

science news

MAY 8, 1976
VOL. 109, NO. 19, 289-304

BEYOND
COMPUTATION

D. Luter

Edison Didn't Invent the Light Bulb.

Thomas Edison simply improved upon a principle others had discovered and worked on for years.

Furthermore . . .

- ☞ Cleopatra was not Egyptian.
- ☞ Darwin did not originate the idea of evolution.
- ☞ Lindbergh did not make the first nonstop transatlantic flight.
- ☞ Robert Fulton did not invent the steamboat.
- ☞ It was not Marie Antoinette who said, "Let them eat cake."
- ☞ The Emancipation Proclamation did not free any slaves.
- ☞ Ostriches do not hide their heads in the sand.
- ☞ The first American colonists did not live in log cabins.
- ☞ Delilah did not cut Samson's hair.
- ☞ Galileo did not demonstrate any of his theories by dropping objects off the Leaning Tower.

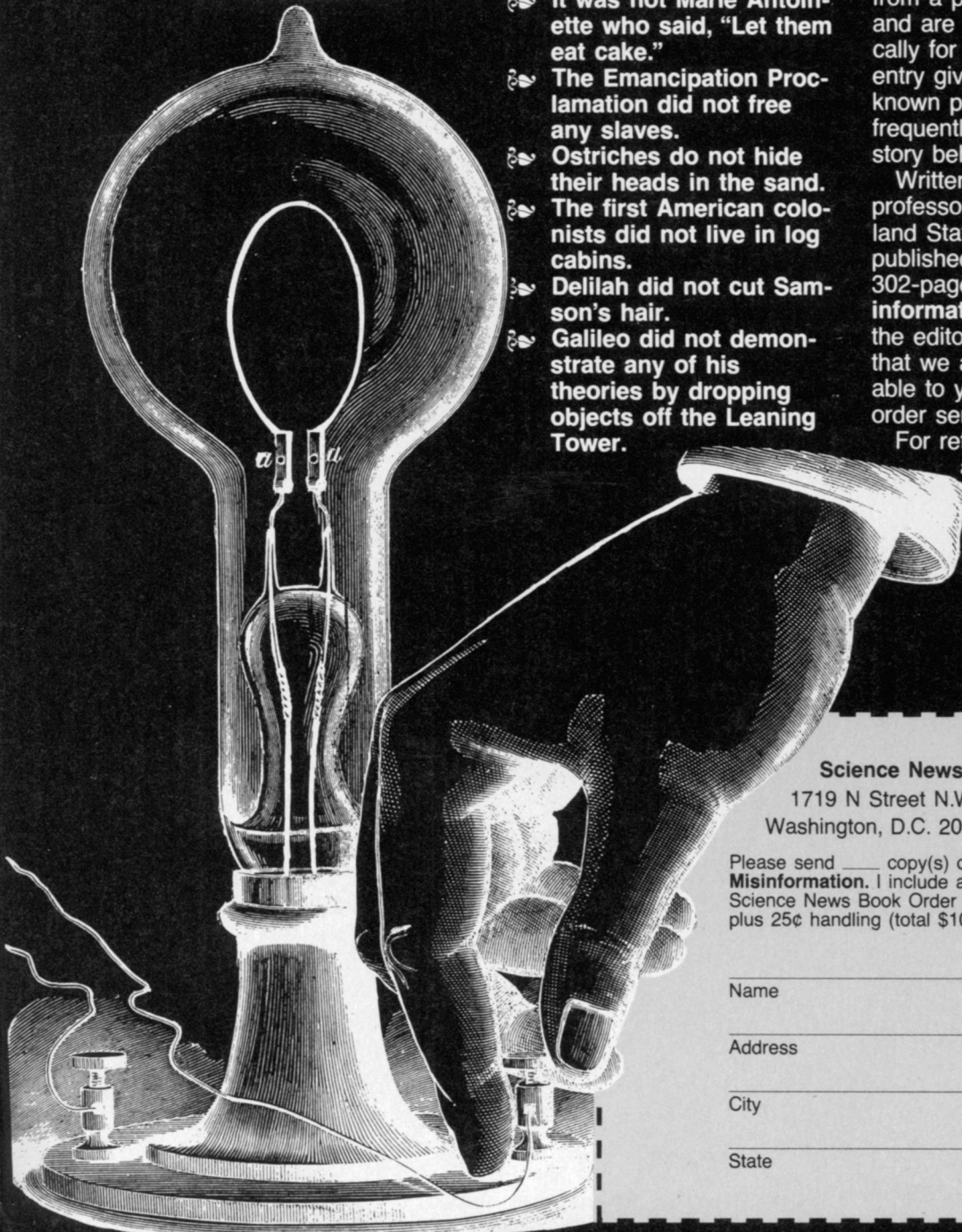
All these nuggets are found in a fascinating new book, **The Dictionary of Misinformation.**

A miscellany of misinformation, misbelief, misconstruction and misquotation. This compendium of myths, misunderstandings and bits of pure buncombe is a delightful and entertaining tour through the world of, as the author puts it, "odd (or not so odd) *non*-facts, of only too well-known untruths."

The articles range in length from a paragraph to a page and are arranged alphabetically for easy reference. Each entry gives the fact as falsely known plus the true facts, and frequently adds an interesting story behind the myth.

Written by Tom Burnam, a professor of English at Portland State University, and just published by Crowell, the 302-page **Dictionary of Misinformation** has so intrigued the editors of *SCIENCE NEWS* that we are making it available to you through our book order service.

For reference, rumination and pure delight.



Science News Book Order Service

1719 N Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

Please send _____ copy(s) of **The Dictionary of Misinformation**. I include a check, payable to Science News Book Order Service, for \$9.95 plus 25¢ handling (total \$10.20) for each copy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DM-2