of narrowly puristic outlook . . . I consider them to be dangerous."

I am not familiar with all the new curricula. There are many that do not seem to suffer from these shortcomings, and several, notably the BSCS biology courses, have since been brought to my attention. Nevertheless, I do believe that the considerations I mentioned in my article must be taken seriously by those who have erred in the past and by those who, unless exhorted by conservatives like me, may err in the future. Educating children is a heavy and difficult responsibility —one which those who create new curricula often are unable to assess until it is too late. All of us, scientists and teachers alike, must do our best to help strike a proper balance. I hope that the debate provoked by my article will serve to clarify some of the philosophic issues underlying curriculum reform and thus contribute to maintaining the necessary balance.

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Dael Wolfle's editorial "Save the world" (20 Aug., p. 819) calls for an immediate systems analysis of the problems of preserving the quality of life on Earth. He acknowledges the cause of the problems—the population explosion—and notes that governments and the Catholic Church have recognized its seriousness. He says that it must be assumed that we will succeed in stemming population growth.

The assumption is reasonable; but the question is, By what means and at what level will the world population be stabilized? The techniques used for lowering the birth rate are a product of scientific research, and it is not unreasonable to believe that more research will result in more and better techniques. Despite the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences that research in the control of reproduction be greatly increased, there is, I believe, a remarkable inertia. We have governmental and private research institutes for the study of a great number of exotic diseases, yet to my knowledge we have not a single large, multidisciplinary institute concerned with research in reproductive biochemistry and physiology and the development of mechanical and pharmacological means of preventing ovulation, fertilization, implantation, or zygote growth. It is ironic that recent interest in the development of anovulatory drugs had to await the realization that the contraceptive market was immensely rewarding financially.

I see no reason why the urgency of the situation should not be recognized by the scientific community and appropriate action taken. The Second World War saw an unparalleled pooling of scientific brain power which resulted in an extraordinary scientific achievement—the atomic bomb. I believe that a comparable scientific effort could yield a spectrum of pharmacological agents enabling human reproduction to be prevented or induced as desired. Were this to occur, the quality of life, both in the family unit and on a global basis, would be enriched. We would witness the exciting phenomenon of continuing technological progress being applied to a stable population.

The National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, or other appropriate agencies should offer financial support, and if necessary propose legislation to Congress to this end. . . .

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Fuel for Indian Reactors

McElheny's report from India ("Electric power remains emphasis of India's nuclear energy program," 16 July, p. 284) is thorough and detailed, but there is one omission that might give a false impression. McElheny mentions that the uranium for the reactors at Rana Pratap Sagar and Kalpakkam, "as for the Canada-India reactor, will come from the monazite sands of Kerala and a mine being developed in Bihar." In fact, the original fuel charge for the Canada-India reactor, consisting of 12,000 kilograms of uranium metal, was supplied by Canada and is still in place in the reactor. In addition, Canada is supplying half the fuel elements (uranium dioxide) for the first charge of the 200-megawatt CANDU reactor being built at Rana Pratap Sagar.

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