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COVER: Emperor penguins on sea ice near McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Emperor penguins, Weddell seals and Antarctic fish exist at the southernmost fringe of the planet's biosphere. Evolution has equipped them with unique means to survive. See p. 120. (Photo: Ralph Payne, U.S. Navy)

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Books Margit Friedrich
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to the editor

South Pole construction

We appreciated your Antarctic article mentioning our construction work at the South Pole (SN: 1/19/74, p. 45).

You might be interested in an update on the work of the Seabees, as we are in the final stages of this austral summer season and it has been a most rewarding mission for the men of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 71. Performance on the new South Pole Station far exceeded all expectations, and a quick assessment of the project is that two years of construction have been done in just this one season; a fitting finale for this last time to the "Ice" for Seabees! All of the major construction was completed, and follow-on work by civilians next year will be in areas other than construction (moving in supplies and science equipment).

We enjoyed the opportunity to show you the "White Continent" and feel you have accurately perceived the agonies and moments of exhilaration we knew throughout this most unique of experiences.

W. H. Kay, Jr.
Lt. Cmdr., U.S.N.
Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Mobile Construction
Battalion 71
McMurdo Station, Antarctica

Fine job

I greatly appreciate the fine job of news reporting done by you and the rest of the SCIENCE NEWS staff. I first subscribed to the magazine a little over a year ago. It has already become an invaluable resource for me. Thanks to the diligent reporting in SCIENCE NEWS I have been able to use the magazine as an excellent reference for many short papers and reports.

Charles Reed
Granite City, Ill.

Pollution and emotions

I am a practicing allergist and am very interested in the role that pollution plays in personality changes. I would appreciate hearing from anyone regarding the effects of pollution on emotions and mental health, i.e., letters, case reports, reprints, books, etc. Please send the information to:

Claude A. Frazier, M.D.
4-C Doctor's Park
Asheville, N.C. 28801

Physics lives

In a recent letter referring to the decline of interest in physics (SN: 1/19/74, p. 35), L. Stevenson remarked that "Physics has acquired a reputation of being a difficult subject, but not necessarily exciting, with poor job opportunities." The job opportunities are indeed poor but the excitement of physics is still building. Experts generally agree that a new revolution in the foundations of theoretical physics is needed to explain the many startling experimental results of the past few decades.

The successful atomic theory and quantum electrodynamics will likely need radical generalization to describe the interior of protons—the next frontier in basic physics. Newton's billiard ball physics led to Schrödinger's atomic physics for atom-sized billiard balls and Einstein's physics for super-fast billiard balls. The great problem before us today is developing a theory of super-fast but atomic-sized billiard balls. The needed ideas will likely be no less strange or revolutionary than those found necessary for the previous dramatic extensions of our understanding.

Dr. James Edmonds
Physics Dept.
San Diego State Univ.
San Diego, Calif.

Space mirrors

Your article on light pollution (SN: 12/15/73, p. 381) was very interesting. I would like to point out that in 1966, NASA was studying the possibility of orbiting large space mirrors for military applications. The Defense Department claimed that these reflective satellites could be used for such things as night illumination of Vietnamese jungles and nighttime searches for downed pilots. However, the astronomical and environmental impact would be disastrous. Luckily, the idea was eventually scrapped.

Daniel Costanzo
Wilmington, N.C.

Name game

With reference to "It's All in the Name," after reading so many of these, I now wish that I had saved all of them. Is there any possibility that these might be included in a pamphlet?

To add to the list, the physics professor here at the King's College is named William W. Watts (W³).

Wayne Frair, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
The King's College
Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

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