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films OF THE WEEK

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LETTERS

to the editor

The rest of the story

It was a pleasure to see SCIENCE NEWS (8 March) containing the note on "Water, Silicates and Diamond." It is pleasing to have Berkeley work so well covered in your magazine.

However, I was a little disappointed that you did not tell the whole story of silicates—the suggestion by Woolf and Ney of their presence in envelopes around red giant stars, the discovery by Stein and Gillett of similar material in the Orion nebula, and the calculations by Gilman on the formation of silicates in stellar atmospheres, all contained in papers to appear together with ours on interstellar silicate in the March issue of ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS. The apparent presence of silicates in such diverse places in the galaxy is of much greater interest than its discovery in the spectrum of a single star, and also the cooperative effort involved in this research among people at widely scattered institutions (University of Minnesota, Princeton University, University of California, San Diego and University of California, Berkeley) is something all too rare in modern science, and perhaps worthy of comment.

John E. Gaustad
University of California
Berkeley

Too much to ask

I believe Jeanne Richie's comment in Letters (SN: 3/1, p. 205) reached right to the heart of the matter when she referred to child bearing as a "burden"—not a beautiful act of procreation which only a woman can carry out.

Science may soon relieve her of that burden!

Ron Waldron
Eldridge, California

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