

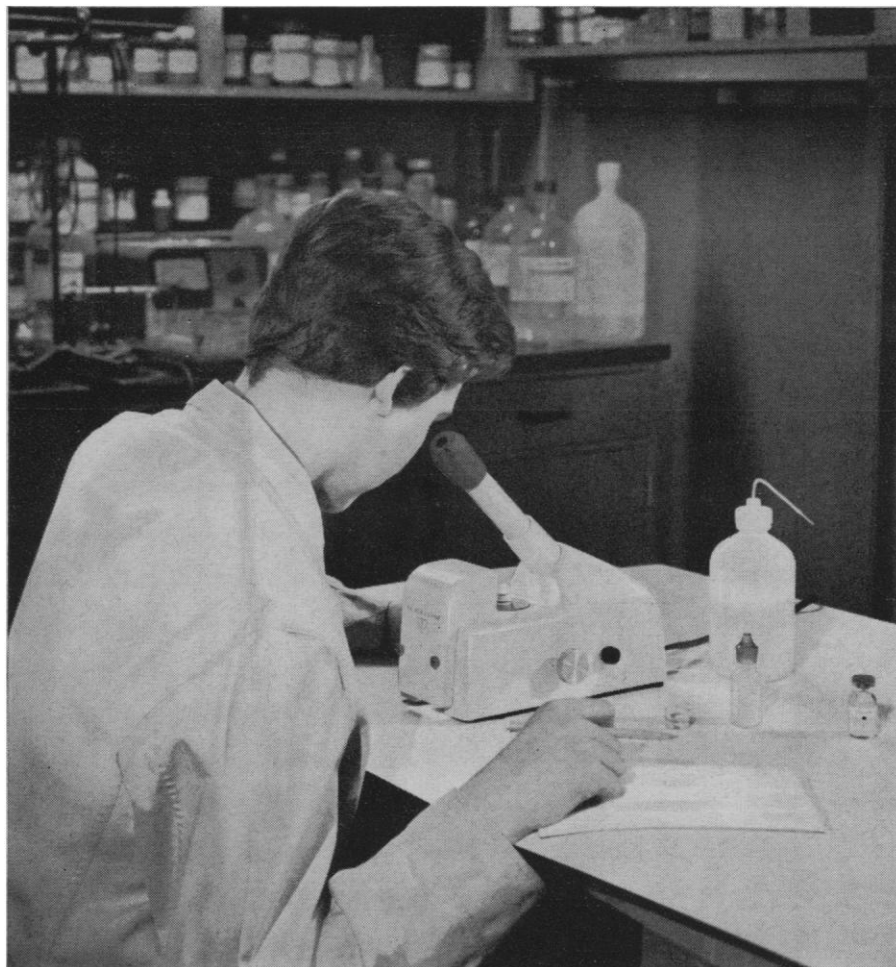
enough, or any, "direct evidence" to justify giving readers the clear impression that a choice *must* be made between having a civil defense program and seeking disarmament?

As for Paschkis's letter, in my comments I said that the papers were largely irrelevant to a discussion of the proposed program. The report is directed, or misdirected, mainly toward demonstrating the "utter foolishness" of a deep-shelter program, which no one in a responsible position has advocated. This misdirection comes from the fact that the preface to the report assumes, without any argument more detailed than what is given in Paschkis's point 1, that the only kind of nuclear attack worth considering is a massive attack on our cities. From this, the report assumes that any shelter program "must" include blast as well as fallout shelters. The point is not that these are necessarily unsound assumptions but that once you have accepted them you do not have to read the report. If a shelter program, to be even worth considering, must include blast shelters, then the Administration program, which does not include blast shelters, is not worth considering.

It is possible to dig out some arguments that could be used specifically against the Administration program, but the report, because of its underlying assumptions, is not organized to present a coherent case against the program. Consider, for example, the paper summarized in Paschkis's point 3: Shelters of the kind the government is recommending have 100-percent air intakes. Therefore the fairly detailed discussion in the report of overheating where there is whole or substantial reliance on self-contained air systems is irrelevant. A discussion of how seriously, if at all seriously, the air intake would reduce a fallout shelter's value would have been very relevant. But there is no discussion of this point beyond mention of it as something to consider.—HOWARD MARGOLIS

### Space Messengers

Although Leslie C. Edie, of Bellmore, N.Y. [see *Science* 136, 184 (13 Apr. 1962)] and I are separated by less than a mile in distance, we are many miles apart in speculating on the possibility of "intercivilizational" communication via coded messages on "meteorites, comets, and other space travelers."



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Wouldn't a civilization anxious to proclaim its existence employ missiles more obviously recognizable as messengers than an inconspicuous chunk of rock? Furthermore, wouldn't any launched "letter-carrier" forever remain confined to its parent solar system unless it was sufficiently powered for space travel?

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## Heredity, Environment, and Culture

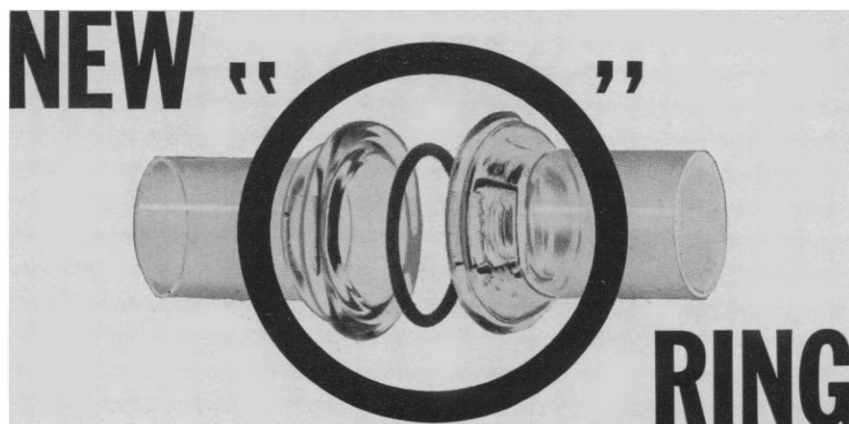
The storm of comment in the "Letters" column [*Science* 135, 961 (16 Mar. 1962)] on Howard Margolis's eminently reasonable remarks on "Science and segregation" [*ibid.* 134, 1868 (1961)] makes one wonder if the anthropologists perhaps do not "protest too much." It seems appropriate to redirect attention to Margolis's paragraph 2 in column 2 of page 1869, which describes

a real problem. As a biologist I have been for many years distressed by the almost hysterical denial by many anthropologists of any possibility of a hereditary basis for any cultural traits or even for any difference in mentality or emotional makeup. If such a position had a factual basis, to provide an explanation of such facts would certainly be a real problem.

What a great pity it is that the anthropologists, the human geneticists, and perhaps the human ecologists cannot seem to get together and investigate the relations between human heredity, environment, and culture without the undefinable concept of inferiority entering into the matter at all.

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## Information-Gathering by the CIA

In a recent issue of *Science* [136, 173 (13 Apr. 1962)] Patrick D. Wall reported that he declined to disclose to a representative of the Central Intelligence Agency information as to the direction being taken by certain foreign scientists in the field of neurophysiology, because (i) one should reasonably ask the questioner to share the same ethics and tell you specifically for what purpose he intends to use the information, a professor being required to remain in a position to assess the consequences of his profession, and (ii) a consequence of a relationship with the CIA would be to limit the freedom of discussion between American and foreign colleagues by increasing the danger that American scientists will be regarded as government agents. Wall says that if a colleague had asked him for this information he would have replied without hesitation.

Wall could deal with the situation, although perhaps somewhat deviously, by disclosing the requested information without reporting the fact to his foreign colleagues, some of whom he characterizes as certainly part-time intelligence agents. This would minimize the hazard of impairing the usually free exchange and argument of a scientific discussion, which he properly prizes. But this does not meet his first objection.

Not all of us can share Wall's conviction that undisclosed purposes of the United States Government are evil. Even he probably does not, in order to