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Letters

Turnabout

In response to the article on the DEEPS telescope (SN: 10/11/86, p.236), T.R. Specht from Sharon, Pa., wrote concerning the rotation of the instrument only vs. the rotation of the instrument plus telescope (Letters, SN: 11/8/86, p. 303). It is our plan to rotate only the instrument rather than instrument plus telescope as D.E. Thomsen had concluded.

The latter option would be much more expensive to implement without giving an obvious gain. Rotating the instrument only will be quite sufficient. In any case, one should never rotate the atmospheric dispersion corrector.

Jacques M. Beckers
National Optical Astronomy Observatories
Tucson, Ariz.

Further evidence

In "Ultrasound Safety and Collapsing Bub-

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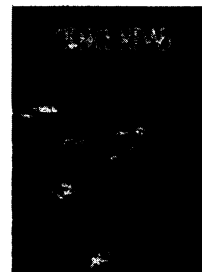
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Cover: Scientists are attaching ordinary foodstuffs — including a variety of fruits and vegetables — to electrodes to create inexpensive, long-lasting biosensors that detect specific chemicals. (Photo: Agricultural Research Service, USDA)



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bles" (SN: 12/13/86, p.372) no mention was made of recent evidence that diagnostic levels of ultrasound may disrupt myelination in 3-to-5-day-old rat pups. In a poster presented at the November 1986 Society for Neuroscience meeting by D.E. Palmer, M.H. Ellisman and M.P. Andre, it was claimed that 30 minutes of exposure disrupted the glial-axonal-junctions normally present at the terminal Schwann cell attachment to the axon. Complete paranodal disruption and demyelination was occasionally noted. All exposed animals demonstrated changes lasting at least 24 hours post exposure.

Clearly, if replicated, these findings could have important implications for human fetal exposure.

Martin L. Korn, M.D.
Bronx Municipal Hospital Center
Bronx, N.Y.

Thoughts at year's end

I've read your newsmagazine for more

years than any other and enjoyed it immeasurably time after time. I do feel I must, at this point, speak up on behalf of a photo by Ivars Peterson on the cover of the Dec. 20 & 27 year-end review issue. The picture of the Statue of Liberty raising her hand to time as well as liberty speaks for itself. I humbly applaud.

William Rosen
Hatboro, Pa.

We are a nation obsessed with bad news. The good news is the science highlights summarized in the year-end issue of SCIENCE NEWS. I enjoyed sharing it with my family, friends and colleagues. We certainly need this balanced perspective.

Eugene J. Webb
Psychotherapist
Houston, Tex.

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