

letters

slaves in their own land. Those "increased responsibilities" will only allow Africans to supervise Africans, and those "drastically increased salaries" are still below subsistence and are still totally unjust for work performed. The scholarships and educational changes are for the continuance of apartheid. Polaroid's new policy is in violation of the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Declaration of Human Rights.

It is high time that liberals and self-professed humanitarians stop talking, and perform deeds that will meet human needs and deal with those crimes against humanity that they promote or ignore. Blacks will no longer accept the excuse that education or jobs will buy human rights—both here and in South Africa.

Caroline Hunter
Boston, Mass.

Polaroid scientists comment: Caroline Hunter repeats many of the allegations we took pains to respond to in our letter. She and her colleagues proceed from a specific assumption about how the apartheid system should be fought: namely, by an international economic boycott of South Africa. This position has led her to impugn Polaroid's motives in the experiment, and to construct an elaborate series of fabrications about Polaroid's situation in that country. For instance, she publicly asserted for months that the passbook photographs were all taken with Polaroid's ID-2 identification system. This particular unfounded charge is now absent from her letter, and she has shifted to saying that "all passbooks are produced on instant film." In fact, as we pointed out previously, the company's investigation in January, 1971, found that no more than 15% of the passbook photos were being made on Polaroid film. Only six of the more than 150 passbook offices were equipped with instant (but non-Polaroid) ID cameras that use Polaroid film. At that time, the company ordered the distributor to discontinue selling any Polaroid products to the South African government.

There are hundreds of US companies with substantial capital investments in South Africa. Polaroid has none. In view of the company's minute importance in the economy, and the small percentage of passbook photos made on Polaroid film, it seems unlikely that stopping sales to the South African distributor would materially affect the apartheid system. The "Polaroid Experiment" is an attempt to find, and demonstrate to other American companies, ways of combatting apartheid through improvements in the economic and educational status of South African

blacks. Miss Hunter's insistence that Polaroid's experiment will not work seems premature at a time when all hypotheses for action against apartheid should be vigorously explored.

Stephen A. Benton, John J. McCann
Stewart W. Wilson, William R. Ray
Polaroid Research Laboratories
Cambridge, Mass.

Handicapped physicists

Your editorial, "No More Brains to Train?" in the April issue (page 91) could have gone further in discussing those groups that have been denied the opportunity to realize their full intellectual potentials in physics and other areas.

For example, how many deaf physicists do you know? I refer to those who have had severe hearing losses since childhood and not to those whose loss developed later in life. If I speak of the deaf rather than of other "handicapped" groups, it is a result of personal experience—I have been profoundly deaf since the age of seven.

Deafness can be devastating because it strikes at the sense through which most people learn speech and language and through which they usually communicate with others. With intensive training by well prepared and highly motivated teachers, deaf individuals, including those whose deafness is congenital, can learn language, speech, and lipreading and can be encouraged to develop their full potentials. The membership of the Oral Deaf Adults Section of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf includes PhD's in several scientific fields and also an orthodontist.

Unfortunately, society has not devoted the necessary resources to providing the deaf with the teachers and educational facilities they require. The general educational level of the deaf today is appalling, and they face many prejudices. The ignorance of their capabilities and problems is perhaps best emphasized by the fact that your editorial and similar discussions never see fit to mention them among the groups whose talents are being only slightly utilized by society.

Ralph F. Guertin
Rice University
Houston, Texas

In defense of Velikovsky

Murray Gell-Mann in the May issue (page 23) linked the Velikovsky Theory with mysticism. This reasoning appears in line with what Gell-Mann calls "a surge of rejection of rationality." Since Velikovsky published his *Worlds in Collision* in 1950, irrational attacks on

ASTRO WANTS YOU



To Use Your Imagination

ASTRO'S MODEL 1000A ULTRA-HIGH TEMPERATURE FURNACE is designed for general lab use with inert, oxidizing or reducing atmospheres, or vacuum, and features a 2.5 inch diameter by 6 inch long hot zone with a heat-up time of 20 minutes to 2700°C.

This compact and versatile laboratory instrument with horizontal or vertical operation, straight-thru access and radial and axial ports has been used in the following applications:

Sintering ■ Brazing ■ Metalizing ■ Annealing ■ Crystal Growing ■ DTA ■ Calorimetry ■ Carbon Fiber Research ■ Hot Pressing ■ Creep Testing ■ Sonic Testing ■ Thermocouple Calibration ■ TGA ■ Pyrolytic Deposition ■ Spectroscopy ■ Black Body Radiation

Use YOUR imagination. What can Astro's Model 1000A do for YOU?

Priced at \$4875 and available for immediate delivery.

astro

INDUSTRIES, INC.
606 North Olive Street
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101
Telephone 805/963-3461