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Letters

More religion

The letter (SN: 4/14/84, p. 227) under the heading *Religious thoughts* referred to "Clergy Ponder the New Genetics" (SN: 3/24/84). He says, "... they find themselves in a classical paradox. If there is an omnipotent, omniscient God, He has obviously allowed the scientists to discover these techniques and to apply them. If there is no such God, the clergy have no more standing than the corner bartender."

May I point out that the clergy finds no such paradox — it *knows* there is an omnipotent, omniscient God. We, who are constrained by the scientific method, face the issue whether scientific knowledge alone is enough to provide a sound basis for judgment in such a keystone technology.

If Science is omnipotent and omniscient, it has the ability and wisdom to plan evolution.

If Science has no such qualities, then we had better consult everyone for input — including the corner bartender.

Oliver R. Odhner
Perkiomenville, Pa.

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Cover: Experimental mathematics takes on a chaotic, colorful look when computer graphics is combined with studies of the behavior of iterated mathematical functions. Shown is the result of iterating the product of a complex number and the exponential function, e^z . The colors tell how "quickly" a given point goes to "infinity" and show regions where the function is said to behave chaotically. (Illustration: C. Small, C. Mayberry, S. Smith/Boston Univ.)



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on-going creation, rather than antagonists in our own petty squabbles.

Philip J. Sakimoto
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Not to worry

Your article "Virus Hunter's Guide" (SN: 5/12/84, p. 292) brought into perspective the breadth of our activities to provide surveillance methods by which to isolate and identify water-borne viruses. Finding human enteric viruses in rivers, lakes and other waters almost always connotes fecal contamination. [While] current wastewater treatment processes are not likely to remove all viruses from effluents discharged to the environment, in the article unfortunately my comment was transposed to filtration plants used for drinking water treatment. I am sure your readers will be glad to learn that viruses are not constantly emitted in drinking water.

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