

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication
Volume 124, No. 24, December 10, 1983

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Subscription Department
231 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$27.50; 2 yrs., \$47.50; 3
yrs., \$67.00. (Foreign postage \$5.00 additional per
year.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice
is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to
be addressed. Include zip code. For new
subscriptions only call (1) 800-247-2160. 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)
ISSN 0036-8423

Letters

Nuclear war and humanity

Your article "Beyond Armageddon" (SN: 11/
12/83, p. 314) reminds me that what raises man
above other animals is *not* his ability to do great
things; what raises man above other animals is
his ability *not* to do bestial things.

Beasts seek to satisfy their own desires and
do not consider what will happen to other ani-
mals or themselves in the future as a result of
what they do. They do not consider what will
happen to their environment or the world as a
whole.

Man can override his desire to satisfy himself
at the expense of others. This ability allows
hime to consider the environment and how
what he is doing will affect other people and
animals. Man can avoid being selfish and this is
what makes man better than other animals.

It is time for man to decide if he is willing to
be less secure from his enemies or is more will-
ing to risk becoming extinct along with every-
thing else on earth.

Elder R. Koeller, Jr.
Bonduel, Wis.

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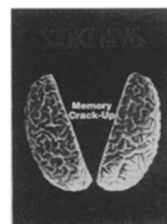
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Cover: Scientists have found that when memory fails, it fails selectively. Recent studies of the brain anatomy underlying different forms of amnesia are providing insights into the biology of normal learning.



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Perhaps we are all living in a *Belle Époque* of humanity, enjoying the last delights and pitfalls of human society before the onset of a nuclear winter that will have no spring.

If so, let's all be aware of its as reflected by more precise language. There is no "After Nuclear War." Your cover title might better have been "Non-After After Nuclear War."

Sonja Richts
Los Angeles, Calif.

There is an old saying in the stock market that "When all the experts agree, they're bound to be wrong."

That certainly applies to "The World After Nuclear War," the nuclear arms conference reported by Janet Raloff in "Beyond Armageddon."

The obvious boner is pinpointed in the last paragraph: "An announcement was made before the conference that as one of its ground rules, no discussion would be allowed concerning the politics of nuclear war, military policy or arms-control policy."

In discussing the nuclear arms crisis, it is essential not to lose sight of the basic problems,

namely, that wars are started by dictators. If the future of the world depends on peace, then it depends on democracy. The final solution to the bomb is to reduce the number of dictators to zero.

The Soviet scientists should tell that to the Kremlin, and make them believe it.

The great psychiatrist Sigmund Freud said, "The voice of reason prevails, sooner or later." It's too late for it to prevail sooner, but better later than never.

Kenneth J. Epstein
Chicago, Ill.

To describe the pervasive winter after a nuclear holocaust, I hereby coin the term "holofrost." Having lived all my life on or next to prime nuclear targets, I feel qualified and motivated to make a few grim observations....

The sooner you die during or after a nuclear war, the better. Perhaps the conference will get anti-cruise missile Europeans to realize that they're all going to die horribly anyway, and we're doing them a favor by getting them targeted.

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