LETTERS

International Scientific Exchange

It appears to me that the "T. K. Bachman" mentioned in the reply from Frank Carlucci to William D. Carey concerning scientific exchanges and U.S. national security (8 Jan., p. 139) is the same Talis Bachmann that I had the distinct pleasure of hosting last year during the Psychology Exploration Day weekend (an undergraduate-oriented event) at Southeast Missouri State University. Carlucci's letter states that Bachmann "came to study the interface between man and machine." He does not mention that Bachmann's research interests and publications are in the areas of human information processing, cognition, and perception and that man-machine interactions are currently of importance in these academic areas.

Bachmann and I have corresponded freely about our mutual research pursuits for some time, and during his visit with me I found his interests to be far-ranging, from aspects of clinical psychology to differences between the educational systems of the United States and Russia. Although Bachmann may have been handpicked by his government to visit this country because of his expertise in man-machine interfaces and although he may have been told to be on the lookout for information relevant to Russian military interests, I think it would be a mistake to imply that he came here for any other personal reason than to develop professionally. Bachmann is an excellent scientist and a fine individual, and I am convinced that his commitment is to the progress of science in general.

At the time of his visit, Bachmann knew that I was conducting unclassified research in the area of perception that was sponsored by the U.S. Air Force. Nonetheless, he did not press me for information regarding the project. Rather, conversations centered mainly on the interpretation of published reports, well-known theories, and future possibilities for collaboration between us on topics of mutual interest.

For its part, our State Department did a thorough job of apprising me of the potential for information loss in contacts with Russian scientists. If such information loss is a reality, it seems that our government needs to consider more carefully procedures and criteria for classifying the research it sponsors. Furthermore, if our scientific exchanges are one-sided, it would appear that the burden of responsibility for producing a

more equitable situation would be upon the ones who make their information so freely available. If a problem exists in the information flow between the two superpowers, it is not to be found in the scientific community. Rather, the political agencies that set the rules for the exchange of information are to blame. As any consumer in our society knows, it is foolish not to take advantage of a bargain. Why should the Russians do otherwise?

J. TIMOTHY PETERSIK
Department of Psychology,
Ripon College,
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

I am writing in regard to one of the examples in Frank Carlucci's reply to William D. Carey. Carlucci writes, "In the case of K. H. Rozhdestvensky, it was not until several months after his departure that we learned his research paper was concerned with the 'wing-in-ground effect' aerodynamic vehicle." It is not quite clear what is meant by "his research paper," but in any case, Rozhdestvensky (K. V., not K. H.) has published at least eight papers going back to 1972 on wings moving close to a rigid boundary. This research should not have been a surprise to any one interested in knowing. During the time he was in the United States, partly at the University of Michigan, partly at the University of California, Berkeley, he worked on the closely related problem of ships moving near to a wall or in a canal. (He is a naval architect by education and profession.) This work will presently be published in English. A recent monograph by him on the wing problem exists in Russian.

The gist of Carlucci's letter is that the visiting scientists from the U.S.S.R. learn a lot from us but contribute little. This was certainly not so with Rozhdestvensky. We learned a good deal from him. We hope he learned something from us.

JOHN V. WEHAUSEN
Department of Naval Architecture and Offshore Engineering, University of California, Berkeley 94720

Alzheimer's Disease: Research Guidelines

Gina Kolata's article (1 Jan., p. 47) about the conference sponsored by the National Institute on Aging on "Senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type and related diseases: Ethical and legal issues related to informed consent" is a balanced presentation of the difficult and