

scientists who are believers, and hardly any who are practicing Christians. This is compounded among minorities. Both African-American and Hispanic students are religiously oriented, and their religious values are an integral part of their culture.

I have lectured and written about the role science could play in our religious lives: how science can better our living conditions and teach us more about the Creator. But by and large, the students are not impressed. There are, after all, only a few short years here until we attain eternal life: Why bother with playing games? And even so-called nonbelievers have the lingering spirituality of their families' traditional religious dedication. Add in all the other typically American "fads," from parapsychology to the popularity of the ridiculous tabloids, and you have an environment that is not exactly favorable to true science.

The exceptions to the religious norm are the Jews and Asians. Jewish culture encourages questioning. Jews "argue" with God! They can't understand the meek acceptance of "God's will" among Christians. The outstanding Jewish scientists may not be believers, but they were inspired by their believing parents. Many Asians have a similar background. But it is obviously not genetic. Filipinos and Indonesians—devout Catholics and Muslims—are not outstanding in the sciences.

I have two very long essays on these problems readers might be interested in. One of my points is that "secular humanism" is a form of religion. Copies will be sent upon request.

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10/90

Physicists, Ethics and the Iowa Shooting

I applaud the recent efforts of the Panel on Public Affairs of The American Physical Society to formulate guidelines for professional conduct (January, page 62). We face no fewer temptations than other, less exalted segments of society. However, some still feel it unthinkable that a physicist could be unethical. This attitude may be responsible for the headline in the December Physics Community section (page 60), "Shooting at University of Iowa Claims Four Physicists, Administrator." A careful count reveals that five of us were shot, including the perpetrator.

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