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COVER: Idyllic woodland scenes are becoming less and less common as previously unused land comes under the domain of developers for housing, highways, industries and recreation areas. How land-use decisions should be made is shaping up as a major debate of the 1970's. See p. 266. (Painting: National Wildlife Federation. More information on p. 268).

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to the editor

Seek light on Kirlian photography

A group of seven of us would like to do some research on or with Kirlian photography. The article "Science focuses on a light of life," (SN: 9/29/73, p. 202) gave us ideas.

We need to know where we can get more information on this subject—especially the process used in photographing and exactly how the equipment is built.

If you can help us we would appreciate it so much. Thank you.

Hester Thomsen
Woodside, N.Y.

(We have received a number of such inquiries from readers who would like further information on the Kirlian process. May we suggest contacting the scientists mentioned in the article and the following organization that sells the Kirlian devices and does research in the field:

*Mankind Research Unlimited
1325½ Wisconsin Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20007*

Another valuable source of information is the book Galaxies of Life edited by Krippner and Rubin and published by Gordon and Breach, N.Y. 1973.—Ed.)

How wonderful to read your latest article "Light of Life." But most of all the mention of Nikola Tesla, the man who gave us the twentieth century. I have often wondered why more of this great man's discoveries do not appear in print. He gave us more than the Tesla coil, he gave us the "Light of Life" when he harnessed the Niagara Falls and gave us alternating current. I am a recent subscriber to your very interesting magazine, and hope to remain on your mailing list for a long time.

Calvin Girvin
Hollywood, Calif.

Name a particle for Levich?

Allow me to express through your columns my concern at the Leeds group's nonsensical proposal to name the possible intermediate vector boson a mandela (SN: 9/15/73, p. 164).

Should a name in the light of present politics be sought, I would propose the levich, after a man who is not only a scientist but whose scientist son has suffered inhumane treatment in the hands of the Soviets for no crime at all, save that both wish to emigrate to Israel.

A. L. Smith-Haenni
Ostermundigen, Switzerland

Hardly the U.S.S.R.

In your article on the Multiple-Mirror Telescope being built by the University of Arizona and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SN: 8/18-25/73, p. 117) you erroneously stated that the software for the computer controlling the telescope was developed in the Soviet Union. In

truth, the undersigned are designing the control program in Cambridge, Mass. The Cambridge realpolitik, although eclectic, should scarcely be confused with the Soviet variety.

The control program is being written in the programming language FORTH for a Data General 1230 minicomputer (which, we cannot resist adding, is manufactured in Uruguay).

J. R. Cherniack, F. D. Young,
N. P. Carleton and T. P. Stephenson
Center for Astrophysics
Harvard College Observatory
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Cambridge, Mass.

Not a 'valid hypothesis'

In his letter titled "Intelligent intervention?" Clarence G. Zike chides scientists for refusing to even take into consideration what he terms the "valid hypothesis" that "many of the phenomena which seem to violate physical laws may be, in fact, due to intelligent intervention" (SN: 10/6/73, p. 211).

From my knowledge of the scientific method, one of the main criteria for a "valid hypothesis" is that it must lend itself to being tested by imperial methods. Clearly, then, this idea, though intriguing to be sure, does not qualify, in my opinion, as a "valid hypothesis" in the normal scientific sense.

Lois Ann Horowitz
Fair Lawn, N.J.

'Best source'

Thank you for your article "A powerful pulse of laser light: A step toward fusion" (SN: 9/29/73, p. 199). I am interested in laser-induced fusion, and I have found that your magazine is the best source of information on that subject. As a matter of fact, I have found that your magazine is the best source of information on any subject that has something to do with science. Please continue to report the latest scientific developments in the way that you do.

Jason Lee Ring
Silverdale, Wash.

NRC on vitamin E

I found your recent article on vitamin E (SN: 9/15/73, p. 167) unsettling. The National Research Council admits that sterility is induced in male rats by vitamin E deficiencies, and that vitamin E supplements in rats cure a number of attributed symptoms. But the NRC has been unable to find a link between rat and human studies, so it concludes that there is none, coming out "against supplemental or megavitamin doses of vitamin E." The conclusion should have been that it is still too early to tell.

Our inability to discover or to measure any given entity in the universe does not make any consequence about the existence or nonexistence of that which we can neither measure nor locate. I believe the NRC's report represents a dangerous bit of hasty conclusion based on faulty "scientific" principles.

David Radd
Lawrence, Kan.