

Letters To The Editor

Interests Entire Family

We are new subscribers and took only a short subscription as a trial but the entire family finds the SNL of great interest.—Mrs. Fred J. Hoopes, Paoli, Pa. *Welcome to SNL family.*

Likes Our Style

I like the style and make-up of the periodical.—Louis A. Smith, New York City. *Thanks.*

Artistic Iceberg

The gigantic floating iceberg (Cover, SNL, June 26) resembles a human face.—A. R. Stuart, Brownsboro, Texas.

Not Enough Information

You mentioned a government bulletin in "Saving Cost in Houses" (SNL, June 26). The name and cost of the bulletin was not given. It would have helped if it had been—at least the name. The Supt. of Documents suggests it is: B. M. S. Strength of Houses, application of engineering principles to structural design, \$1.50. Please another time give the name of the bulletin.—Anna E. Myers, Decatur, Ill. *Thanks for the suggestion. It will be followed as far as practical.*

Atomic Bomb's Effects

I have been trying for some time to obtain information on the biological effects of atomic bomb radiations.

To date I have received from authoritative sources only sugary notes which say in effect that little people like me ought not to worry about it; that I ought not to give credence to articles pretending to

have final information, etc., etc., ad nauseam. I think that I have learned more from occasional articles in newspapers and magazines than I have from the sources which certainly should be able to tell us what is true, what is not true, and what we don't have any idea about at all so far.

I am a teacher of science. This is a tremendous responsibility, particularly today. If I am to teach biology, chemistry, physics, general science—if I am to open my mouth at all—I must have the truth about what is known so far. Our generation knows that we can help other generations only insofar as we give them the whole truth—as best we know it and as soon as we know it. Even if that truth happens to be "We just don't know," we are still compelled to give it—to provide every solid raw material for thought we possibly can for these young people. Only then have we discharged our responsibility to the future—only then can our new generations be equipped to do a better job of learning to think and work together all over the surface of this planet. . . .

We are in the middle of a vast, largely uncharted sea of information about atomic energy. I want my students to know how little we know, and to know for certain the few landmarks we have been able to glimpse through the fog. What they don't know *could* hurt them. I want them to have every possible scrap of truth about their uncharted sea; then when they take the tiller they may be able to sail a better course than we have done.—Frederick R. Korf, New York, N. Y.

As the facts are published, SNL prints and interprets them. See SNL for Aug. 9, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Nov. 29, 1947 and SNL, July 10, 1948. We shall try to do a roundup soon.

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What performance is claimed for new synthetic rubber treads? p. 87

Photographs: Cover, Johns-Manville; p. 83, Glenn L. Martin; p. 85, United Fruit Co.; p. 87, Westinghouse Research Lab.; p. 90, U. S. Public Health Service; p. 91, Fremont Davis.

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What puts helium in meteorites? p. 83

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Where are rattlesnakes tattooed, and why? p. 89

INVENTION

Trap Entrance Devised For Rats in Garbage Can

► RATS visiting the garbage can in future may find a welcoming little door open to them—with death behind it. Herbert Tsai and Nicholas Chuy of Detroit have devised a trap entrance for garbage cans that lures the rat to go in, delivers a spine-breaking blow when he steps on a treadle, and deposits his carcass with the rest of the garbage. The patent number is 2,445,980.

Science News Letter, August 7, 1948

The *trumpeter swan*, with a weight of about 35 pounds, is the largest flying bird; the great bustard is almost as heavy.

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