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Cover: Many of the 18 space science missions scheduled for launch this year will focus on Earth and its interaction with the sun. These missions include the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (lower left), which will examine how the sun transports energy from its turbulent interior to its outer atmosphere. Cluster, a group of four identical spacecraft, will study the ionized gas in Earth's magnetosphere. (Artist's rendering: European Space Agency)

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Science Service, which publishes SCIENCE NEWS, is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921. It gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions and bequests to assist its efforts to increase the public understanding of science, with special emphasis on young people. More recently, it has included in its mission increasing scientific literacy among members of underrepresented groups. Through its Youth Programs it administers the International Science and Engineering Fair, the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, and publishes and distributes the *Directory of Student Science Training Programs for Precollege Students*.

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Letters

Protist finding downplayed

The "revelation" that myxozoa are perhaps more closely related to metozoa than it was assumed is not startling to protistologists or protozoologists ("Protist joins metazoan family tree," SN: 10/1/94, p.220).

Most biologists for the past 100 years have been aware that there is no clear dividing line between protists, mesozoa, or metozoa other than an arbitrary one, for convenience.

DNA and RNA comparisons will no doubt reveal more "startling" relationships in the near future.

Eugene C. Bovee
Professor Emeritus of Physiology and Cell Biology
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kan.

Girls, boys use different 'fuel'

Of six evaluative attitude scores, seventh-grade boys' Theoretical ones (indicating an

orientation toward theorizing and scientific investigation) showed the highest correlation with their scores on eight aptitude and achievement tests ("Images of Intellect," SN: 10/8/94, p.236). Conversely, the girls' Aesthetic scores (orientation toward form, harmony, and beauty) correlated best with their performance on the eight tests.

The gender difference was rather large. Apparently, seeking to discover "truth" "fueled the mental engine" of those bright boys, whereas aesthetic orientation fueled that of those bright girls.

Julian C. Stanley
Professor of Psychology
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Md.

Radium research update

Your recent article "Reassessing Radium's Risks" (SN: 9/10/94, p.172) notes my role at the time of publication as science adviser to a private endeavor attempting to register names of individuals who received nasopharyngeal (nasal) radium exposure. Since then, I have terminated my association with that group and have begun work on a proposal with a major New England-based medical treatment and research center to establish a center for the investigation of possible health effects of radium irradiation on veterans and members of the public.

Anyone wishing to be notified of developments in this area or to register as having received radium nasal irradiation, either as a member of the general public (for general hearing or otitis media-related problems) or as a Navy or Army Air Forces veteran (for problems with pressure equalization), should call me at (401)727-4947.

Stewart Farber
Pawtucket, R.I.

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