

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

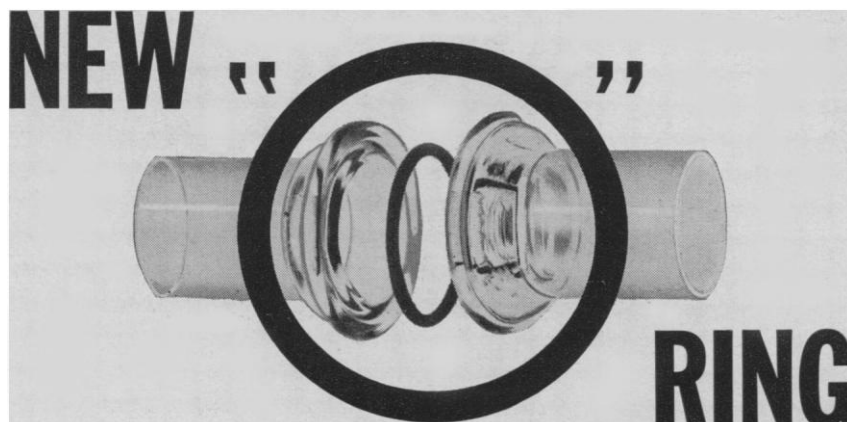
The storm of comment in the "Letters" column [*Science* 135, 961 (16 Mar. 1962)] on Howard Margolis's eminently reasonable remarks on "Science and segregation" [*ibid.* 134, 1868 (1961)] makes one wonder if the anthropologists perhaps do not "protest too much." It seems appropriate to redirect attention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