

OF THE WEEK

research with babies . . .	
... viruses and birth defects	20
... separating x and y sperm	20
... infants and speech rhythms	21
new species of bird	22
the comet fades	22
islands as 'hot spots'	22
astronauts speak their feelings	23
a 'leap second' added	23

RESEARCH NOTES

natural sciences	27
aerospace	27
behavioral sciences	29
biomedical	29

ARTICLES

dollars in the crystal	24
------------------------	----

DEPARTMENTS

letters	19
books	30

COVER: Female sperm are slower swimmers (upper photo) than are male sperm (lower photo). Exploiting the swimming speeds of sperm holds promise for selectively reproducing boys. See p. 24 (Photos: A. G. Schering, Berlin, as published in Nature)

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

Copyright © 1974 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.

january 12, 1974

'Ascent of Man'

Praises for your article and interview concerning Jacob Bronowski and his "The Ascent of Man" (SN: 12/8/73, p. 362). Magnificent.

Robert Nathan, in his *Evening Song: Selected Poems, 1950-1973*, Capra Press, conveys somewhat Bronowski's thought regarding man's being and needing "... the comfort of his own dignity. . . ." Something not afforded by artists of malice.

Ross McFadyen
Palm Desert, Calif.

It was not the quality of irrationality that made Hitler so harmful. (Actually, we can be thankful for that irrationality. Had he not made some very bad decisions, particularly military ones, he might have ended up in complete control of Europe.) Rather, what made Hitler harmful to the world was his self-righteousness, the process by which he spawned and justified cruelty and excess. To put it in a word, he was arrogant.

J. Bronowski, at least if one judges him by the Frazier interview, thus appears to confuse morality with rationality. He goes on to confuse rationality with science. By such a devious route he arrives at the conclusion that man should take *pride* (of all things) in his ever-increasing meddling with, diddling and manipulation of "his" world, i.e. the environment. This conclusion is nothing less than arrogant. It merely substitutes "the master species" for "the master race!"

Warner Clements
Beverly Hills, Calif.

I enjoyed reading your editorial comment on Jacob Bronowski and his BBC series, "The Ascent of Man," which rightly gives credit to the British mathematician and philosopher for making progress of the human race more understandable to the public.

But I differ sharply with the statements, "There's not an equivalent science figure in the United States. It's hard to think of any American scientist known so well to the public that he is stopped in the streets by those who have seen him on television."

Surely you know of Julius Sumner Miller, professor of physics at El Camino Col-

lege, Calif., who for 40 years has explained the physical laws of the universe via classrooms, lecture platforms, radio and TV, motion pictures, books, newspaper columns, LP records and tapes. His lecture-demonstrations have enchanted lay as well as scientific audiences in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Kenya, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Andrew Hamilton
University of California
at Los Angeles
Los Angeles, Calif.

Hocus-pocus experts

Noting the various letters on ESP in the Dec. 15 issue I believe P. M. deLaubenfels and Steven Okulewicz have a valid point. "It takes one to know one" and if Uri Geller is achieving his results by some sort of "hocus-pocus" what better way to find out than by having an expert in "hocus-pocus" set up the experimental conditions?

If Geller can confound the professional magicians then we may have something worthy of further study. If not, then the psychophysicists must improve and tighten up their procedures. Either result would be better than leaving the question up in the air.

F. L. Sulloway
Fremont, Calif.

Skylab 2 crew doing well

I found your article on Skylab 2 (SN: 10/6/73, p. 214) to be accurately written and interesting. I wish the same could be said in every case about reporting in non-science fields!

For your information, the medical progress of all Skylab 2 crewmen continued to be as encouraging as it was during the period for which your report was made. There were no relapses or other complications of any significance, and I look forward to reviewing the quantitative medical data and conclusions when they are available.

Jack Lousma
Major USMC
NASA Astronaut
Houston, Tex.

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: **Athelstan Spilhaus**, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; **Deborah Partridge Wolfe**, Queens College of City University of New York; **Bowen C. Dees**, The Franklin Institute. Nominated by the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: **Frederick Seitz**, Rockefeller University; **Gerald F. Tape**, Associated Universities; **Allen V. Astin**, National Academy of Sciences. Nominated by the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: **Glenn T. Seaborg** (President), University of California, Berkeley; **Gerald Holton**, Harvard University; **Joseph W. Berg Jr.**, National Research Council. Nominated by the JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION: **O. W. Riegel** (Secretary), Washington and Lee University; **Norman Cousins**, "World"; **Julius Duscha**, Washington Journalism Center. Nominated by the E. W. SCRIPPS TRUST: **John Troan**, Pittsburgh Press; **Milton Harris** (Treasurer), Washington, D.C.; **Edward W. Scripps II** (Vice President and Chairman of the Executive Committee), Edward W. Scripps Trust.

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

19