LETTERS
On the Dangers of Genetic Meddling: E. Chargaff; F. R. Simring

EDITORIAL
Habitat: M. Mead

ARTICLES
Housing Requirements and National Resources: T. R. Lakshmanan, L. Chatterjee, P. Roy
Whither Site and Services?: A. A. Laquian
The Rush to the Cities in Latin America: F. C. Turner
A Stable Urban Ecosystem: R. L. Meier
Energy Use in Rural India: R. Revelle

NEWS AND COMMENT
Nuclear Initiative: Impending Vote Stimulates Legislative Action
Nuclear Safety: A Federal Adviser’s Warnings Provoke Ire of Colleagues
Sea Law Treaty: Amid U.S. Gains, the Prospects for Science Are Sinking
Dade County: The Politics of Managing Urban Growth

RESEARCH NEWS
GSI: Heavy-Ion Research as the Future of Nuclear Science
Mathematical Proofs: The Genesis of Reasonable Doubt

AAAS NEWS
AAAS Initiates Barrier-Free Meetings: M. R. Redden; SB & F Needs Reviewers: Colloquium on R & D in the Federal Budget: C. Lightizer and W. A. Blanpied; AAAS Receives $75,000 Bequest; New Publications; Notes from Other Offices

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BOOK REVIEWS

Trek of the Oil Finders, reviewed by R. I. Levoren; The Healing Hand, G. H. Brieger; Biology of the Arthropod Cuticle, M. Locke; Genetics and Biogenesis of Mitochondria and Chloroplasts, J. L. Forster, N. W. Gilham, E. H. Harris; Phloem Transport, M. J. Canny; Books Received ................. 993

REPORTS

Control of Methane Sediment-Water Bubble Transport by Macroinfaunal Irrigation in Cape Lookout Bight, North Carolina: C. S. Martens ............ 998

Meteoroid Storms Detected on the Moon: F. K. Duennebier et al. ............... 1000

Tunneling in Ligand Binding to Heme Proteins: N. Alberding et al. .... 1002

Wastewater Renovation and Reuse: Virus Removal by Soil Filtration: R. G. Gilbert et al. ........................................... 1004

Bovine Leukemia Virus Genes in the DNA of Leukemic Cattle: R. Callahan et al. .......... 1005

α-Methylphenylalanine, a New Inducer of Chronic Hyperphenylalaninemia in Suckling Rats: O. Greengard, M. S. Yoss, J. A. Del Valle .......... 1007

Neuroendocrine (Bag) Cells of Aplysia: Spike Blockade and a Mechanism for Potentiation: F. E. Dudek and J. E. Blankenship .............. 1009


Human Bloodstains: Individualization by Crossed Electroimmunodiffusion: G. H. Sweet and J. W. Elvins ........................................ 1012

Human Pancreatic Islets in Culture: Effects of Supplementing the Medium with Homologous Serum: H. Goldman and E. Colle .......... 1014

Direct Evidence for a Bone Marrow Origin of the Alveolar Macrophage in Man: E. D. Thomas et al. ........................................ 1016

Monoamine Oxidase Activity Decreased in Cells Lacking Hypoxanthine Phosphoribosyltransferase Activity: X. O. Breakefield, C. M. Castiglione, S. B. Edelstein .......... 1018

Ultrastructure of the Auditory Regions in the Inner Ear of the Lake Whitefish: A. N. Popper .......................................... 1020

Cross-Modal Matching and the Primate Frontal Cortex: M. Petrides and S. D. Iversen .......... 1023

COVER

São Paulo, Brazil. Migration into Brazilian metropolitan centers has been massive. From one-fifth to more than one-half of the population has come from migration. Despite the high density of population in São Paulo, people continue to flock there. See page 955. [Varig Brazilian Airlines]
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Habitat

The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements—Habitat—convened in Vancouver on 31 May and brings to a head many of the substantive, "nonconventional diplomatic initiatives" which have resulted from the United Nations conferences on the environment, population, food and hunger, and the law of the sea. These pressing concerns are brought into focus in the problems of our cities, towns, and hamlets, where human beings relate to or destroy the environment which they share with other living things, nurture their children, modulate their population growth, till their soil, craft their tools and utensils, and provide generational transmission of emerging life-styles to those born there and to the strangers within their gates.

Habitat will emphasize the necessity of considering together all forms of human settlement from the rudest hut to skyscrapers, as people bred in one move to another, fleeing poverty in the countryside to a different kind of poverty in the swollen cities. They leave behind the tried ways of their ancestors to live in jumbled anonymity and low civic participation in cities which are increasingly dominated by the automobile, mass-produced goods, and internationally propagated building styles unrelated to local environments and basic or culturally specific human needs. As old cities decay before the onslaught of penniless millions—refugees from poverty, relentless population growth, civil disorder, war and massacre—new cities, jerry-built and inhuman, spring up, designed sometimes half a world away from those who will live in them. The pollution, poverty, and overcrowding in our cities and the relative and real deprivation in the countryside, perpetuated by large-scale exploitation of raw materials, together dramatize the contemporary problems of reconciling planning and freedom, human well-being, and the enhancement of profit, power, and prestige. In the economic realm of city planning, "housing" is often relegated to the status of a consumer item—an unfortunate necessity (associated with groups of people assembled for purposes of defense, offense, or production).

The problems are global. The participants, representing 140 governments and some 400 nongovernmental organizations, will have to struggle with the crucial question of scale: how to provide a framework within which aspirations for the human condition can be translated into continental planning for resource use and utility corridors and national policies for land use, yet leave towns and neighborhoods the autonomy necessary to adapt internationally developed designs to the needs of these smaller units. At present almost every aspect of human settlement planning is on the wrong scale.

The need for innovative economizing is greatest in the developing countries because of the magnitude of the problem and the scarcity of resources. But there is a complementary need in the industrialized countries—a need for energy conservation, the elimination of wasteful use of irreplaceable resources and pollution, and the redesign of our urban systems from deteriorated inner cities and isolating suburbs. The United States is conspicuous for the technical know-how which we can assemble when faced with war, and equally conspicuous for our laissez-faire abandonment of our cities and those who live within them. Americans should have much to offer and to learn as the Conference struggles with the task of viewing human settlement as a global system, analyzable by computers which can handle hundreds of variables, but responsible to the residents' historically developed sense of space, time, and community. Each settlement can be a poorly differentiated segment or a microcosm of the whole, fostering divisiveness or global responsibility.—MARGARET MEAD, Curator Emeritus of Ethnology, American Museum of Natural History, New York 10024, and Chairman of the Board, AAAS