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Letters

Sailing the high seas

I read with great interest about the capabilities of the JOIDES Resolution ("A New Resolution for Ocean Drilling," SN: 2/2/85, p. 68). Being able to "go to higher altitudes..." must be unique among oceangoing ships. However, if its mission is to drill into the earth I suggest that it stay in the lower altitudes to reduce the distance to be drilled, thus saving research dollars.

Thomas G. Hartung
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Ed.'s note:

*If latitudes were altitudes
Our attitudes would differ
From those that place the oceans
So far from the Big Dipper.*

*So here we stand in gratitude
For your comments, in no way platitudes,
And further think that JOIDES oughta
Keep both oars in the water.*

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Cover: Environmental laws deal with pollutants within the separate confines of air, land or water, but many toxic substances stray beyond those regulatory bounds. Regulators are beginning to rethink the fragmented environmental policy in an attempt to manage such "crossover" pollutants. (Photo: Phil Brodatz, *Land, Sea and Sky*)



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Garrulous schizophrenics?

I disagree with your headline "Support Therapy Gets Boost" in the story about the Gunderson study of psychotherapy for schizophrenics (SN: 12/22&29/84, p. 388).

One of the quickest and surest ways I know of to lose a job is to complain a lot, blame others (especially your family) for your troubles and continuously verbalize your ideas and opinions without inhibition. That is exactly what psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapists encourage their patients to do. No wonder such "expressive, insight-oriented" patients joined the unemployed more quickly than the patients who were merely given "supportive" therapy.

If a no-treatment control group of schizophrenics had been used, I am confident the study would have shown the "support therapy" patients to have fared the same as the controls. In other words, support therapy is merely useless, while the "insight" therapies, which encourage self-centered garrulousness, are actually harmful.

As numerous articles in SCIENCE NEWS have

amply demonstrated, schizophrenia is a *biological* disorder, and requires biological, not talk, therapy.

Bernhard Rimland
Director, Institute for Child Behavior Research
San Diego, Calif.

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