have happened at a fossil-fueled power plant, it did occur at a nuclear plant and therefore makes Parsons' statement, as it was printed, inaccurate.

The statements concerning the potential health impact of the Three Mile Island accident are also inaccurate. The potential *lifetime* impact of that accident, estimated by an interagency task group (*2*), was less than two fatal cancers and two nonfatal cancers to the entire population within 50 miles of the Three Mile Island site (approximately 2,164,000 people) and not per 100,000 individuals as Parsons and the footnote in Mason's article stated.

The total number of cancer deaths that would be expected to occur normally over the lifetime of the 50-mile enclosed population would be approximately 325,000. This total number is a more appropriate statistic for comparison with the lifetime risk of the accident than the annual cancer death rate (4500 cancer deaths *per year*) cited by both Parsons and Mason.

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References

1. E. A. Mason, *Chem. Eng. Progress* **75**, 25 (May 1979).
2. L. Battist, J. Buchanan, F. Congel, C. Nelson, M. Nelson, H. Peterson, M. Rosenstein, *Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station* (Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1979).

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Weather Prediction

With regard to the cover of the 29 June issue and the caption thereto on page 1365 reporting Seasat data for 14 September 1979 (at 17:15 G.M.T. no less!), I can only exclaim, "Wow! *That's* weather prediction!"

Or I might perorate with these words of Thomas Hood (*The Plea of Midsummer Fairies*, XCII):

We will not woo foul weather all too soon,
Or nurse November on the lap of June.

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Erratum: In the issue of 22 June, in the News and Comment article, "Congress says bioassay reports are stalled" (p. 1288), Philippe Shubik is identified as the "former director" of the University of Nebraska's Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer. Shubik is in fact on leave from that post until 1 July 1980. Norman Cromwell has been named acting director while Shubik is on leave.