

swers to the South American conservation dilemma are in the field. There is no substitute for data.

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Peace and Virtue

A few comments are in order concerning Charles C. Price's letter (24 Oct., p. 411), which promoted participation in the "First International Peace Week of Scientists." Im-

plicit in this letter and underlying the staging of this event is the idea that peace, in and of itself, is to be desired, and that militarization, termed the "arms race," is to be deplored. I would like to dispute this.

The dictionary tells us that peace is the state characterized by harmony, freedom from discord, absence of mental conflict, or that condition attained at the conclusion of a war. We might surmise that the peace is far more pleasant for the victor of the war than for the defeated. In this case, peace is a desirable condition for those with the upper hand.

Several specific examples of the undesirability of peace are apparent. For instance, a corpse can be said to be in a state of peace. Also, slaves, be they modern or historical, experience many of the characteristics of a peaceful existence. Perhaps the Union of Concerned Scientists is lobbying for increased numbers of slaves and corpses. In the late 1930's, as Nazi Germany was swallowing up portions of Europe, many Western leaders argued that appeasing Hitler would preserve the peace.

Peace is only one of a gamut of virtues; in many cases, one cannot be favored without adversely affecting the others. There is one

virtue that is cherished by many living in democratic societies but is often ignored by promoters of peace, and that is freedom. In a world in which there are many who would squelch that freedom, it may be necessary to fight to protect it. For a society to abandon the option of war, be it waged with muskets or MIRV's, is to invite attack by evil men, of which, sadly, there is presently no shortage.

Price's letter is, in essence, an advertisement for an event espousing a particular political point of view. Political advertisements should not appear in the Letters section of *Science*.

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Erratum: In the article "R&D budgets: Congress leaves a parting gift" (News & Comment, 31 Oct., p. 536), the 1987 appropriation for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was incorrect. Total funding for the agency is \$10.4 billion, not \$7.95 billion, as stated. The budget includes money to cover construction of a new space orbiter and shuttle operations. Research and development funding stands at \$3.1 billion, as reported.

Erratum: The listing in the 3 October Books Received (p. 94) for *Reinventing Technology* (p. 97) was incorrectly printed as *Reinvesting Technology*.

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