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Letters

'Blatant speciesism'

In "Funding for humans' closest relatives" (SN: 5/18/85, p. 311), D.D. Bennett writes: "A main reason for saving the world's nonhuman primates is that they are a valuable model for studying the behavior of a close relative — humans." Although I deal with anthropocentrism every day in my attempts to increase human respect for other life forms, never have I encountered such blatant speciesism!

Humans are fond of saying, "Our world is shrinking," as they experience the phenomena of jet travel and increasing urbanization on a worldwide basis. The world is shrinking even faster for many other animals, principally identified through our classification of endangered species. Is it really possible that you believe that nonhuman animals have no inherent concern for their survival simply because they do not speak human language? Do you ac-

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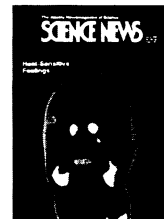
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Cover: Facial temperature heats up during anger, as indicated by the orange areas in this thermograph. A long-forgotten theory has recently been revised and suggests that facial expressions regulate blood flow to the brain, which in turn affects facial and brain temperature, neurotransmitter release and the experience of emotion itself. (Photo: Zajonc/Saper/Adelman)



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tually believe they are on this earth merely for our benefit? Can you not conceptualize the earth as a continuous web of life, each component supporting all others? For that's what it is, you know — regardless of what the human ego would like it to be.

Donald J. Barnes
Washington Director
The National Anti-Vivisection Society
Washington, D.C.

Energy machine 'obvious'

Based solely on the contents of the article, "A patent pursuit: Joe Newman's 'energy machine'" (SN: 6/1/85, p. 342), the operation of Newman's machine seems obvious and not in violation of any physical laws.

The "energy machine" is a good example of Faraday's Law of electromagnetic induction. First, Newman is using a permanent magnet

which has a natural magnetic field. Second, he is using the energy input to rotate the permanent magnet and create a magnetic field in the solenoid. The varying magnetic field that is then established via the permanent magnet and the solenoid induces a current that lights up the incandescent and fluorescent lights. Therefore, due to the fact that a permanent magnet is used, the energy input is almost independent of the energy output.

Without knowing the specifics of the design, it would be impossible for me to calculate these quantities. Nevertheless, Newman's design is good engineering, probably deserving of a patent, and maybe a better version of an electric generator. However, his physical model is incorrect and he may have to brush up on the fundamental laws of physics.

John Wetsch
Grand Forks, N.D.

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