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Garwin's use of too small a mass, together with an algorithm tailored to signals having different spectral character than most of the ones we observe, account for his negative results. Garwin did overlook the importance of temperature control. Two effects are involved. Failure to control temperature produces excess noise because the cylinder is not in equilibrium, and this excess noise cannot be removed by Garwin's computer program. A second effect is that the cylinder drift relative to a reference oscillator produces a large phase-modulation background, and this can be removed, by computer-program corrections discussed by Garwin.

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Nuclear club

Your recent article "Nuclear Proliferation—30 Years after Hiroshima" (July, page 23) had some very interesting visual depictions of the growth of "The Nuclear Club." Unfortunately, they all indicate the Mideast as being non-nuclear now and in the immediate future. In fact, Israel has had nuclear reactors for some years and Egypt is in the process of getting one, while Iran, Saudi Arabia and others of the oil-rich Arabic States are standing in line to purchase reactor technology.

Since the Mideast is also a politically unstable area, which conceivably could be a tinderbox for a holocaust, ignoring this area in the visual presentations appears to be misleading.

ELLIOT WHEELER
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THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: In my view, you are quite correct in your criticism of the visual depictions of the "nuclear club" illustrating my article in July. My own listing of the nuclear club would include Israel today, and certainly Iran, Egypt and possibly Saudi Arabia in 1980.

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Correction

June, page 88—The Committee on Science Education for the General Public should have been identified as a joint committee of both the American Association of Physics Teachers and The American Physical Society and not solely a committee of the APS. □