

DO SOMETHING.

Sarah Runninghorse is an American Indian. Her life is an American tragedy. Sarah lives in a one room shack with her mother, father and nine brothers and sisters. There is no plumbing. Little food. No money. Few clothes. One person can help change her life. You. Just \$15 a month and your friendship will help Sarah break the poverty cycle by helping Sarah stay in school. Without your help, there's little chance Sarah's future will be better than her past . . . or her present. Your monthly sponsorship contribution will provide Sarah with shoes and clothing, school supplies, dignity! Count your blessings. And share a few of them with Sarah. She's your chance to do something. Please say "Yes" to Sarah. Return the coupon below. All contributions fully tax deductible.

All contributions fully tax-deductible please return the coupon below

_____ Yes, I (we) want to sponsor an American Indian Child

_____ a boy _____ a girl _____ either

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (\$15 monthly;
\$45 quarterly; \$90 semi-annually; \$180 annually)

_____ Here's help, not as a sponsor, but with a check for \$ _____

_____ Please send me more information

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____



FUTURES FOR CHILDREN

4401 Montgomery Blvd. N.E., #118 Albuquerque, N.M. 87109

SN-2-1-75

Off the Beat

Notes from the bottom of the drawer

Most journalists have one recurring resolution, predictably unattainable: "Next week we've got to get organized." The closest this resolution comes to fulfillment for most of us is a drawer marked SAVE. Unfortunately for our readers, the delightful, but usually unclassifiable material that finds its way into this treasure chest often gets thrown out during periodic spasms of conscience-stricken house-cleaning. In an effort to share at least some of these gems, herewith is a selection of notes from the bottom of the SAVE drawer:

- In three consecutive issues of CHEMICAL AND ENGINEERING NEWS during November, scientists of various persuasions argued about how best to rid a pet of skunk spray. One suggested that since the odorous compounds contain sulfur, they would react with carotenoids in tomato juice, which he recommended rubbing vigorously into the pet's fur. From England came a letter urging application of the lotion used in lady's "permanents," since this contains other sulfur groups that tend to neutralize the offending substances. Another chemist recommended giving the afflicted animal a bath in warm beer.

- Everybody has suggestions on what's wrong with India and how it can be corrected. Two researchers at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, even wrote a paper on the subject in the INDIAN JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH. They concluded that Indian industries are not attuned to adopting new technological ideas, that management tends to be "tradition-bound" and limited to family members, and that government policies tend to protect outdated techniques. They also said a communications lag "often delays the utilization of results." Indeed it does—their report was mailed in New Delhi in April and arrived in Washington just before Christmas.

- Amidst the mountain of bland press releases that churned out of the Federal bureaucracy last August came this startling headline: "World War III Being Fought with Computers." The notion that "the first battles of World War III have already been fought" was attributed to no less an authority than the director of the National Bureau of Standards' Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, Ruth M. Davis, who went on to imply that such computer-waged battles have actually

prevented more bloody encounters because the nations involved already knew the outcome. One wonders if she saw the movie based on this thesis—the computers of competing nations finally subjugated the human race.

• When the controversy over whether or not coffee drinking causes heart disease erupted into print in *SCIENCE*, one of the subsequent letters to the editor scornfully dismissed the fuss as entirely secondary to the real issue: Why aren't more people jogging? Not only is jogging possible even after a heart attack—seven heart patients from the Toronto Rehabilitation Center completed last year's Boston Marathon—but also, "The American Medical Joggers Association has been unable to document a single death resulting from coronary heart disease among marathon finishers of any age." (The AMJA?)

• Many people have stressed the need for science advice in the White House, but none have put the matter so caustically as Philip H. Abelson, the editor of *SCIENCE* (Jan. 17):

"During the last decade, and especially the past two years, the decision-makers seem to have been chosen for their ignorance of technological matters. The country has been run by a combination of politicians, public relations types, management experts and economists. Politicians are mainly drawn from the legal professions; they understand human nature and how to exploit public opinion. Public relations types are partial to the view that facts are not relevant; rather, what is important is what the public believes is true. Management experts consider that it is unnecessary to have deep knowledge about the matter they are deciding; they can get the facts from others. The record of economists during the past two years speaks for itself.

"It would appear that the current level of decision-making might be improved if there were a slight infusion of some of the competences and values that many scientists and engineers share. We don't want to be the whole stew but we do suggest that a little sprinkling of the salt of facts and enduring values might be useful."

He might have added Mark Twain's great tribute to the power of facts: "Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run."

Erich von Daniken finally admitted he had never seen remnants of a lost civilization, as he had claimed in *Gold of the Gods*; but now Peter Tompkins (*The Secret Life of Plants*) says Von Daniken told him the fabrication was just to cover up the real, even more incredible story. Tompkins says he going to take an expedition to see for himself. (HARPER'S, Nov. '74.) □

—John H. Douglas

NEW! "SOLAR HOUSE PLANS" by Edmund, Homan, Thomason and Wells



ecology • economy • utility • nature • harmony
**ACTUAL WORKING BLUEPRINTS
FOR YOUR SOLAR HOME**

Learn all about the most fascinating possible home of the future! It can be your "now" answer to today's energy crisis in housing. And for the years ahead. Your builder can modify or actually use the complete blueprints included in the book to create a solar heated and air conditioned home that you'll be proud of . . . and comfortable in. It's even more ecological by having a beautiful earth covering.

Designed by renowned ecological architect Malcolm B. Wells, this modern masterpiece includes the patented and home-tested Thomason

"Solaris System", the only proven actual working system—proven for 10 years! . . . the system that can cut conventional heating costs by as much as two-thirds.

This is the definitive book on solar homes. Experts have filled its 48 easy-to-read 8½ x 11" pages with intriguing facts and illustrations (plus an additional section of your complete blueprints). Among subjects discussed are "why solar heat?", "why earth covering?", why the owners decided to build the home shown. There is a section on architectural problems and considerations, plus one on solar heating system design, theory and construction. Other solar homes are discussed also. Everything you'll want to know about building a solar home is here—the advantages, problems, savings and suggestions.

Send today. Available only from Edmund Scientific Co. As with everything Edmund sells, it carries a 30-day money-back guarantee. Read it. Examine it. Enjoy it. Return it for a full refund if you aren't delighted!

Stock No. 9469Q Just **\$24.95** Ppd.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST!

For about \$40,000 you can build the solar home with 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, kitchen, dining room, living room, recreation room, photo darkroom, utility room, office/studio, lots of closets, storage.

GIANT FREE CATALOG!

NEW! 180 PAGES—OVER 4500 UNUSUAL BARGAINS FOR HOBBYISTS, SCHOOLS, INDUSTRY . . . JUST CHECK COUPON!



EDMUND SCIENTIFIC CO.

300 Edscorp Bldg., Barrington, N. J. 08007

America's Greatest Science • Optics • Hobby Mart

Helping develop America's Technology for over 30 yrs.

COMPLETE AND MAIL COUPON NOW

EDMUND SCIENTIFIC CO.

300 Edscorp Bldg., Barrington, N. J. 08007

() Send me "SOLAR HOUSE PLANS"

BOOK(S) @ \$24.95 ea. (No. 9469Q) \$ _____

Service & handling charge \$ _____ .50

FREE Total \$ _____

180-page Catalog

Encl. is Check M. O. in amt. of \$ _____

Name _____

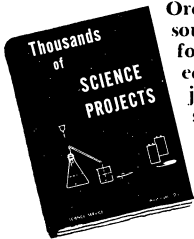
Please Print

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Teachers, Students, Librarians



Order this ready source of ideas for science projects at the junior and senior high level. Thousands of Science Projects is a collection of over 4,000 titles

of projects entered in local science fairs, the International Science and Engineering Fair, and the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Some projects are so basic they have been done thousands of times. Some are largely original.

The titles have been classified by subject matter using the Library of Congress classification system so students can more easily find what they want in the library. Price: \$1.00 each postpaid. Send check or money order to:

THOUSANDS

c/o Science Clubs of America

1719 N St. N. W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

DESIGNING PICTURES with STRING

Now you can design pictures with string. This exciting new hobby is clearly explained in this challenging new craft book. Author Robert E. Sharpton, artist, teacher and mathematician, provides carefully detailed **STEP-BY-STEP** instructions and abundant illustrations. He shows you how to decorate your home with String Art sailboats, fish, steeples, kites, balloons and many other abstract, realistic, and free form designs and how to make your own original creations. String art designs make highly prized gifts and may be sold for prices ranging upwards of \$25.

The simple, inexpensive and readily available materials needed, are listed and explained in detail. Rush only \$6.95 plus 50¢ handling. 10-Day Money Back Guarantee.

**EMERSON BOOKS, Inc., Dept. 126-B
Buchanan, New York 10511**



THE DIVERSITY OF HUMAN BELIEVING

CORRELATIONS

A NEWSLETTER

SAMPLE COPY \$1.00

THE LOGIC PRESS

260 GODWIN AVE.

WYCKOFF, N.J. 07481

STRANGE ARTIFACTS

A SOURCEBOOK ON ANCIENT MAN

Over 100 articles on Stonehenge, Scottish Fused Forts, Phoenicians in America, ancient Arizona canals, and other mysterious artifacts as originally printed in *Nature*, *Archaeologia* and other publications. Thorough index.

262 pages, hard covers, \$6.95 postpaid

Published by: **THE SOURCEBOOK PROJECT**

BOX 107B, GLEN ARM, MARYLAND 21057