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no such sense of loyalty and honor, and they probably don't even read scholarly journals and couldn't care less about her predicament.

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Beattie, Orlans, and Brown seem to assume that there is no generation gap, and then quite logically attack Mead's explanation for one. As a member of the younger generation, I have serious doubts concerning their assumptions.

Probably all three consider themselves scholars, who, according to Brown, "know that their knowledge is reliable and meaningful." Did these three watch the CBS-TV specials, "Generations Apart," broadcast last May? Statistics (supposedly reliable and certainly meaningful) were presented to demonstrate the existence of, among other things, a "generation gap." Have they read the almost daily New York Times reports of violence in high schools and colleges here and abroad? On the less factual side, have they analyzed the lyrics sung by Simon and Garfunkel, the Beatles, and Judy Collins? Have they read SDS literature? Have they seen *Hair*? I doubt it.

The expanded version (New York Times, 16 Mar., p. 62) of the lecture fragments published in the *Science* editorial over Mead's signature refuted in part the objections of Beattie, Orlans, and Brown. This member of the younger generation can only applaud what Mead has to say, and hopes that her lectures in book form will receive the wide circulation they deserve.

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Obstructions

DuBridge's comments on the need "to mount research efforts in which scientists, social and political scientists, and engineers work together to seek basic causes, to develop new technologies . . ." concerned me very much ("Science serves society," 6 June, p. 1137). My recent personal experiences have led me to believe that industry and government are not sufficiently interested in interdisciplinary R & D operations to hire available trained people.

In anticipation of a need for people

trained in interdisciplinary R & D, I pursued and completed an academic program leading to three advanced degrees in the fields of mechanical engineering and law. Recently I interviewed some 50 organizations, including most of the nonprofit "think factories," several of the departments and commissions of the federal government, and the R & D departments of many corporations. In all but three cases I was met with complete indifference to my expressed interest in interdisciplinary R & D. Of the three, one was interested only in one of my disciplines to the total exclusion of the other. The second offered a position of little opportunity and no responsibility. Only the last organization initially expressed serious interest in my interdisciplinary training. Unfortunately they also subsequently lost interest.

Knowledge and devotion are not sufficient when opportunities for gainful employment are nonexistent. Out of necessity I have subsequently taken employment in a field where my academic training goes largely unused.

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A friend of mine who went back to school after raising a family is now graduating from college as a biology major at age 37. She has an A average, and straight A's in her biology courses. I have been encouraging her toward graduate school and a Ph.D. Despite her grades and a mark of over 700 on her biology graduate record exam, she has already been turned down by one New York university and has been refused financial aid by another, while awaiting word regarding admission. I know of many students with much lower qualifications who have already been accepted and given financial aid by these schools. The only explanation I can think of is prejudice against her age. Since great strides have been taken to eliminate racial and religious prejudice from admissions policy, it is time to eliminate age prejudice as well. It has been shown many times that more mature people perform as well or better than their younger colleagues, and they still have many productive years ahead of them. Let us not close our field to these potential contributors.

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