

# SCIENCE NEWS

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication  
Volume 122, No. 18, October 30, 1982

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Subscription Department  
231 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$27.50; 2 yrs., \$47.50; 3  
yrs., \$67.00. (Foreign postage \$5.00 additional per  
year.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice  
is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to  
be addressed. Include zip code. For new  
subscriptions only call (1) 800-247-2160. Printed in  
U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington,  
D.C. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian  
Patent Offices. Published every Saturday by  
SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc. 1719 N St., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20036. (202-785-2255)  
ISSN 0036-8423

## Letters

### Fallout production estimation

Apropos "Fission confusion" (SN: 10/9/82, p. 237), while the exact weight of fission products may be classified (and, in fact, is irrelevant), the production of fallout can be estimated.

Theodore Taylor, quoted in *The Curve of Binding Energy*, stated that as a rule of thumb, a nuclear weapon would vaporize its yield, i.e., a 20 kt [kiloton] weapon would, in a ground burst, vaporize roughly 20 kt of material. Of course this does not apply to an air burst.

Daniel Burstein  
New York, N.Y.

### Juvenile crime

As a juvenile judge, I was quite amused to read the article "Scared crooked" by Wray Herbert (SN: 9/11/82, p. 167). Mr. Herbert alleged statistics from Racine, Wis., showing that juvenile delinquency is quite normal and that juvenile delinquents should be kept out of the court system whenever possible.

I assisted in getting the juvenile law toughened up about two years ago and since judges can now punish juveniles, juvenile murder, rape, robbery, burglary and arson have dropped about 50 percent in this county. Punishment

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does the job and word gets around, thereby preventing other people from getting involved.

I claim the national record for separating juveniles from their driver's licenses per 1,000 cases!!!

Philip G. Nourse  
Fort Pierce, Fla.

Please allow me to express my astonishment and disbelief at the report of research of L. W. Shannon on juvenile delinquency.

I am a licensed psychologist who does some work with the public defender in the State of Florida. Further, I taught general psychology to inmates at Florida's second largest prison for four college terms. These inmates ranged in age from 19 to 42 with about 95 percent being below 30. The average sentence was for over 19 years. This is a maximum security prison for serious offenders. I estimate my informal "sample" at being approximately 100. All of these men, without exception, said they repeatedly broke the law in their early years and observed no unpleasant consequences for themselves. They all expressed shock when the "system" finally jolted them with a severe sentence.

Shannon, through his indirect quotations, seems to be implying behavioristically that if

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)			
1. TITLE OF PUBLICATION SCIENCE NEWS	2. PUBLICATION NO. 0 0 3 1 6 1 0 1 2 3	3. DATE OF FILING Oct. 22, 1982	
4. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE Weekly	5. NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY 52	6. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$27.50	
7. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, City, County, State and ZIP Code) (Not printer)			
1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036			
8. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHERS (Not printer)			
1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036			
9. FULL NAMES AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (Not printer) (Not parent)			
PUBLISHER (Name and Complete Mailing Address) E. G. Sherburne, Jr., 3110 Hawthorne St., NW, Washington, DC 20007			
EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address) Joel P. Greenberg, 2803 Maple Ridge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814			
MANAGING EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)			
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FULL NAME Science Service, Inc.			
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS 1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036			
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C. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS			
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OCTOBER 30, 1982

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