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COVER: The right hemisphere of the human brain is thought to play an important role in creativity, intuition, art, music, spatial abilities and a number of other things. These findings are supported by various lines of research, including a study of the Inuit Eskimos and their art. See story p. 218. (Collage: Dale Appleman)

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LETTERS

Moon rocks at school

I would like to add my comments to Jonathan Eberhart's article "Moon Rocks Go to School" (SN: 4/26/75, p. 276), since I have just completed participation in this program. I congratulate NASA on this program to make available lunar materials for study at the public level. The use of these thin sections provided my students the opportunity to compare lunar mineralogy with that found in terrestrial rocks. The comparisons were striking, and the overall interest generated in my students cannot be duplicated by the best of color slides. By making these specimens available for public study, NASA has truly brought the moon home to the people.

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Acronymania

The term "Acronymania" (SN: 1/31/76, p. 67) most appropriately describes the affliction, common among management-oriented personnel in government, private industry, and civic organizations, that is responsible for the disturbing proliferation of acronym production. Something ought to be done to curb this distressing malady. Perhaps thought should be given to forming a National Association to Undertake the Systematic Elimination of Acronymania.

S. O. Nelson
Lincoln, Neb.

Ongoing debate

John Douglas's articles on "The Great Nuclear Power Debate" will unquestionably be recorded by history as one of the finest, fairest attempts to get at the facts in this emotionally warped technological issue.

The hysterical allegations condemning nuclear energy cannot be borne out by carefully analyzed fact and stem from our basic societal problem today—fear of the unknown coupled with a distorted distrust of government and industry. The Riley and Cohen comments of Feb. 14 are but an example of this pervading problem.

This phenomenon of our times is triggered by naive recognition of and childish disillusionment with organization, institution and establishment containing elements of human frailty. These frailties have always been present and probably always will be. As increasingly wider segments of the population spectrum seek more than superficial understanding of the complexities of today's society, of which technology is a significant fraction, they grapple, like a teenager discovering sex, with the inescapable need for perspective and wisdom necessary for the logical and rational integration of their new found knowledge.

But the human frailties that frighten our intellectually adolescent observers are, unfortunately, omnipresent and can be found both in the condemner and the condemnee. This is evidenced by Riley's comments where he advocates emotional outcry at the expense of intellectual integrity and Cohen's inference that data are not important in crucial decisions.

These obviously intelligent and well-meaning people cannot really mean what they say. Are they not both victims of our most ancient and prevalent human frailty—that the end justifies the means—that distortion and non-objectivity are "A-OK" so long as they satisfy their personal set of values? Shame, Shame!

This sort of fuzzy thinking on the part of amateur crusaders in the midst of extremely complicated technology is the very reason we must have Douglas's "honestly defined and clearly presented" fact in the resolution of any technologically based issue.

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Madison, Wis.

Left hand of life

The article "Physics and the Left Hand of Life" (SN: 11/29/75, p. 340) is somewhat misleading. Namely, a relationship between the "left hand of life" and the "left-handedness of weak interactions" has been proposed as early as 1957 by Vester and Ulbricht. Though they obtained no unequivocal results to prove their hypothesis, quite a few papers have been published in the past several years furnishing evidence that $\beta+$ and $\beta-$ particles interact differently with L and D molecules. In order to understand this differential interaction, a model has been proposed according to which the orbital electrons in optically active molecules have a non-zero spin-polarization with respect to their velocity. The contribution of weak interactions to the binding energy of L and D molecules has been calculated too (10^{-12} eV).

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