

OF THE WEEK

New nova in Orion?	196
4,500-year-old shipwreck	196
Ford honors scientists	196
Fruittfly learning ability	197
Transuranic elements	197
Mounting woodland crisis	198
Marker-hormones identify cancer	198
Warped galaxies	199
Rocketplane era ends	199

RESEARCH NOTES

Astronomy	202
Biology	203
Technology	203

ARTICLES

Galactic taxonomy	204
-------------------	-----

DEPARTMENTS

Books	194
Letters	195
Stars	206
Products	206

COVER: Mapping of radio galaxies indicates that they can be sorted into four classes. This one, 3C 264, a haloed source, belongs to Class II. The classes can be made to form an evolutionary sequence. See p. 204. (Illustration: Stull et al. in the *Astronomical Journal* 80:568)

Publisher	E. G. Sherburne Jr.
Editor	Kendrick Frazier
Senior Editor and Physical Sciences	Dietrick E. Thomsen
Senior Editor and Behavioral Sciences	Robert J. Trotter
Biomedical Sciences	Joan Arehart-Treichel
Biology/Chemistry	Janet Hopson Weinberg
Science and Society	John H. Douglas
Space Sciences	Jonathan Eberhart
Contributing Editor/ Mathematics	Lynn Arthur Steen
Copy Editor	Michelle Galler Riegel
Art Director	Dale Appleman
Assistant to the Editor	Esther Gilgoff
Books	Margit Friedrich
Advertising	Scherago Associates, Inc. 11 W. 42nd St. New York, N.Y. 10036 Fred W. Dieffenbach Sales Director

Copyright © 1975 by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS is prohibited.

Editorial and Business Offices
1719 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Subscription Department
231 West Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$10; 2 yrs., \$18; 3 yrs., \$25. (Add \$2 a year for Canada and Mexico, \$3 for all other countries.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to be addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (202-785-2255). Cable SCIENSERV. Telex 64227.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1975

LETTERS

Statement on astrology

Hooray! It's about time the scientific community has made a concerted effort to label these pseudoscientific claims for what they really are—bunk! ("Science vs astrology: New battle, old war": SN: 9/13/75, p. 166). Now maybe people will wake up and master their own destiny instead of depending upon astrology to do it for them. There is no doubt that firm believers will denounce this claim, since no one likes their beliefs shot down before them, but it is high time they face up to reality like the rest of us.

Now, if only more efforts were made in a similar vein about other occult and pseudoscientific realms that would finally set things straight about secret lives of plants and the Uri Gellers, the public would be much better off both intellectually and financially.

Steven Okulewicz
Dept. of Physics, Geology
& Astronomy
Staten Island Community College
Staten Island, N.Y.

While I may agree with their viewpoint, I find it inconceivable that 186 prominent scientists lent their names to such a warning. As charming as astrology is, it certainly doesn't warrant such concern.

M. C. Schoonmaker III
Forest Hills, N.Y.

Climate change in New Zealand

With reference to "Warming in the Southern Hemisphere" (SN: 8/16/75, p. 105), we must point out that even New Zealand is experiencing climatic change. Extreme weather events have been occurring even though temperatures are still climbing.

The country recorded its highest temperature (42° C) in February 1973 since records were begun, and during the winters of 1974 and 1975 east coast areas of the country which are normally dry have had high rainfall and consequent flooding. In March 1975 a tropical cyclone ravished the country and at the end of July, New Zealand had its strongest gale since European settlement. The gale blew down many established forests. During July, southern New Zealand had its highest winter temperatures (22° C) ever recorded, while central New Zealand was experiencing the heaviest snowfalls for many years.

With the climatic warming there has been

a poleward shift in pressure belts in contrast to the squeezing of climatic zones towards the equator observed in the Northern Hemisphere. In other words, the idea that migration of southern climatic zones are mirror images of northern counterparts does not appear to happen in the southwest Pacific.

M.J. Salinger
Scientist, Physiology Department
University of Otago Medical School
Dunedin, New Zealand

Nova Cygni 1975

Nearly every major newspaper in the land properly credited a 17-year-old Japanese amateur astronomer with the discovery of Nova Cygni 1975 (SN: 9/13/75, p. 164). But not SCIENCE NEWS! International Astronomical Union Circular 2826 (which you quote) clearly records that Kentaro Osada, Yamaguchi, Japan, officially reported the nova more than two hours ahead of all the others. Let's give the young amateur observers credit where it is due!

J.U. Gunter
Durham, N.C.

(According to Brian Marsden, 17-year-old Kentaro Osada was apparently the first person to see the nova; M. Honda was the first person to report it officially. The question is somewhat moot because there were many hundred independent discoveries and because novae, unlike comets, are not named after their discoverers.—Ed.)

Overkill?

I used to think that lawyers would spell the downfall of civilization. I'm not so sure anymore that it won't be the social scientists and environmentalists. Consider, for example, the overkill in the report on patching plasters (SN: 8/16/75, p. 100). I'm certain that even dirt has its share of carcinogens. Does this mean we outlaw it?

Howard L. McFann
Linwood, N.J.

Fingertip perception

Regarding the sense of touch (SN: 8/2/75, p. 73), there is a simpler explanation for the results of the experiments described: In bare finger contact, the natural skin oils and sweat act as a lubricant, reducing friction and therefore reducing the sensory input. Inserting a paper eliminates the lubricant effect.

M. F. Thorne
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Cretaceous, not 19th century

In the Sept. 13 issue, the word "million" was accidentally omitted in a sentence describing when a sunken island in the Atlantic had begun its descent (p. 165). The correct figure is 105 million years ago.—Ed.

SCIENCE SERVICE

Institution for the Popularization of Science founded 1921; a nonprofit corporation

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: **Deborah P. Wolfe**, Queens College of City University of New York; **Bowen C. Dees**, The Franklin Institute; **Athelstan Spilhaus**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Nominated by the NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: **Gerald F. Tape**, Associated Universities; **Allen V. Astin**, Bethesda, Md.; **Glenn T. Seaborg** (President), University of California, Berkeley. Nominated by the NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: **Gerald Holton**, Harvard University; **Joseph W. Berg Jr.**, National Research Council; **Aaron Rosenthal**, National Academy of Sciences. Nominated by the JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION: **Edward Bliss Jr.**, American University; **Julius Duscha**, Washington Journalism Center; **O. W. Riegel** (Secretary), Washington and Lee University. Nominated by E. W. Scripps Trust: **Milton Harris** (Treasurer), Washington, D.C.; **Edward W. Scripps II** (Vice President and Chairman of the Executive Committee), Edward W. Scripps Trust; **John Troan**, Pittsburgh Press.

Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr.; Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver; Business Manager: Donald R. Harless; Things of Science: Ruby Yoshioka.

195