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Cover: Andreas Vesalius of Padua lectures on anatomy. An innovative educator, Vesalius was one of the first to teach anatomy direct from the body. Scientific education is still innovative. Our special report begins on p. 136

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## Support from readers

In the Feb. 9 issue of SCIENCE NEWS there was a letter written to the editor by Dayton Clewell of New York City, criticizing an energy article that appeared in the Jan. 19 issue. Clewell ended his comment by saying he is canceling his subscription to SCIENCE NEWS.

By printing his letter, you have proven yourself to be impartial in the "Letters" department. But any magazine which would print such a demoralizing letter must have unslanted literature on all its pages.

I commend you for this and unlike Clewell, I intend to *renew my* subscription to SCIENCE NEWS.

Jerry Liebelson  
Spring Valley, N.Y.

This is to join other readers in commending you for your article on "The oil crisis: A whodunit for the great Holmes" (SN: 1/19/74, p. 36). It would be expected that those with interests in oil and gas properties would condemn your article. They, like the giant corporations, don't want any threat to their stronghold and exorbitant profits. We don't have enough Jack Andersons or SCIENCE NEWSes.

B. A. Lillywhite  
Arlington, Va.

## It's a new bird, anyway

I was surprised to read that the Hawaiian Honeycreeper was the first new bird species discovered in ten years (SN: 1/12/74, p. 22). My father-in-law, John S. Dunning, discovered a new species of hummingbird in 1967. It was named *Eriocnemis mirabilis*, and its picture may be seen on the cover of THE FLORIDA NATURALIST, July 1968.

Mary R. Dunning  
Granby, Conn.

(The assistant curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History in New York tells us the emphasis in the announcement from the National Science Foundation should have been placed on *genus* rather than *species*. The new Hawaiian Honeycreeper represents a new *genus* as well as a new *species*. It had been, he says, approximately 10 years

since a new genus of birds had been discovered. New species of birds appear at the rate of one to two a year.—Ed.)

## Solar babies and nuclear banquets

The Atomic Energy Commission's constant repetition of their main reason for limiting solar-energy research and development funding, "You can't produce a baby in one month by putting nine men on the job or by getting nine women pregnant," was used again by AEC's Gorman C. Smith as reported in "Hard Thinking on Solar Energy" (SN: 2/2/74, p. 69).

The baby might not be produced in one month by using these extreme measures but in the first case you do have nine times as many chances of getting the solar mother pregnant and in the second instance you will have produced nine solar babies in only nine months.

We need as many solar babies as possible if we are to solve our energy dilemma and less beating about the bush avoiding conception.

John K. Mustard  
Executive Director  
Task Force Against Nuclear Pollution  
Moorestown, N.J.

How ludicrous it is for a member of the AEC to lecture the solar energy community that "there is no . . . free lunch." I wonder what Gorman C. Smith would call the \$50-odd billion spent in building nuclear technology and entire university nuclear departments, with the check picked up by the military? Or the \$5-10 billion spent on direct nuclear energy subsidies? Or the Price-Anderson Act? Or the \$4 billion the AEC is presently requesting to finish the development job that industry won't touch?

"Just give me a million dollars and five years . . ." seems to have a familiar ring. Oh, yes! "Give us \$3 billion and five years and we'll build a demonstration breeder reactor. . . ." If solar energy has difficulty finding free lunches, it may very well be because most of the goodies are reserved for nuclear energy banquets.

Robert L. Williams  
Sunnyvale, Calif.

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