

plentiful and inexpensive enough to be used in the Canadian power reactor known as CANDU.

S. GEORGE BANKOFF
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Cartoon Verdict: Don't Count on Aye of Beholder

Reuben Alley (March, page 128) is right for the wrong reason in condemning the EMF-related cartoon you ran in the January issue. He claims it is in "poor taste" because "neither capital punishment nor cancer is an acceptable subject for attempts at humor." I say it is weak for simply being not very funny. Taste in humor, I dare say, is determined less by choice of subject than by choice of treatment or approach. Like Alley, I'm dead set against the death penalty (and cancer). But I much enjoy—when it's done well—"humor that makes fun of a very serious or terrifying situation," which is how my dictionary defines "gallows humor." Please keep trying.

JULIE S. LINK
Vienna, Virginia

The cartoon reproduced on page 13 of the March issue is in exceedingly poor taste. Regardless of what view one takes in the current debates about the existence of elementary particles, neither quantum foam nor particle physicists are acceptable subjects for attempts at humor.

DAVID SOLTYSIK
University of Illinois at Chicago

Corrections

April, page 17—The distance between Capella's two component stars, which are shown in the figure, is 6 light-minutes, or roughly the distance between the Sun and Venus.

April, page 50—The pricing structure for copies of "National Science Education Standards" from National Academy Press is as follows: single copy, \$19.95; 2–9 copies, \$16.50 each; 10 or more, \$13.95 each. Add \$4.00 for shipping the first book, \$0.50 for each additional book. The report can be viewed at <http://www.nap.edu/nap/online/nses/>.

May, page 88—The obituary for Arthur F. Kip was written by Eugene D. Commins, Charles Kittel, Alan M. Portis and Joseph Tussman, all of the University of California, Berkeley, not by Roger W. Falcone, who forwarded it to us. ■

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