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# Bioorganic Mechanisms

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million over a period of 5 or 6 years. None of these proposals has found support.

Meanwhile, a joint project sponsored by West European countries to build a 140-inch (356-centimeter) telescope in Chile is well along, and it seems likely a 150-inch telescope in Australia will soon be started with joint British-Australian support. In the northern hemisphere the Canadians are building a 150-inch telescope in British Columbia.

Thus, it appears, the great American contribution to observational astronomy—the large reflecting telescope at an excellent mountain site—is being taken over by alert scientists in other parts of the world with support from their governments. A significant shift in leadership may result in this area of astronomy. Similarly no progress must be reported with respect to support for the plans of American radio astronomers for large paraboloids and arrays.

We can look ahead to exciting discoveries from the orbiting observatories that are to be provided by the space program. But when it comes to equally exciting follow-up—the sort of cream that went to the optical astronomers who used the radio clues to make the identifications and astounding discoveries of the quasars—we have to record with considerable sadness, especially for the younger astronomers, that when these discoveries are in the southern hemisphere (and we can guarantee that many will be made there) we may be limited to congratulating our fortunate colleagues in other lands.

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### References

1. *Ground-Based Astronomy, A Ten-Year Program* (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1964).
2. *Physics, Survey and Outlook* (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., 1966).

### Freight Train Entries

I was amused by Miller's proposal (Letters, 6 Jan.) for a "Freight Train Award," and am grateful to Peoples for the provision of a name by which this construction may be known and ridiculed. I submit a few examples which the readers of *The Physical Review* have narrowly escaped in the last 2 years:

"... the Bloch function modulated effective mass envelope wave functions.

A distorted-wave single-particle excitation with charge exchange calculation. . . .

... the constant pressure heat capacity temperature maxima and minima. . .

... the rare-earth local moment-free electron-like conduction electron exchange integral coupling. . . ."

The hyphens, if any, are the author's. Hyphens are generally avoided in the freight train construction except where they add significantly to the confusion.

J. C. FINEMAN  
The Physical Review, Brookhaven  
National Laboratory, Upton, New York

### A Biblical Tornado

Add to the early sightings of luminous tornadoes (Letters, 6 Jan.) the report of Ezekiel (1:4):

"And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire."

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### Write a Book!

In commenting upon Abelson's editorial (11 Nov., p. 727), van Bavel (Letters, 6 Jan.) alludes to additional ways of circumventing the editorial review process, namely, publication of "transactions" in bound form. He fails to mention, however, an even sneakier gambit employed by those who wish to present findings or theories that are repugnant to the highest arbiters of scientific thought: Write a book! The crafty entrepreneurs of commercial publishing firms are seldom disposed to seek the critical review necessary to ensure that data and interpretations are acceptable to the various editorial panels in the author's field. Choice of this medium not only permits expression of heresies, but also adds ill-gotten financial gain to the considerable number of brownie points accruing to the malefactor.

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