siderations of static, mass attractions. A sufficiently high rotational rate could offset the mass-attraction forces. With these small planetary masses, these considerations appear to me to be vital when sketching a picture of man on the asteroids. Indeed, a "landing" or any contact might be impossible.

3) The idea that a spaceship that weighs 10 tons on the earth would weigh only about 1 kg on the asteroid is, of course, quite reasonable, if we assume a static model. But to imply that the 10-ton mass could be as easily moved about as the smaller mass is extremely unreasonable. The inertial mass of a 10-ton object is about 9000 times that of the 1-kg object. The inertia is what the spaceman would encounter upon attempting to jostle his spacecraft around. I should think it would be more like trying to right an overturned *Queen Mary* while perched on a porpoise's back over the Mindanao Trench.

4) If a man were to jump "about a kilometer high and return back smoothly after some 10 minutes," wouldn't it be very probable that he would set himself spinning by such an imprudent act and return back smoothly on, say, his head?

These points I raise are the sorts of "technicalities" that must be recognized and taken into consideration only after the decision is made to pursue this type of exploration. They are cautionary in intent and are directed primarily toward those who view this journey as a simple or easy accomplishment. Would it be wise for a fly, which has just learned how to land on a slow-rising balloon, to attempt a landing on a speeding bullet?

JOSEPH H. GUTH*
Department of Biochemistry, University of California, Berkeley 94720

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* Present address: Interscience Research Group, 301 Oxford Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94306.

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Our article was indeed intended as a gross oversimplification and omits a number of considerations important in the design of actual asteroid missions. A few comments on those points selected by Guth may be in order.

1) Although many asteroids are rather isometric, some display periodic changes in magnitude, which are due to either longitudinal differences in albedo or to irregular shape. If an astronaut for some reason now difficult to understand would elect to land on one of the extreme protuberances of a body with spin period and elongation similar to those of Eros, he would have to contend with a velocity due to spin of the order of only a few meters per second. If he is foresighted enough to land elsewhere, this velocity would be still less.

2) Nonetheless, it is certainly our hope that the unusual scientific interest offered by the asteroids, coupled with intriguing operational advantages, would not lead designers to abandon normal prudence in the preparation of a manned mission. Fly-by experiments, beginning with the Grand Tour in the near future, will be valuable in this respect.

3) The fact that inertia is not diminished would appear as a stabilizing advantage in moving a 10-ton mass with linear dimensions of a few meters. The spacecraft would yield easily but slowly (in a minute), whereas the time required for the same operation on the earth is of the order of seconds. The analogy with the *Queen Mary*, the porpoise, and the Mindanao Trench has poetic quality but is physically misleading.

4) The art of body-spin control by momentum distribution is already well-developed by ski jumpers, sky divers, and cats under the demanding but familiar earthly gravitation. The growing experience by astronauts, using gas jets, would give additional confidence in future mastering of this essential aspect of space activity.

HANNES ALFVÉN
Division of Electron and Plasma Physics, Royal Institue of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
GUSTAF ARRHENIUS
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla 92037

23 June 1970

Ionic Character of Bonds in Crystals

In his article "Bonds and bands in semiconductors" (*1*) J. C. Phillips repeats some incorrect statements about my theory of covalent bonds with partial ionic character. He contrasts my 1932 definition of ionic character and what he calls my 1939 definition in such a way as to indicate that the theory had been changed. In fact, the set of points labeled "Pauling, 1932" in Phillips' figure 9 does not correspond to my theory. The theory was formulated in 1932 for single bonds, each bond involving a shared electron pair (*2*). Phillips applied the theory in an incorrect way to crystals containing fractional bonds (*3*). I had described the correct way of applying the theory to these crystals in 1939 (*4*). The unsatisfactory calculation labeled "Pauling, 1932" is unsatisfactory because of the mistake made by Phillips.

There is no justification for the publication once again of this incorrect calculation by Phillips. Over a year ago I published a paper to point out that Phillips had made this mistake (*5*). (Phillips does not refer to my paper in his *Science* article.) The mistake in applying my theory had led him to say that the theory gives discrepancies of more than 200 kcal mole^{-1} with the observed cohesive energy. I pointed out that, in fact, the theory gives good agreement with the observed cohesive energy, the apparent discrepancies having resulted from his incorrect use of the theory. Despite this clarification, Phillips has continued to publish statements about my 1932 theory such as to indicate that it is faulty, when in fact he has been applying it incorrectly.

LINUS PAULING
Chemistry Department, Stanford University, Stanford, California 49305

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2. L. Pauling, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* **54**, 3570 (1932).
3. J. C. Phillips, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **22**, 645 (1969).
4. L. Pauling, *The Nature of the Chemical Bond* (Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, N.Y., ed. 1, 1939).
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Apparently Pauling has chosen to overlook the postscript to the article in question. It covers virtually the same ground as his letter does.

I have also modified my earlier statements in articles not cited by Pauling, for example, the companion letter to his reference (*5*).

J. C. PHILLIPS
Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

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