specialized software and applications programs and the expertise needed to develop, use, and improve them.) The principal issue, however, is money. With today's tight budgets it is often impossible to carry out much large-scale scientific computation at a central facility, even though the computer center can offer software facilities such as RPG, Cobol, PL/I, and centralized billing.

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A Neglected Literature

Konrad B. Krauskopf's appeal for information on radioactive waste disposal (Letters, 8 Oct., p. 134) indirectly draws attention to a problem of long-standing and increasing magnitude. Although Krauskopf seeks knowledge of unpublished reports, it is my observation that some *published* reports are not readily available. One of the reasons for this problem is that national and international concern about energy, pollution, and other important scientific issues is generating a voluminous amount of literature in the form of monographs, journal articles, reports, and so forth. Reports tend to be poorly covered by the traditional abstracting and indexing services, which still emphasize coverage of journals. In turn, these services are the bases for the so-called "on-line" computer services. Unless measures are taken to increase the visibility of this literature, its potential value to society may not be realized.

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Dating the Deluge

Science has published comments by five geologists (Technical Comments, 24 Sept., p. 1268) criticizing Emiliani's correlation (Reports, 26 Sept. 1975, p. 1083) of a sudden rise in sea level 11,600 years ago with the deluge dated by Plato as having occurred 9000 years before Plato's own work on the subject. The accuracy with which Plato's geochronological studies were carried out is clearly a question of substantial scientific interest.

I assume that Plato's deluge is the same event as that described in the Old Testament. I am therefore in the process of forming an organization to finance expeditions in search of Noah's Ark, in order that we may get to the heart of this matter with radiocarbon dating. The response to Emiliani's correlation gives me great hope that generous financial backing for the organization can be found within my own profession. I invite the writers of these comments and all others who take their work so seriously to join with me as founding fathers, mothers, and stockholders in a venture guaranteed to return profits and glory as well as a scientific solution to the problem of Plato's flood.

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Peer Review: Preventing "Nepotism"

In my previous position, I was a scientist at a large midwestern university in a section composed of seven staff members charged with the study of cancer biology. The section is supported by about 50 percent of the funds allocated to a cancer center grant from the National Cancer Institute. The yearly budget of the center is more than $1 million. During my last year, the center was "site-visited" in order that a request for a 5-year renewal of the grant could be considered. On the site-visit team were four or five members responsible for evaluating the section. Of these, one had been the doctoral thesis adviser of two staff members in the section, and a third staff member had done postdoctoral work with a second member of the site-visit team. I question whether these site-visitors could possibly judge the scientific merit of the work in the section without bias. Some of the projects carried on by the section had actually been spawned in the laboratories of the two site-visitors. One may ask why these site-visitors did not disqualify themselves. Serving on a site-visit team carries considerable prestige; furthermore, academic salaries are frequently barely adequate and consultants' fees are attractive. Obviously, we are all human, and so, too, are potential site-visitors. Criteria should, therefore, be established by the granting agencies to disqualify scientific "fathers, mothers, and other close relatives" from site-visit teams, study sections, and other peer review groups.

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