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Cover: New studies suggest that rock and cave art often portray shamans' perceived supernatural exploits during altered states of consciousness. This piece of South African San rock art, painted several hundred years ago, may depict shamans as man-beasts entering the spirit world through paint applied to a horizontal fold in the rock surface. Fish, eels, and turtles relate to San descriptions of going underwater during trances, and oar-shaped fly whisks are still used by San shamans to deflect "arrows of sickness" aimed at the living by denizens of the spirit world. Human figures at lower right include one bleeding from the nose, an occurrence associated with San trance inductions. (Photo: J.D. Lewis-Williams; photo manipulation: Mark Gilvey, Design Imaging)



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Letters

One heck of a nuclear plant!

A letter to the editor (SN: 9/7/96, p. 147) states, "The annual output of this solar system is then 60 billion kWh per year." Mr. Hill must have meant 60 million kWh per year. Otherwise, there would never be another nuclear plant ever built again.

Eugene E. Jarva
Huntington Station, N.Y.

He did. The "billion" was a typo.

— The Editors

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All letters subject to editing.

Shady simile

In "What's in the Vault?" (SN: 7/27/96, p. 56), Rome likened the strategy of finding vaults in the cell to "finding an invisible person by looking for an unexplained shadow. . . ."

Currently, invisibility can be brought about in only two ways: the H.G. Wells theory, in which the person becomes transparent to light by imbibing the proper mix of chemicals, and the Star Trek theory, in which light is bent around the object using massive amounts of energy.

With either theory, the person or object could not cast a shadow!

David A. Peters
St. Paul, Minn.

What price a Paris apartment?

While working with the concepts mentioned in "Formulas for Fairness" (SN: 5/4/96,

p. 284), I discovered an error.

The total of the husband's share is 98 points, not the 100 points indicated in the article. This error obviously does not affect any of the conclusions or the validity of the article.

Gerald Harrison
Golden, Colo.

The error stems from a typo in the table accompanying the article. The husband assigned a value of 35, not 33, to the Paris apartment.

— I. Peterson

CORRECTION

The study by Carl Batt and his colleagues about bacteria on plastic versus wooden cutting boards (SN: 9/14/96, p. 172) is slated for publication in the JOURNAL OF FOOD PROTECTION, not in FOOD MICROBIOLOGY, as reported.