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Letters

Intelligence: The 4 Rs

Shades of Lysenko in the USSR under Stalin.
When the data don't fit the dream, change the
tests ("Intelligence Test: Sizing Up A New-
comer," SN: 10/30/82, p. 280)!

Seriously, since modern civilizations are de-
pendent on the written word and mathematics,
any tests which ignore or attempt to minimize
these subjects are doomed to triviality.

Perhaps we need to explicitly define "intelli-
gence" as the 4 Rs: readin', 'ritin', 'rithmetic,
reasonin'.

M. F. Thorne
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Mixed-up supernovae

In his story on plans for the MIRA extragalac-
tic supernova patrol ("1054 and All That," SN:
1/15/83, p. 44), Mr. Thomsen has mixed up his
historical supernovae. The one that occurred in
the year 1006 was (according to Clark and
Stephenson) extremely brilliant, observed in
many parts of the world, including medieval
Europe—no need for retrospective conjectures

This Week

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Cover: Pygmy chimpanzees, which live only in an isolated jungle
region of central Africa, have until recently been studied exclusively
in captivity. Now, studies in the wild have yielded intriguing
behavioral data and rekindled a debate about early hominid
evolution. (Photograph by Noel Badrian)
- 93 Europe's Choice: Where Next in Space?



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— and was located in the southern constella-
tion Lupus.

The one that gave rise to the radio source
Cas A is thought to have occurred late in the
17th century. Recently it has been suggested
that it was seen as a 6th-magnitude object by
Flamsteed, who marked such a star on his atlas
in the vicinity of Cas A, where no star is visible
today. Mr. Thomsen may wish to refer to his
short note on this matter (SN: 1/26/80, p. 56).

R. S. Freitag
Arlington, Va.

It already exists

Referring to Dietrick E. Thomsen's second ar-
ticle on monopoles (SN: 12/4/82, p. 362), there is
reference to a proposed experiment by Barry C.
Barish which would involve spending about \$5
million for a *football field covered with alumi-
num sheet*.

In the article, Mr. Barish proposes that an
acoustic transducer could be attached to the
edge of such an array with a chance of catching
a monopole.

Please inform Mr. Barish that there is a
possibility this \$5 million need not be spent to
do the experiment. *Such a field already indeed*
exists and is used as the ground plane for the Big
Ear Radio telescope in Delaware, Ohio.

Robert M. Sickels
Fort Pierce, Fla.

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