Program—which, after all, is a complex political notion as much as it is a plan to solve a human problem—may lead many astray, but it is absurd to blame the Sloan-Kettering Institute or Alfred Nobel for setting high standards.

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Unexplained or Esoteric?

In the News & Notes feature "Physical phantasmagoria" (12 July, p. 129) advice that may be misleading is offered to geophysicists and other scientists concerning "worlds to conquer." In the notice of the publication of *Strange Phenomena*—a compilation of "unexplained natural events" by William R. Corliss—at least two phenomena are graced with the description "unexplained," when in fact they are merely esoteric. Although I must confess my ignorance of Barisal guns and mistpouffers, neither the green ray nor the Brocken specter lies outside the scope of present-day science. *Sky and Telescope* has published several excellent accounts of the green ray, most recently in the issue of July 1974 (*1*). The Dutch astronomer Marcel Minnaert describes the physics of this phenomenon in *The Nature of Light and Colour in the Open Air* (*2*, p. 58). The optical principles of the Brocken specter are also explained by Minnaert (*2*, pp. 257–259); it is the result of the faint backward scattering of light by fine water droplets.

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References

1. *Sky Telesc.* **48**, 61 (July 1974).
2. M. Minnaert, *The Nature of Light and Colour in the Open Air* (Dover, New York, 1954).

Leukemia and Chromosomes

The Research News report by Thomas H. Maugh II (5 July, p. 48) on leukemia is a useful summary. We wish to correct several points and add some information about the cytogenetic research discussed by Maugh.

First, the Philadelphia chromosome, which is found in the majority of patients with chronic myelocytic leukemia, has been identified as chromosome number 22 (not number 21). An extra chromosome number 21 is found in Down's syndrome (mongolfor speculating about a possible chromosomal relationship between chronic myelocytic leukemia and Down's syndrome.

Second, our work discussed by Maugh on the genetic immune deficiency disease, ataxia telangiectasis (A-T), has not been on granulocytes. We and others have studied A-T lymphocytes and found (i) an increased tendency to chromosome breakage and (ii) clones marked by a chromosome rearrangement in some A-T patients. The chromosome rearrangements in these clones all appear to involve chromosome 14 and more specifically its long arm. The connection between this cytogenetic finding in A-T lymphocytes and the well-known tendency of A-T patients to develop lymphoid and other malignancies is not yet clear.

Third, the only A-T patient with leukemia whom we have had the opportunity to study (in collaboration with Ray Teplitz at the City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, California) has chronic lymphocytic (not myelocytic) leukemia. The leukemic cells in this patient have clearly evolved from a preexisting lymphocyte clone with a number 14 translocation. This provides further evidence for the single-cell origin of chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

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Copyright Laws

Curtis G. Benjamin's letter (28 June, p. 1331) in support of William & Wilkins' Supreme Court suit against the U.S. government for copyright infringement omits some of the problems on the other side of the fence. Just as publishing companies are faced with the financial squeeze attendant to inflation, so too are academic institutions. While costs have risen, departmental budgets have fallen further and further behind, and now new demands are placed on us to pay for the dissemination of information to our students. Publishers seem to be saying that if we are unable to pay, then our students have no right to receive information we deem necessary.

But let us examine this a little further. Funds that made our research possible did not come from the publishers. Nor did the publishers assist us in writing the manuscripts. Indeed, they charge us for reprints, presumably make a profit by selling their journals, and do not reimburse the authors for their efforts. Thus, the author does the fund raising, the thinking, the laboratory work, and the writing, and then the publishers claim ownership, apparently because it may make money for them. And to top it off, they now want us to pay for the privilege of using the articles we have published to teach our own students.

I agree that the copyright laws should be revised, vesting ownership of an article either in the name(s) of the author(s) or the scientific society responsible for publication—but certainly not the publisher.

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Imprisoned Soviet Mathematician

The Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., refused to accept a petition composed by the International Defense Committee of Mathematicians for Shikhanovich and Plyushch and signed by more than 650 American mathematicians. "The hostile and slanderous nature of those petitions compels us to reject them and return them to the sender," wrote V. I. Kuznetsov, Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, on 8 July 1974. Kuznetsov failed, however, to point out a single inaccuracy in the statement of the committee.

The Soviet mathematicians Yuri Shikhanovich and Leonid Plyushch were arrested (separately) in 1972 on charges of anti-Soviet propaganda were held incommunicado for nearly a year, and were declared mentally incompetent at trials at which they were not present.

It is a pleasure to report that Shikhanovich has finally been released. On the other hand, Plyushch is still confined in a "special" psychiatric hospital in Dnepropetrovsk.

He has been subjected to harsh treatment and involuntary chemotherapy.