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COVER: Saturn, photographed from 34 million kilometers away by the Voyager 1 spacecraft on Oct. 18, the last day in which the planet and its rings could be contained by one of the onrushing probe's narrow-angle frames. Similar images through certain filters show spots and other cloudtop details, but this one reveals such features as a gap in the inner "C" ring and material in the conspicuous Cassini division. Near the south pole is the satellite Dione. See pp. 277 and 282. (Photo: JPL)

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LETTERS

Those dangerous weekends

In reference to your article "Mondays may be hazardous to your health" (SN: 9/27/80, p. 199), there is a glaring omission, either in the research reported or in your reporting of that research, at least in my view. It should have occurred to the researchers (at least the following is true from my vantage point as a psychotherapist and marriage counselor), that it is not "Mondays" at all, but weekends that are "hazardous." A great many of those persons who drop dead on Monday are suffering the effects and consequences of disastrous weekends which have loaded them up for sixty or so hours with disappointment, frustration and rage. In short, these researchers may have missed the boat and could have studied what could be the "real" culprit, namely weekends. In this light, the only thing wrong with "Mondays" is that they didn't come soon enough.

Thomas Lee Thompson, L.C.S.W.
Towson, Md.

Perfume and perception

Concerning Jungle Gardenia (SN: 9/20/80, p. 184), is it not possible that the women's perceptions of themselves varied with perfume and dress and that these perceptions were (subconsciously?) transmitted to the men during the interviews? Also, other perfumes may not have yielded the same results.

Joseph C. Schissler
Columbia, Md.

The wrong energy answer?

Your article "Congress pledges a big spur to fusion" (SN: 10/4/80, p. 214) troubles me. Before spending or committing $20 billion to developing fusion power, I would urge that another energy source be thoroughly evaluated, namely, deep rock heat mining, an aspect of geothermal power. This has been claimed to be close to economical at the present time (ref. article in TECHNOLOGY REVIEW, Feb. 1979).

With so much at stake, it would be tragic to plunge so heavily into the wrong energy answer. The heat of the earth is inexhaustible, lies beneath us all everywhere for the taking, and is environmentally faultless. I'll wager that deep heat mining will prove to be less technically difficult than getting fusion to work. Let's make darn sure which is preferable before we shoot our roll.

William B. Elmer
Campton, N.H.

Not a first

With regard to Dietrick Thomsen's article on the Solar Maximum Mission (SN: 9/6/80, p. 152): In general the article is interesting and accurate. However, the assertion that Solar Maximum Mission is the first to detect gamma ray line emission from the sun is incorrect. Gamma ray lines were first detected from the very large solar flares of early August 1972 by a University of New Hampshire experiment aboard NASA's OSO-7 satellite. Since then, a number of other gamma ray events have been seen by detectors aboard the HEAO-3 and P78-1 (Air Force) satellites. The gamma ray spectrometer aboard SMM is the latest instrument designed specifically for detecting solar gamma ray bursts, and a number of bursts have been seen by it but they were not the first to be detected.

David M. Rust
Greenbelt, Md.

Correction: Regarding "Targeting cancer drugs with antibodies" (SN: 10/4/80, p. 215): Monoclonal antibodies were not attached to total diphtheria toxin or ricin toxin, but only to portions of those toxins called "A chains." The reason for this is that whole diphtheria toxin or ricin toxin is poisonous for any kind of cell, whereas the A chain of either toxin is poisonous only for colon cancer cells — provided it is linked with monoclonal antibodies directed against colon cancer cells.

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