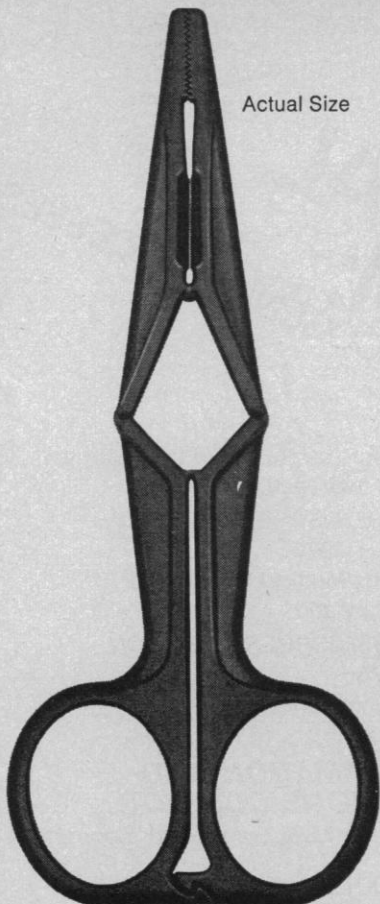


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that it is the cause of all our urban woes, a thesis lacking empirical support.

Humphreys is incorrect in asserting that I claimed freedom of choice now exists. I said that it is a value which should be given primacy, under the aegis of voluntaristic information and contraception programs. The work of implementing that value has hardly begun.

DANIEL CALLAHAN  
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### Research Natural Areas

In his article "Natural areas" (4 Aug., p. 396), William Moir refers briefly to a publication that should receive more attention. *A Directory of Research Natural Areas on Federal Lands of the United States of America* (1) is a list of more than 300 research natural areas with their descriptions, locations, and individual information sources. It is cross-referenced by type, state, and species of note and serves as an announcement of the availability of natural areas for appropriate use by scientists and educators.

STEPHEN D. VEIRS  
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Drawer N,  
Crescent City, California 95531*

### Reference

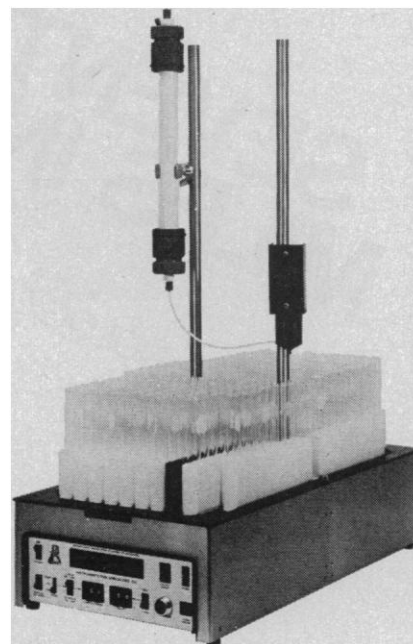
1. Federal Committee on Research Natural Areas, *A Directory of Research Natural Areas on Federal Lands of the United States of America* (Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1968).

### Safety at Rocky Flats

Donald Michels (Letters, 21 July, p. 208) takes issue with Deborah Shapley's disturbing report (News and Comment, 5 Nov. 1971, p. 569) on safety at Dow Chemical Company's Rocky Flats plutonium plant in Colorado. Michels is on the Rocky Flats staff (an affiliation not mentioned in his letter) and thus is hardly a disinterested observer.

Michels appeals to the reader to imagine that plutonium plant safety has evolved somewhat over the past 25 years and that there is no inconsistency in the claims of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) that the Rocky

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