

science news[®] to the editor

A Science Service Publication
Vol. 103/May 19, 1973/No. 20
Incorporating Science News Letter

OF THE WEEK

skylab in trouble	320
solar flare/earth glitch	321
anthropological movies	321
studying new york bight	322
eternal spring on mars	323
sewage money ordered released	323
sulfur-oxide standards lowered	323
hail modification	323

RESEARCH NOTES

earth sciences	324
natural sciences	324
technology	325
physical sciences	325

ARTICLES

jupiter's lopsided 'field'	326
next-decade storage rings	328

DEPARTMENTS

letters	319
books	330

COVER: Among the many mysteries surrounding the giant planet Jupiter is the possibility that its magnetic field is radically off-center, not only to one side, in the plane of the planet's equator, but far, far to the south. Few if any other researcher's agree with the proposal's author, James Warwick, but the Pioneer 10 spacecraft should prove him right or wrong. See p. 328. (Diagram: James Warwick)

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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.

Engineering job market

May I second the splendid letter by William A. Robinson P.E. (SN: 4/21/73, p. 251) and chastize you for your old hat comments contradicting the essence of Robinson's letter.

As another professional engineer with 30 years of experience I support the statements in Robinson's letter. I would also point out that these "prophets of doom" are those who stand to profit by perpetuating the gross oversupply of engineers and the large engineering school enrollments, none other than our nation's business leaders who profit by exploiting the buyer's market in engineers and those even more despicable educators who thrive on turning out the products that flood the market.

P.S. SCIENCE NEWS is great.

William H. Murray P.E.
Huntsville, Ala.

In amplification of the article on potential shortages of engineers in future years, and the letter by William A. Robinson P.E. in the April 21 issue, you may be interested in knowing that the unemployment rate for engineers as measured by the U.S. Department of Labor is down to 0.8 percent (for the first quarter of 1973) from its peak of 3.2 percent two years ago. Your readers may make their own decision as to what is propaganda and what is a reasonable concern about the future manpower shortages.

John D. Alden
Executive Secretary
Engineering Manpower Commission
Engineers Joint Council
New York, N.Y.

Dismay at research ban

Regarding your article "NIH bans research on live fetuses" (SN: 4/21/73, p. 253). It is hard for me to find the words to explain my dismay and downright anger to think a ban should be placed on any sort of research.

My husband and I have donated our bodies upon death for research. I believe a mother who has decided for abortion should also be allowed to decide what should happen to the fetus.

I was brought up as a Catholic, so it is not that I speak out in prejudice against Catholicism or any other religion. But politics, science and religion should stay within their own boundaries.

Mrs. Edna M. Travis
East Hanover, N.J.

Perspective on measles vaccine

We were pleased to see that in your article on slow virus infections of the central nervous system (SN: 4/14/73, p. 245), when you mentioned that a case of subacute sclerosing panencephalitis had occurred in a child within 30 days after a measles vaccination, you also noted that over 50 million children in the United States have received live measles vaccines since 1963 and that relatively few have had any ill effects following vaccination.

It is very important to maintain this perspective in considering the potential hazards of measles prophylaxis. If children are not vaccinated because of an excessive concern for complications, virtually all may be expected to contract measles, and in approximately 1 per 1,000 of these measles cases a complicating acute encephalitis will occur. The incidence of this encephalitis following natural measles is 1,000 times greater than the reported incidence of neurologic disorders following measles vaccination.

Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.
John J. Witte, M.D.
U.S. Public Health Service
Center for Disease Control
Atlanta, Ga.

Plight of the wolf

We have noted with interest the excellent coverage your magazine has given in recent issues to the plight of the wolf. Our organization seeks to coordinate all efforts in behalf of the wolf. To this purpose we are holding our third annual conference in St. Louis on Aug. 31—Sept. 2. Interested persons are urged to write for information on the conference to:

Wild Canid Survival & Research Center
P. O. Box 16204
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Attention: M. Tippy, Chairman

The aims of the W.C.S.R.C. are education that will lead to a better public understanding of the need to preserve the wolf; a data bank that will contain information on all captive wolves and which will enable us to retain individuals of subspecies in danger of imminent extinction, and behavioral research carried on by selected scientists at our sanctuary near St. Louis.

Donna Hart
W.C.S.R.C.
St. Louis, Mo.

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