

Kingdom, with the support of France. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was sponsored by the United States, the U.S.S.R., and the United Kingdom. The Montreal Protocol on chlorofluorocarbons was successfully negotiated when the major producing countries agreed on a schedule to reduce manufacture of these products.

Perhaps the same approach can be taken with regard to burning of fossil fuels, the major anthropogenic contributor to CO₂, which accounts for half of the predicted global warming. In 1987, the United States and the Soviet Union accounted for 61% of the world's consumption of natural gas and 41% of the consumption of oil. Adding in the People's Republic of China (PRC), these three countries accounted for 58% of the world coal use and also possessed 66% of the world's known coal reserves (1). Perhaps one of the early initiatives of the environmentally conscious Bush Administration could be to open negotiations with the U.S.S.R. and the PRC for a CCNPT, a Climate Change Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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REFERENCES

1. *BP Stat. Rev. World Energy*, June 1988, pp. 8, 23, 24, and 27.

Mediocrity

I assume that following his editorial "The Golden Median" Daniel E. Koshland, Jr. (2 Dec., p. 1225), plans to resign as Editor and enter some field in which he is less talented. The Society of Mediocrity can hardly tolerate the perceptive and insightful ideas expressed in that editorial.

I must disagree with one point however. Even in the Society of Mediocrity, athletic performance will remain as the one acceptable field of excellence. As a school board president I observed that those who opposed our attempts to promote academic excellence on the grounds it was elitist still demanded full funding and support for the athletic teams.

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Mediocrity ought not be celebrated, Koshland writes, but then why provide us with an editorial that can scarcely be viewed as other than mediocre, especially when one considers its faulty logic?

I emphatically do not wish to entice any but the brightest undergraduates to my uni-

versity. However, I have long since learned that Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores provide an unsatisfactory basis for separating the best and the worst, an opinion widely supported (1). Nor have I seen achievements by our better students increase or decrease according to whether high grades were generously or stingily awarded. The suggestion that Olympic medals are what inspire athletes displays a similar (mediocre) level of critical thought.

Let me not be misunderstood. I do not defend mediocrity. But, it is a mistake to assume that those of us who believe certain instruments are counter-productive—SATs, grades, and medals, inter alia—are thus less dedicated to excellence than is Koshland.

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1. D. Owen, *None of the Above: Behind the Myth of Scholastic Aptitude* (Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA, 1985).

Animals in Research: Educational Funds

At the 1988 annual meeting of the American Society of Zoologists (ASZ) in San Francisco, a significant resolution was passed by a large majority of the members who attended the business meeting on 29 December. They voted to establish a system for collecting voluntarily contributed funds to be used for educational purposes relating to the issues of the need to use animals in research and teaching. The funds will be used in various ways to inform the public, politicians, educators, and the membership of the ASZ themselves on these questions. We hope that other biomedical societies will follow the example of the ASZ and establish similar educational funds, because of the ever-increasing threat to the use of animals for these purposes.

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A Strengthened Court

I agree completely with Daniel E. Koshland, Jr.'s, editorial of 18 November (p. 993). Perhaps the most important point he makes is that the role of the court ought to be strengthened. Somehow, even if it is only subconscious, experts seem to feel obliged to strengthen the case of the party that has employed them, be it the prosecution or the

defense. In many European countries, the experts are called by the court and have no obligation to either the prosecution or the defense. Of course, as Koshland says, "defense and prosecution would still have the freedom to call whatever witnesses they chose." It has long been felt by many observers of our national scene that the extreme emphasis on the adversarial approach tends to interfere with the finding of the truth.

Not knowing enough about our system of law, I do not know whether the traditional aloofness of the judges is prescribed by the law, or is only an old tradition. It is certainly highly inappropriate when it comes to strongly conflicting statements of so-called experts on psychiatric cases. This is really the gist of Koshland's recommendation, and it is this proposal that I applaud so vigorously.

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U.S.—Soviet Cooperation

In the article (News & Comment, 2 Dec., p. 1243), there is some confusion between the history of the new journal *Science and Global Security*, whose editorial board Roald Sagdeev and I co-chair, and the International Foundation. A prerequisite for creation of both was the new glasnost policy of the Gorbachev leadership, but it was the Foundation, not the journal, which received the precedent-setting authorization this past October to operate as an independent organization headquartered in Moscow with the ability to raise funds in the U.S.S.R. The journal will be headquartered at Princeton University. Some of the costs of its editorial office will be supported by grants from private U.S. foundations. The other costs associated with its publication in English will be borne by Gordon and Breach Science publishers, and the costs associated with its publication in Russian will be borne by Mir publishers with a small subsidy from the Soviet Peace Fund.

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Erratum: In Robert Pool's Research News article "Microscopic motor is a first step" (21 Oct., p. 379), Long-Sheng Fan and Yu-Chong Tai should have been credited with Richard Muller as builders of the first rotating micromotor.

Erratum: In the next-to-last paragraph of Mark Crawford's article "Weapons reactor restart set back" (News & Comment, 23 Dec., p. 1630), the half-life of tritium is incorrectly given as 5 years. The correct time is 12.3 years.