

Science[®] News

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Incorporating Science News Letter

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COVER: It is the brilliant colors, as well as the cross-shaped structure of plagioclase feldspar crystals, in this thin section of an Apollo 12 moonrock that have inspired comparisons with stained-glass windows. Now NASA is making lunar samples available for use in classrooms, where teachers may find that holding the moon in one's hand gives new meaning to geology. See p. 276. (Photo: NASA)

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April 26, 1975

To the Editor

Death education

Our son died six months ago after a three-year struggle with leukemia. We submit that "death education" ("Teaching Doctors to Care for the Dying," SN: 3/15/75, p. 176) should be an integral part of every physician's training. May we rephrase a portion of one sentence in the article, "Frequently families of dying patients get angry at physicians, which is really a cover for their anger at fate for letting their loved ones die," to read more accurately, from our experience, "which is partly a cover for their own frustration at being unable to save their loved ones, and partly a real anger at having to deal as well with the fears and misconceptions of physicians untrained in death acceptance."

Mary Jane Stewart Wade
Campbell M. Wade
Charlottesville, Va.

I have had the privilege of visiting regularly with a friend during her final year of cancer. She was only 46. It was a privilege to be with her because of her healthy attitude toward both life and death.

I asked, "How are your nurses and doctors?" She smiled, "Oh, they can't handle this." Another friend at present has terminal cancer (liver and stomach) and has the same cheerful attitude. Both learned the capacity to make others feel at ease; to create peace and an assurance that all is well. It is a comforting, reassuring experience to visit such people.

Claudia Bain
Vancouver, B.C.

IUD cover

We consider the cover picture on the IUD article (SN: 4/5/75) in bad taste. "Insulting," a married clerk commented on seeing it. I checked with some high school seniors; same opinion. To use contraceptives as eyes, nose and mouth of a woman seems objectionable.

Sister Mary Teresa, O.P.
Assistant Librarian

Maria Regina Diocesan High School
Uniondale, N.Y.

Whoever permitted that degrading cover on the April 5 issue certainly sets himself or herself up as insensitive to the feelings of women. It isn't "cute," it isn't "funny," and it certainly is misplaced. I

hope Ann Lunsford is heavily criticized and that she takes it seriously enough not to repeat this.

I believe these devices should be examined closely, tested severely, and the "faddishness" be outlawed. The fact that even one death has been caused by IUD should be enough warning to immediately halt their use until studies are made.

Lucile Bent
Oakland, Calif.

You tell Annie Lunsford that her IUD face on the April 5th cover was very extraordinarily good and clever.

Gus B. Stuart,
Chairman, Science Division
Elgin Community College
Elgin, Ill.

From a Gaucher's victim

Your article "Enzyme engineering for therapy" (SN: 3/29/75, p. 211) is the best one that I as a victim of Gaucher's disease have had available to me. For the first time ever I now know what is wrong with me, and why I underwent a successful splenectomy recently.

Is there a national group devoted to research in this very specialized area—Gaucher's disease? If so please advise so that I may keep in touch with latest developments in the field and also to register with them should they need volunteers for research experiments in this area.

Your magazine has lived up to its advertised purpose of dealing with science news in a way that laymen can understand. This article is proof of that.

R. Bakin
Canoga Park, Calif.

Seeing red about subs

The SCIENCE NEWS article, "CIA Sub Caper" (SN: 3/29/75, p. 204), reflects an attitude of national weakness. Not only does the liberal press berate activities helpful to the national defense, but now one gathers that the scientific community cringes at the thought of "repercussions."

Advancement of the United States's security and prosperity takes many forms.

The United Nations is obviously dominated by a bloc inimical to the United States. The "Law of the Sea Conference" is therefore certain to impede American exploitation of the oceans. Our nation's betterment lies within our own hands, not in foreign controls nor in timid application of knowledge or initiative.

Samuel D. Foster
Philadelphia-Continental Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
Wayne, Pa.

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