Japanese Support of U.S. Research

I was dismayed to find attitudes of barely concealed racism in two recent News & Comment articles about Japanese support of research efforts in the United States (27 Nov., pp. 1428 and 1431). Several scientists are quoted to the effect that this kind of support constitutes "stealing" of American know-how by the Japanese, and they voice concern that publicly funded research may become commingled with proprietary research and hence benefit the Japanese.

While I, too, am concerned about loss of competitiveness to other countries and the use of taxpayers' money for private gain, it is curious that this kind of language is used only when the money comes from foreigners of the nonwhite variety. For example, not far from the Princeton institution funded by the Nippon Electronic Corporation that is criticized in the first article is the Roche Institute for Molecular Biology (not to mention several other research facilities supported by European pharmaceutical companies). In a subsequent issue of *Science*, an article reports a forthcoming agreement between the Scripps Research Institute and Sandoz, yet another European pharmaceutical giant (News & Comment, 4 Dec., p. 1570). This article is entirely positive, with no hint of any concern that foreigners may be stealing the fruits of American research efforts at the expense of taxpayers, even though Sandoz will have licensing rights and Scripps researchers will be encouraged to get additional funding from the National Institutes of Health.

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Thoroughly Modern Reptiles

It doesn't necessarily follow that, had the dinosaurs not become meteorically extinct, humans would not have evolved (Daniel H. Janzen, Letters, 13 Nov., p. 1071). They would not have evolved from uneventuated primates, but self-knowing *Homo sapiens* could have arisen (or descended) from an advanced line of reptiles. This possibility was broached by Dale A. Russell, a paleobiologist at the Canadian Museum of Nature. At the end of a 1981 British Broadcasting Corporation TV program "Death of the dinosaurs," he presented a model of what a highly encephalized 20th century dinosaur might look like. This creature, as conjectured, was bipedal with no tail, had a

large head with binocular vision, lacked external ears, and had a deep chest with ribs all the way down the abdomen, opposable fingers, and no external genitalia. Russell did not suggest other characteristics of such beings or the possible nature of their social structure, but from what we know of ourselves, reptiles, and the nature of intelligence, many logical scenarios can be imagined.

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All in the Family

There are some interesting family connections brought to mind by different contributions in the 22 January issue. A report on page 493 by István Lengyel *et al.* discusses research connected with transient, spatial patterns predicted by the British mathematician Alan Turing, who was mainly responsible for breaking the German "Enigma" military code, believed by many to be decisive in the Allied victory in World War II.

Turing's maternal great-grandfather was Thomas George Stoney, whose second cousin, George Johnstone Stoney, was a distinguished physicist who, among other things, invented the word "electron" (*1*). This same man was uncle to George Francis FitzGerald, the proponent of the contraction hypothesis as an explanation of the Michelson-Morley result, described in *The Maxwellians*, which is reviewed (Book Reviews, p. 536) in that same issue.

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References

1. A. Hodges, *Alan Turing* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1983).

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Kuwait Oil Fires: Correction

In our article "Airborne studies of the smoke from the Kuwait oil fires" (15 May, p. 987) (*1*), we stated that the depletions of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the smoke plume from the Kuwait oil fires were 50 and 60% per hour, respectively. These values were derived from measurements made aboard a Convair C-131 aircraft, and measurements of CO_2 were used as a conserved tracer. Subsequent comparisons of these measurements of CO_2 (which were obtained from a continuous