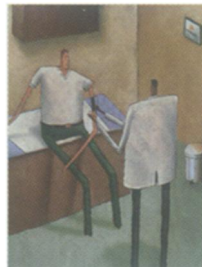


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Letters

You can't beat drums for controversy

Although Elliot Mannede is apparently an "acknowledged master craftsman," it is equally apparent that the "legitimate scientists" do not acknowledge this credential ("Musical Metal," SN: 10/10/98, p. 236): "The more research we do, the more we realize that [Mannede's] intuition was fortuitous." Because master craftsmen, like Mannede, do not use scientific jargon, their empirical knowledge is always degraded as being "fortuitous." Mannede's process is not luck at all; it is knowledge and hard work. The "science" turns out to be merely a microscopic description of what a street musician has known for 40 years and craftsmen have known for eons.

*Larry D. Guenther
University of California, Davis
Davis, Calif.*

The scientists at UTEP have nothing but respect and admiration for Mannede. I don't

think they attribute his skill to "luck" at all. They are simply looking at it from a different perspective. Mannede himself has said that he welcomes the knowledge contributed by the UTEP group. Murr may have meant "fortunate" or "inspired" when he said "fortuitous."
—C. Wu

I greatly enjoyed "Musical Metal." As one of the few people who both subscribe to SCIENCE NEWS and play the pan, I must point out an error. The double tenor pans shown on the top of page 237 have been reversed. The pan containing C, E, and so on is placed at the player's left. The pan with B, F, etc. goes on the right.

*Bill Hansen
Inverness, Ill.*

The drums are reversed. Moreover, they are officially known as "double second" drums, whose note range is slightly lower than double tenors. These errors were carried forward from a scientific paper used in preparing the story.
—C. Wu

We have certain principles

Peter Weiss' article ("Wave or particle? Heisenberg, take a hike!" SN: 9/5/98, p. 149) was refreshing in its treatment of the difficulties of obtaining data about quantum-size particles. Normally, we see implicit acceptance, if not outright promulgation, of the idea that it is the act of performing the experiment that affects the experiment's outcome. It is, of course, *not* the act of performing an experiment that changes the outcome. It is, rather, the act of applying some force or impediment to the objects of the experiment that affects them.

I write this because of all the silly discussions I hear in hallways about the anthropic principle. Professional physicists should take every opportunity to debunk this.

*Lowell Boggs
Lewisville, Tex.*

Peter Weiss' report on the implications for Heisenberg's uncertainty principle in the results of a team of physicists at the Univer-

Letters continued on p. 382