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from the ordinary population. Certainly to additionally attribute "violent behavior" to this highly stigmatized group, numbering over 2 million Americans, is an unfair and regressive attitude without any scientific basis.

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A technical distraction

I was dismayed to read your article on the MX missiles ("Reagan's MX 'Peacekeeper' Draws Fire." SN: 12/4/82, p. 356). By focusing on the technological aspects of hardening, the writer distracts us from the larger issue. Talking about weapons technology and "disarmament vs. armament" seems rather like trying to reason with a schizophrenic. There are no solutions within that framework.

Yet, think of what bright, well-trained, scientific minds could do if they were focused on the larger issue. What would a billion dollars spent on research in conflict resolution produce?

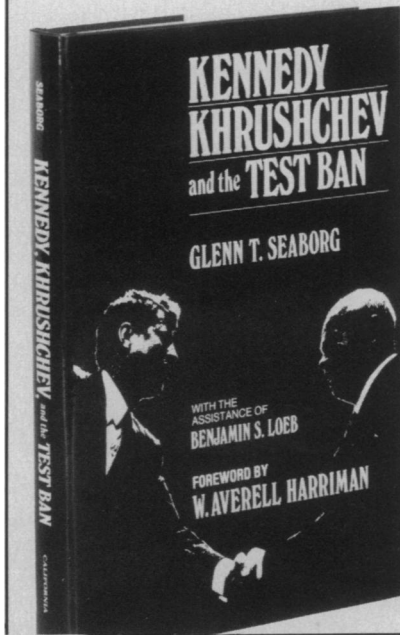
Scientists, first of all, should question the rationale of an apparent need for humans who happen to be born in different places to wage wars every 22 years or so.

If a visitor from another planet were here, it would probably be puzzled by our behavior, or at least conclude that we are a planet of lower life forms, not yet possessed of much intelligence. No wonder ET wanted to go home!

Beryl Payne, Ph.D.
Plymouth, Mass.

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