energy	242
slow-acting viruses	245

## DEPARTMENTS

books	234
letters	235

**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)

<b>Publisher</b>	E. G. Sherburne Jr.
<b>Editor</b>	Kendrick Frazier
<b>Aerospace</b>	Everly Driscoll
<b>Behavioral Sciences</b>	Robert J. Trotter
<b>Medical Sciences</b>	Joan Arehart-Treichel
<b>Natural Sciences</b>	Jonathan Eberhart
<b>Physical Sciences</b>	Dietrick E. Thomsen
<b>Science and Society</b>	John H. Douglas
<b>Copy Editor</b>	Nadine Clement
<b>Assistant to the Editor</b>	Esther Gilgoff
<b>Production Manager</b>	Davida Daemon
<b>Books</b>	Margit Friedrich
<b>Circulation Manager</b>	Lawrence Cope
<b>Advertising</b>	Scherago Associates, Inc. 11 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036 Fred W. Dieffenbach Sales Director

Copyright © 1973 by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS is strictly prohibited.

**Subscription Department**  
231 West Center Street  
Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$10; 2 yrs., \$18; 3 yrs., \$25. (Add \$2 a year for Canada and Mexico, \$3 for all other countries.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to be addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Established as Science News Letter ® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202-785-2255). Cable SCIENSERV.

# 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.

Ruth Falk, Ph.D.  
Maria Perez-Reyes, M.D.  
University of North Carolina  
School of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Address communications to Editor,  
Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

## SCIENCE SERVICE

Institution for the Popularization of Science founded 1921; a nonprofit corporation

**Board of Trustees**—Nominated by the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: Bowen C. Dees, The Franklin Institute; Athelstan Spilhaus, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Deborah Partridge Wolfe, Queens College. Nominated by the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: Gerald F. Tape, Associated Universities; Allen V. Astin, National Bureau of Standards; Frederick Seitz, Rockefeller University. Nominated by the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: Gerald Holton, Harvard University; Jacob Rabinow, National Bureau of Standards; Glenn T. Seaborg (President), University of California at Berkeley. Nominated by the JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION: Norman Cousins, "World"; Julius Duscha, Washington Journalism Center; O. W. Riegel (Secretary), Washington and Lee University. Nominated by the E. W. SCRIPPS TRUST: Milton Harris (Treasurer), Washington, D.C.; Edward W. Scripps II (Vice President and Chairman of the Executive Committee), Edward W. Scripps Trust; John Troan, Pittsburgh Press.

Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr.; Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver; Business Manager: Donald R. Harless; Things of Science: Ruby Yoshioka.