

LETTERS

However, if we can measure sea level, with its tremendous tidal and meteorological environment, to a fraction of an inch, perhaps we can find a similar "average" for some point in the atmosphere and compare it with past results.

JOHN G. KEPROS
Sunnyvale, California

DAVIDSON REPLIES: I restate my only point: NASA has been consistent in planning a 15-year lifetime for HST. This has been reflected in internal planning, in testimony to Congress and in public information provided by NASA.

GREG DAVIDSON
NASA
10/93 Washington, DC

IUPAP Sponsors Only International Meetings

While I share the sentiments expressed in "What's Wrong with These Conferences?" by Henry H. Barschall and Willy Haeberli (December 1992, page 79), I would like to make two comments.

Barschall and Haeberli suggest that funding agencies use sponsorship by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics as a criterion for support of a conference. One criterion for sponsorship that IUPAP strictly enforces is the international character of the conference. A number of conferences in the US, while quite cosmopolitan, do not meet this criterion in their organizational makeup. Unless Barschall and Haeberli want all conferences to be international, IUPAP sponsorship for a conference is not an appropriate criterion.

Sometimes funding agencies require the publication of proceedings as a condition for financial support. Thus bringing the concerns of unnecessary proceedings raised by Barschall and Haeberli to the attention of these agencies may also be an avenue to solving the problem.

LU J. SHAM
University of California,
1/93 San Diego

Attending Conferences in China Aids Oppression

I find the letter "Westerners Should Go to China Meetings," by Xin Hao (December 1992, page 15), rather alarming. China, with its hydrogen bomb, developed rocketry, advanced conventional military potential and

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