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Letters

Acid rain: A fashionable cause?

As a member of the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee C-18 (Building Stone), I have had occasion to look at the National Bureau of Standards' wall in Gaithersburg, Md. ("A Material Loss," SN: 9/7/85, p. 154). You should know that acid rain is not the best explanation of the deterioration of much of the stone in the experimental wall. A much more reasonable explanation is that the movement of salts along clay-rich zones in many of the rocks, combined with wetting and drying, causes the problem.

I fear that once again too many scientists are guilty of explaining many ills by blaming them on a fashionable cause.

James R. Dunn
Dunn Geoscience Corp.
Latham, N.Y.

May the force be with you

Re "Magnetism enhances immunology" (SN: 9/14/85, p. 169): Near the end of Kipling's book

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Cover: The Eskimo's lower-than-average incidence of heart disease and atherosclerosis (clogged, atherosclerotic artery shown in inset) may be at least partially due to the high percentage of fish containing omega-3 fatty acids in the Eskimo diet. Scientists are finding that such acids appear to reduce the likelihood of heart disease and related ailments. (Eskimo model: Carnegie Museum of Nat. Hist.; Polar World: Wyckoff Hall of Arctic Life. Photo: Vincent J. Abromitis)



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Kim, a tired, sick Kim is placed in a north-south orientation by Hindu friends so that the earth's healing forces might improve him. Now we know why.

Harlan Berger
University Park, Pa.

that perhaps women should abstain from both cigarette smoking and Russian roulette.

Tony Stalls
Washington, D.C.

Death's deleterious effects

"Smoking and cancer: Value in paradox" (SN: 9/14/85, p. 164), regarding research that indicates a lower incidence of endometrial cancer in women who smoke cigarettes, inspired me to do a study also.

My research disclosed that women who play Russian roulette have a significantly lower incidence of all types of diseases, including endometrial cancer, than those who do not. However, there are "serious deleterious effects" that might prove to negate the disease-avoidance benefits. The conclusion I have drawn from both the more scholarly work and my own is

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