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

MICHAEL A. MARES Stovall Museum and Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019

## REFERENCES

M. A. Mares, in The Great American Biotic Interchange, F. G. Stehli and S. D. Webb, Eds. (Plenum, New York, 1985), pp. 489-520.
B. Patterson and R. Pascual, in Evolution, Mammals, and Company of the Compan

and Southern Continents, A. Keast, F. C. Erk, B. Glass, Eds. (State Univ. of New York Press, Stony Brook, 1972), pp. 247-309; R. L. Cifelli, in (1), pp. 249-

266.
S. D. Webb, in (1), pp. 357-386.
A. Soriano et al., in Temperate Deserts and Semi-Deserts, N. E. West, Ed. (Elsevier, New York, 1983), pp. 423-460.
M. A. Mares, M. R. Willig, T. E. Lacher, Jr., J. Biogeogr. 12, 57 (1985).
M. A. Mares, and R. A. Ojeda, in Mammalian Biology in Secretal Action M. A. Ojeda, in Mammalian Biology

in South America, M. A. Mares and H. H. Genoways, Eds. (Spec. Publ. 6, Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, Linesville, PA, 1982), pp. 393–432.

## 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." Implicit 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.

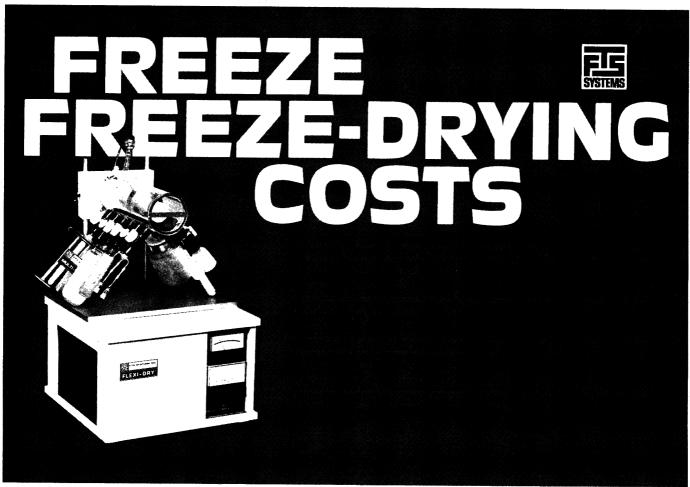
Peace is only one of a gamut of virtues; in many cases, one cannot be favored without adversely affecting the others. There is one virtue that is cherished by many living in democratic societies but is often ignored by promoters of peace, and that is freedom. In a world in which there are many who would 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.

BRADLEY T. WERNER Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125

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.



Circle No. 129 on Readers' Service Card