

house gases is “pseudoscience” seems to be a reaction to remarks by Tim Barnett (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) as reported in my story. Barnett used standard scientific techniques to test competitive explanations for the increased ocean heat content: Solar irradiance and/or geothermal heating could not explain the observed ocean changes, while warming due to greenhouse gases gave almost precisely the observed values. Attributing the warming to greenhouse gases was the logical conclusion.

Reference

1. National Academy of Sciences, “Reconciling Observations of Global Temperature Change,” National Academy Press (Washington, DC, 2000).

BARBARA GOSS LEVI
PHYSICS TODAY

Folding *The Sciences* Was Tough but Correct Decision

The article in the August 2001 issue (PHYSICS TODAY, page 24) on the decision by the New York Academy of Sciences to cease publication of *The Sciences* makes it sound like a cavalier decision in which good business practices and member interests were ignored. In reality, there was no financially viable way of continuing to publish it. The decision came after extensive evaluations of the publication in relation to the academy’s mission for the next decade and beyond.

During the past 20 years, advertising, circulation, management, licensing, and ownership options were explored to improve the magazine’s impact and to decrease its drain on the academy’s budget, but to no avail. The magazine business is increasingly competitive and costly, especially for a nonprofit organization. No one likes to see an excellent publication die, but the academy could no longer justify spending nearly all of its discretionary funds on *The Sciences* while the organization’s primary programs needed resources. While I was president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I had

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the sad duty to preside over the termination of *Science* 19XY for the same reasons.

The reallocation of resources will permit greater emphasis on a vigorous renewal of the academy’s principal programs; expansion of communication efforts about the research frontiers represented in the academy’s work; continuing projects on biotechnology, international cooperation in science, economic development, environmental issues, and other topics; and concentration on the academy’s role in interdisciplinary subjects.

These activities are reinvigorating the New York Academy of Sciences as a significant global organization, one I am proud to support as a member of its board. It was no easy decision to stop publishing *The Sciences* but nonetheless the correct one.

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Principia Is Proud of Solar Car Success

I appreciate the attention given to the University of Michigan’s impressive first place finish in the American Solar Challenge 2001 biannual motor race (PHYSICS TODAY, September 2001, page 29). For the record, Principia College also had an outstanding car, “Ra IV,” that took seventh place in the event, ahead of some 20 university teams. The race was a formidable challenge,



RA IV, Principia College’s entry in the American Solar Challenge 2001 biannual motor race.

following old Route 66 from Chicago to California, over 2300 miles. Principia was the only entry from a small liberal arts college with no engineering curriculum. (Ra IV also gave Principia a first place finish among 19 entries in the two-day “Formula

continued on page 78