to question either, a logical conclusion is that the PLATO III system is far more flexible and more economical than others in the preparation of lesson materials.

After several other criticisms, the authors proceed to the following assertion: "For the large quantity price of $1800 per console or terminal, existing engineering technology can provide a TV quality image with color and 3-D, speech recognition and speech output . . . [and] could store all text centrally. . . ." This unsupported statement which implies that new technology is not needed to make CAI economically feasible is, in itself, a technological misconception. This particular misconception has, in the past, limited rather than encouraged the development of computer-based education.

DANIEL ALPERT
DONALD L. BITZER
Graduate College, University of Illinois, Urbana 61801

Reference

1. "Innovation in Education: New Directions for the American School," a statement on national policy by the Research and Policy Committee of the Committee for Economic Development, New York (1968).

U.S. Radio Astronomy in Decline

American astronomers and physicists recently attended an inaugural symposium in Groningen, Netherlands, for the Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope, a major new facility for research in radio astronomy. In a few months another major facility, the 100-meter telescope near Bonn, Germany, will begin operation.

Radio astronomy in the United States was almost nonexistent in the decade following World War II, but in the late 1950's and early 1960's it moved rapidly to the forefront after the completion of several powerful instruments. However, it is inevitable that radio astronomy in our country will deteriorate again since no new instrumental facilities are presently under construction. Our instruments of the 1950's cannot compete with the new ones now coming into use in other countries. A number of ambitious American proposals for new instruments have been made in the past decade, but none has been funded.

The strength of the American economy and our leading position in the world are based upon excellence in technological and scientific disciplines. Radio astronomy is one of the most exciting and rapidly developing fields of science and one which demands—and contributes to—the most advanced technology. We urge that the present stalemate on radio astronomy facilities be broken and that construction of some of the proposed instruments be undertaken. This is necessary if the United States is again to play an important role in this field.

ALAN T. MOFFET*
Owens Valley Radio Observatory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena 91109

* This letter was also signed by E. M. Burbidge, William C. Erickson, William A. Fowler, K. I. Kellermann, D. H. Rogstad, Maarten Schmidt, Charles L. Seeger, G. Westerhout, John A. Wheeler, and L. Woltjer.

Marital Success of Scientists

Robert Graves's comments on scientists' wives ("The human toll of science," 3 Apr., p. 96) are unfair to scientists and, I think, statistically unsound. As a scientist's wife, I know many more cases of satisfactory marriages among our colleagues than unsatisfactory or broken ones. Of these, half a dozen have celebrated their golden anniversaries and a great many have passed 20 years of marriage. We talk of the broken marriages, thus publicizing them out of proportion to their numbers.

Graves says that scientists "cannot communicate with their wives about their work in the way open to most husbands." There he pinpoints the problem in most unsatisfactory marriages: lack of communication. A scientist is no more to blame than is a poet or historian who doesn't talk to his wife.

Successful wives of scientists have made one of several choices: they have studied some science before or during marriage, or through conversation they have acquired a superficial knowledge of the field in which the husband works, or they have held up the social and stimulating side of the partnership, or they have developed an interest of their own in which they can communicate. Most scientists marry college-educated women. Science is a major part of daily life, and no woman—or poet—has a right to consider that scientists "live in an exclusive world in which things are viewed in a strange and different way."

BETTY N. SHOR
2655 Ellentown Road, La Jolla, California 92037