

Science[®] News

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Incorporating Science News Letter

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COVER: Charmonium is not a musical instrument found in 19th-century parlors. It's one suggested characterization for the two newest discoveries in particle physics, the psi, or J, particles. Theorists are working overtime on explanations. Read all about the first of them on page 58. (Cover: Dale Appleman)

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January 25, 1975

To the Editor

Food, thought and survival

In my profession as a health instructor, I have come to recognize two extremes in the human species. At one extreme, we have individuals who objectively evaluate scientific findings and are thus able to encourage actions to avoid anticipated future problems. At the other extreme are individuals who are either totally unaware or refuse to recognize that the continuation of certain courses of action is undesirable.

It is indeed unfortunate that so many of us tended toward this latter extreme despite predictions of serious food shortages by such foresighted individuals as those on the President's Science Advisory Committee over seven years ago (SN: 11/30/74, p. 351). For if we had acted then to maximize our efforts to curtail population growth, we might not now be faced with the problem of food shortage we have created for ourselves (SN: 11/30/74, p. 340).

And yet, incredibly, as clearly revealed in your fine coverage of the Rome Food Conference (SN: Vol. 106 #18-21), we still apparently have many people who cling to the delusion that the only moral course is to continue to try to feed everybody. What good is life if its quality is decimated by its quantity?

I can only hope that the current crisis will prove sufficiently painful to convince the majority of our species that the only hope for our survival as a species lies in a better application of the name we have given ourselves—"thinking" man!

Terry Fleishman
Toledo, Ohio

A science of honesty?

Can it be true that a scientific world that can sense the importance of a unified theory of natural forces, cannot sense the need to search for a unified theory of human behavior?

Seven of the nine letters appearing in the Aug. 8 issue of SCIENCE NEWS, commenting on the Uri Geller performance, express skepticism of fraud.

In your recent article on Watergate (SN: 12/14/74, p. 378), Robert J. Trotter refers to the Garrett and Wallace suggestion that the dissonance theory helps to explain some motivation in the Watergate syndrome.

In your year-end issue you mention the falsification of immunology research reports at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and dismiss the motivation behind the Rosen-

feld forgery at Harvard as a "mystery."

Surely, logic suggests man must direct his greatest efforts in the area of his greatest need. The above items are but continuing examples of the prevalence of deception. If any one need becomes more apparent in the complex world of modern man, it seems it surely must be the need of integrity. Why then is there no science of honesty?

Why do we have an I.Q. scale, but no integrity quotient?

Who offers a course in honesty, or a degree in integrity?

Can we *honestly* feel that mankind has any greater need?

C. Lyle Strand
Strand Enterprises
Canton, Ohio

Black hole model

A recent TRW advertisement in your magazine showed an artist's rendering of a black hole accretion disk model of Cygnus X-1. We erroneously attributed the calculations underlying this model to Professor Kip Thorne of the California Institute of Technology. Professor Thorne informs us that this attribution is incorrect. The key calculations were carried out by research groups in Moscow, Russia, and Cambridge, England, not by him. We apologize for this error.

Ken Moritz
Special Projects Manager
TRW Systems Group
Redondo Beach, Calif.

Tasty morsels?

I was much troubled by your report on the lack of roughage in our diet (SN: 12/14/74, p. 379) until I hit upon the perfect solution. After I finish my week's issue of SCIENCE NEWS, I eat it.

T. V. Wolansky
Thiells, N.Y.

Chinese art

I can't put it any other way, the color reproductions of the Chinese art in the year-end review issue were beautiful! What a delightful and unexpected treat to open the magazine and see them!

Keep up the excellent reporting.

Robert F. Neff
Physics Teacher
Suffern, N.Y.

(Credit for taking those color photographs, incidentally, should go to SN's John H. Douglas, who also wrote the article.—Ed.)

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