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COVER: Earth Day's legacy is a strategy to thwart the environmental degradation and economic deprivation plundering the planet we call home. See pages 260 and 269. (Cover photo courtesy of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture)

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LETTERS

No alternate?

In "Cosmological Communication" (SN: 3/29/80, p. 201) it is suggested that in order to account for the observed homogeneity and isotropy of the universe "one must weaken gravity in the early moments" after the big bang.

The "attractive alternate" hypothesis of gravitational repulsion between matter and antimatter (SN: 4/5/80, p. 211) would predict just such an effect since gravitational attraction between matter and matter, and between antimatter and antimatter, would be offset in the beginning by gravitational repulsion between matter and antimatter in close proximity, until such later time as matter and antimatter became largely separated due to gravitational repulsion.

John Blethen
San Francisco, Calif.

High I.Q from select seed

Being neither geneticist, psychologist, nor mathematician, and possessed of only very ordinary I.Q., I am awed by the jargon and vast numbers flowing in arguments in SCIENCE NEWS and other publications ridiculing the idea of producing a strain of high I.Q. children.

Although awed, I remain, somehow, unconvinced. Could it be that I detect in the fastidiously structured arguments just a hint of liberal party line smog? None refer to actual studies.

Terman (Stanford) once launched a study of fifteen hundred (1,500) children with I.Q.s in the top 1 percent of the general population. The study has continued now for over half a century, and the children of those children also averaged in the top 1 percent. A division which would reduce environment contribution to nil was faithfully reflected.

Maybe I.Q. as measured isn't what we think it is. In any case, if the gene contribution, per argument, be inevitably lost in the essential randomness of myriad combinations, we seem to be faced with a heroic statistical monstrosity. The probability that the Terman study results were pure chance appears to be about one in a number that sorta looks like the number of electrons in our galaxy.

No doubt I'm missing something, but maybe some geneticists are missing something too.

I'll bet anybody a beer that if Shockley sires 1,000 children from high I.Q. women, about 990 of those kids will have high I.Qs, regardless of environment.

Milton Vordahl
Pateros, Wash.

Correction: 1,816 ± 5 kilometers is the radius of Io, not, as stated in last week's issue, it's diameter.

SCIENCE ON TV

SCIENCE NEWS prints the latest written word of scientific developments and noteworthy news. We set this space aside each month to inform our readers of programs of scientific interest that are scheduled on television. Check your local listings for exact times.

• **May 14 (ABC)—"Mysteries of the Sea"** examines the past, present and future of undersea exploration. It traces human attempts to conquer the sea from the time of the human as "diving mammal" (including a look at the ancient ritual of breath-hold diving) to "man the mechanical mammal" (with a segment on Sylvia Earle, marine biologist and ecologist, who dove to a depth of 1,250 feet to walk on the floor of Hawaii's Molokai Channel in an armored one-atmosphere diving suit). Undersea exploration's drama is shown with dives to explore the Civil War ship *Monitor* and the Spanish galleon *Tolosa*.

• **May 26 (PBS) "Your Future Isn't What it Used to Be"** is the first in the new "Cover Story" series (a TV-news magazine produced in association with NEWSWEEK and featuring some of that magazine's correspondents). Segments include an exploration of fission and fusion energy as possible sources for future needs; an examination of space exploration with emphasis on the race between countries to establish supremacy; a profile of Herman Kahn, director of the Hudson Institute and an unabashed believer in the growth technology can bring about; and a look at past predictions of the future—our present.

• **May 26 (PBS)** National Geographic Society — **"Gold!"** is a rerun examining the history and allure of the precious metal.

• **NOVA (PBS)** — Programs (all reruns) being shown in May include: May 6 **"The Green Machine"** — a look at the complexities and mysteries of plants; May 13 **"The Great Wine Revolution"** — a look beyond the vineyard to the laboratory for the secrets of the grape; May 20 **"Life on a Silken Thread"** — a dazzling look at the much-maligned spider; and May 27 **"Light of the 21st Century"** — an examination of possible uses of the laser in years to come.

• **Odyssey (PBS)** — May 4 **"The Incas"** — an archaeological re-examination of these prosperous 16th century Peruvians; May 11 **"Ongka's Big Moka"** — a look at a New Guinea ceremony in which the giving of gifts *(moka)* helps determine a man's prestige and authority; May 18 **"Other People's Garbage"** — the document of past life in America in what archaeologists find of day-to-day artifacts; May 25 **"Maasai Women"** — an exploration of the role of women among the Maasai of Kenya.

• **"Science TV News"** — The American Institute of Physics, with a grant from the National Science Foundation, has prepared a series of 90-second reports on the impact of physics in our lives that are being aired on commercial TV news programs. Past topics have included "Physics in Medicine" and "Energy in the Eighties." Upcoming is a series on astronomy.

• **"The World About Us"** is a BBC wildlife series that will be available on cable TV in the United States beginning in May.