footnote of the book's conclusion. The footnote gives a totally incorrect interpretation of the physical meaning of *P*-invariance.

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Citing the literature

In his letter (PHYSICS TODAY, Oct. 1969, page 11) Peter Borcherds calls attention to the problem of referring to unpublished work and notes that such references waste the reader's time. I would add that this is but one instance of the difficulties imposed upon the reader by the method of citing references in use by the journals that he mentions (*The Physical Review, Physical Review Letters,* and *Journal of Applied Physics*).

A much preferable way of dealing with all references is to cite them by author and date of publication and to list them alphabetically at the end of the paper. Most scientists, reading a paper in a field with which they are familiar, will recognize many papers by authors and date and will not need to interrupt their reading to look up each reference. This method can also lead to an improved writing style, because it is natural to use the authors being cited as the subject of an active verb: for example, "Smith and Jones (1965) have measured . . . "

Another dividend is that it is easy, by looking at the alphabetized bibliography, to find out if any particular reference has been included or omitted in a paper. This method of citing references is, of course, widely used in US astronomical literature (for example, *Astrophysical J, Astronomical J*).

By adopting the policy of citing papers by author and date, scientific journals improve their readability. The problem noted by Borcherds is easily solved within this framework by references in the text of the three following forms: (Smith and Jones, to be published); (Smith and Jones, in preparation); and (Smith and Jones, private communication).

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Has science overwhelmed society?

I should like to protest the superficial and self-serving optimism of your guest editorial in the December issue, entitled "Is Your Research Moral?" I