

# Science<sup>®</sup> News

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**COVER:** Drugs combined with X-rays or surgery or even other kinds of therapy are the latest approach in the treatment of cancer. Such efforts are extending the lives of many patients. See p. 26. (Photo: Joel Carl Freid of the National Cancer Institute)

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# To the Editor

## Qu'ils mangent de la brioche?

Referring to the "Handler on Famine" article (SN: 11/2/74, p. 278): A description of an earlier, bleaker assessment of the situation by agricultural specialists (the Paddocks in their book *Famine 1975!*) appears on p. 310 of the text *Population Resources Environment*. The Paddocks suggest the adaptation of "triage"—a system of grouping military casualties at understaffed field stations to facilitate establishing priorities for dispensing treatment—to classifying nations in need of food. The basis for that classification would be the individual nation's ability to achieve self-sufficiency in some reasonably foreseeable future.

Deliberately, unconscionably calloused, the thesis is intended to shock the reader into the realization that thought must be applied to distributing the available food to minimize aggregate suffering and privation. The reaction in Robert J. Di Pietro's letter (SN: 11/16/74, p. 307) suggests that emotion is blunting the intended insight.

*Isadore Schieber  
Charlotte, N.C.*

Di Pietro brilliantly states the dumb thinking which has led to many aspects of world hunger today. How bitter to think that India, for example, could raise enough food for twice its 600 million if they would get rid of those 50 to 75 million useless cattle, 100 to 150 million almost equally useless sheep and goats. And devote some of the ingenious energy (and they are highly intelligent) to ridding their country of rats, monkeys and birds. They would export a hell of a lot more food than Viet Nam ever could.

And then where have our bright Di Pietro's been?

Back in 1957 the University of California, in an exhaustive study, warned that this world food situation was coming—and could be stopped. But the Di Pietro's had to listen to our great news media who are certainly no shakes when it comes to a quota of thinking and dispensing knowledge, but are even sorrier when it comes to wisdom of judgment.

*William Warren  
Fresno, Calif.*

## Look to earth also

Condemnation (SN: 11/9/74, p. 291) of my letter (SN: 10/12/74, p. 227) suggesting that the earth has plenty of room

for the expansion of human populations gives evidence that the article on Lagrangia (SN: 9/21/74, p. 183) wasn't read by the scientists pouncing on me.

The proposal that artificial satellites with populations of up to 10 million each could be replicated, "with a growth rate more rapid than that of the total human population," and "that these communities could be as comfortable as the most desirable parts of the earth," should have also been challenged as demonstrating "ignorance in so many areas of the human population problem" (especially in biology).

Providing for human needs out of moon and star dust is definitely within our technology, but it is certainly more difficult to achieve than providing for the same needs on the barren areas of spaceship Earth. I merely pointed out that we have additional room within our technical capabilities that were previously overlooked.

*Harry George Feinstein  
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

## Job satisfaction

Bob Trotter's article "On-the-job satisfaction" (SN: 12/7/74, p. 363) deserves a sincere, "Well done!"

I have been in the labor market for 24 years. During that time I have participated in virtually every facet of the business of industry: management, engineering, purchasing agent, draftsman, mechanic, welder, etc. And hardly a day passed when at least one of Mr. Cummings' nine "action levers" couldn't have been applied somewhere.

Too often, however, management (especially management) neglects to realize that the quantity of time spent on a job is not necessarily synonymous with the quality of time. Any job that is well done is completed *before* the first stroke of the pen; *before* the first turn of the wrench. It begins in the minds of the people who do the actual labor whether they be engineer, poet, surgeon, mechanic or whatever. It begins with that elusive factor known as attitude, fulfillment, job satisfaction—call it what you will. But until that factor becomes a tangible and recognizable quality of human dignity, then industry will just have to live with foul-ups, wasted effort and lost money.

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