LETTERS

Wistar Press: Comment on Closing

The following editorial will appear in the journals listed below. In each journal, the managing editor will sign first.

We, the Managing Editors of the Wistar Journals, on the occasion of closing of The Wistar Press, wish to express our appreciation to the many members of its staff. Each of us and uncounted authors have benefitted from their commitment on multiple levels to the communication of scientific information and to the highest quality of reproduction. We are sad to see the end of the era of service to the scientific community by The Wistar Press. Its staff can take satisfaction from the knowledge that they have made a lasting contribution to many fields of biology. We thank them sincerely and wish them well.

ROBERT L. BRENT
Teratology

SAM L. CLARK, JR.
The American Journal of Anatomy

MAXWELL W. COWAN
The Journal of Comparative Neurology

VITTORIO DEFENDI
Journal of Cellular Physiology

CARL GANS
Journal of Morphology

FRANCIS E. JOHNSTON
American Journal of Physical Anthropology

AARON J. LADMAN
The Anatomical Record

CLEMENT L. MARKERT
EDGAR J. BOELL
The Journal of Experimental Zoology

CARL GANS
Division of Biological Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 48109

Food Additives

Two weeks after Philip H. Abelson's trenchant editorial, "Cancer—opportunism and opportunity" appeared in *Science* (5 Oct., p. 11), Michael Jacobson, director of the Washington-based Center for Science in The Public Interest, had this to say about our food supply: "I'd estimate that a maximum of 10,000 to 20,000 deaths per year could be attributed to artificial food additives" (*1*).

If 10,000 to 20,000 people die each year of cancer-causing food additives, I'd call that an epidemic. Abelson maintains that if food is a health problem it is related to naturally occurring substances and/or the cooking process.

It is just this type of contradictory information that leads to people's fearing the worst and, more damaging, to their being unable to evaluate risks.

Few are going to question where or how Jacobson obtained his figure of 10,000 to 20,000 deaths per year. It will be accepted as fact—because it's in