

science news[®] to the editor

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Incorporating Science News Letter

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COVER: Interesting art by patients is one of the results of schizophrenia. The causes and cures are not so visible. Linus Pauling suggests vitamin deficiency as a cause and orthomolecular or megavitamin therapy as a cure. Establishment psychiatry disagrees. See p. 59. (Art: NIMH Schizophrenia Bulletin)

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The Levich case

I thought your readers would be interested in the following petition dealing with the case of Dr. Evgeny Levich. On July 11 I sent the petition, signed by 49 astronomers, including six members of the National Academy of Sciences, to Mr. Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States. The text:

Dr. Evgeny Levich, a young Russian astronomer, has been inducted against his will into the Soviet army. According to available news reports, this forcible induction occurred because Dr. Levich had asked the Soviet authorities for permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union, as had his father, Dr. Benjamin Levich. The elder Dr. Levich has stated that his son's weak health places his life in danger at the Siberian army post to which he has been assigned.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights includes the freedom to emigrate. We wish to express our support for the Levich family to exercise this right. As astronomers, we are particularly concerned for Dr. Evgeny Levich, who is well known for his contributions to the field of relativistic astrophysics. We request that the government of the U.S.S.R. allow Drs. Evgeny and Benjamin Levich to follow their announced desire to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

The covering letter to Mr. Dobrynin concludes: "I think that all those who have signed this appeal are concerned about the free exchange of people and ideas that promotes the advancement of science and mutual cooperation among nations."

Donald Goldsmith
Department of Astronomy
Cornell University
Ithaca, N.Y.

Teachers, students and PSI

After a more thorough examination of the Keller (PSI) system of teaching (as described in (SN: 4/21/73, p. 261), I am astounded as to its possibilities! One opportunity it affords is to the part-time student who *must* work full-time at a job in order to support a family. Sadly, in the lecture/testing system popularly used in colleges today, many of these people are not able to make the grades in order to remain in school. Truly, these people are subject to a time limitation which really does not let them prove their abilities. Likewise, night school is

not the answer to their problem since the same time limits exist as with day classes. There is a *mandatory* attendance at lectures and testing on a tedious, arbitrary basis, resulting in lack of retention.

One other aspect of the Keller system is that it *presupposes* a distinct concern of the professor for the student; it goes even further—it demands that concern! In a time when many educators would want to substitute a tape recorder for a professor *on an absolute basis*, it is gratifying to see the popularity of PSI.

I will, hopefully, be embarking on a teaching career soon myself, and I hope to exhibit even the fraction of concern for my students that Dr. Keller has shown for his students. My thanks to SCIENCE NEWS for alerting me to the PSI method, and my special thanks to Dr. Keller for his encouragement and literature.

Robert H. Strickland
Dallas, Tex.

Congratulations on your splendid article regarding the Keller system of education. It marks an educational milestone. Such stimulating changes are long overdue in our current insipid, demotivating and archaic mode of education.

J. T. Kessler
Hollywood, Calif.

Important task well done

I enjoyed seeing the article by Dietrick E. Thomsen in your June 9 issue (p. 375) "Aiming for the points within protons." It provides a very nice summary of much of the work which has been done at SLAC. Presenting the results of such experiments in a form comprehensible to nonhigh-energy physicists and nonphysicists is a difficult but important task.

James T. Dakin
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center
Stanford, Calif.

Chinese medicine

Congratulations on having created the new department "Chinese medical science" (SN: 6/16/73, p. 388). I look forward to reading it regularly.

Jacques G. Richardson
Editor, *Impact of Science on Society*
UNESCO
Paris, France

(Additional letters on p. 62)

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