

# science news®

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**COVER:** A raging fire in Washington typifies a long-neglected problem—America suffers more deaths, injuries and financial waste from fire than any other nation. At last, a scientific attack is being made on America's fires. See p. 348. (Photo: NBS)

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# to the editor

## Care for the land

Sen. Henry Jackson's quote may be out of context (SN: 10/27/73, p. 266); however, he voices the all too prevalent premise based solely on short-sighted concepts via tunnel vision of the tragic misuse of land, people and resources.

The energy crisis alone (along with others) is singular proof that man must control his procreation, conserve his natural resources and use the land with care toward self-renewal.

Wm. Nosaka  
San Mateo, Calif.

**John H. Douglas'** article "How shall we use the land" (SN: 10/27/73, p. 266), glosses over a major consideration: the interests and rights of the millions of people who actually own the land.

After years—even centuries—of neglect public officials are under pressure from environmentalists to save what's left of our natural heritage and revitalize the cities. Well and good. But in their haste to do something, even if it's wrong, they are rushing into SB 268 and other measures that are tantamount to a massive redistribution of the wealth. They would take the use of land from people—often the elderly, usually those of modest means—and give that use to "The People" without compensating the owners.

C. L. Glenn  
Agoura, Calif.

## Kirlian motion pictures

I noted with interest the article describing Kirlian photography as it is currently performed by investigators of this phenomenon (SN: 9/29/73, p. 202). They all take still photos of the Kirlian process. To the benefit of your readers who may be performing or wish to perform Kirlian photography, I would like to point out that my associates and myself have recently developed a technique which enables investigators to view the Kirlian process in real time. Our technique enables us to take 16mm motion picture films of the Kirlian process. Observation of such films indicates the truly dynamic characteristics of the Kirlian process and point out that most still photos are simply a multiple exposure of many many events, which happen within fractions of a second. Those who are interested in the details of how to make Kirlian motion pictures may feel

free to write to me for working paper number 1 by G. K. Poock and P. W. Sparks dated Sept. 10, 1973. The title of the working paper is, "The Poock-Sparks Technique of Motion Picture Kirlian Photography."

We will be glad to share our information with anyone who is so interested.

Gary K. Poock, Ph.D.

Code 55 Pk

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I would recommend highly the article on Kirlian photography in the February 1973, issue of POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY. I have produced "Kirlian" photographs rather easily myself following descriptions in that article and others; it seems to be rather easy to get Kirlian-like images, but to explain what is happening during the process is another thing entirely.

My continued admiration to all of you for your concise, informative, accurate and authoritative magazine!

Paul Cornell  
University of Redlands  
Redlands, Calif.

## The expanding universe

Your article on Hubble's constant and the expansion of the universe (SN: 8/18-25/73, p. 114) raises several questions in the mind of one who is not an astronomer: Is Hubble's theory based on the assumption that we are at the center, origin, of the Big Bang? If so, why?

Kenneth V. Laird  
Oakland, Calif.

*(The assumptions of Hubble's theory involving the expansion of the universe are true for any point or observer anywhere in the universe. The simplest and most often-used analogy is to the surface of a balloon. When a balloon is inflated, any point on the surface increases in distance from every other point. It is true no matter where on the surface of the balloon the points are located. The same is true for an expanding universe. All points move away from each other. We are moving away from other galaxies. They are moving away from us. None of it requires any assumptions about the center of the universe.—Ed.)*

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