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## Letters

### Output tests gone overboard?

Surely the whole world can see that to spend three months and \$75,000 to determine the energy output of a device slightly more complex than an electric motor ("NBS report short-circuits energy machine," SN:7/5/86,p.8) is gross incompetence.

If Joe Newman is eventually required to pay this amount, it would be a terrible injustice and an ugly precedent. Imagine why an inventor should try and obtain a patent when any test the Patent and Trademark Office contracted might be charged to him (especially at such excessive prices).

As to the invention itself, Newman's claims are very dubious, not just from the conflict with basic physical laws but also from the fact that Newman has not taken the next obvious step with the device. Since the mechanism has surpassed break-even, some of the energy should be able to be returned to the input and make the battery pack unnecessary during continuous operation. (The battery pack would still be required as a starter.) This has

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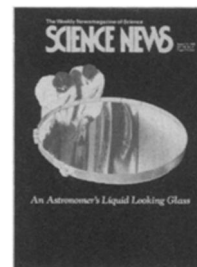
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Cover: Canadian astrophysicists peer into their new telescope mirror, a spinning container of liquid mercury. (Photo: Université Laval)



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not been done.

As a more efficient motor, it is possible, and from previous research, I have found that there is some room for improvement in the basic electric motor.

H. Enslé  
Association Camp, Colo.

**During my engineering career** I have looked at many new energy devices and tested a few of them. I fail to see what should make it so difficult to test a motor, including Newman's energy machine.

The input is the battery, the output torque times rotational speed. Since the input consists of pulses at low current, a low ohmic resistor in the current path connected to a scope should take care of that. For the output, any of the common devices, from calibrated paddle wheel to the many-cradled energy absorbers, would do nicely. For a first assessment there is no need for gold-plated equipment. To find out whether a bolt is 6 or 10 inches long, one doesn't need a micrometer. There is no need to assess brush and bearing friction, windage of

the rotor, etc. These are all losses. Including them in the output would make any motor 100 percent efficient.

I'm not saying it's impossible. I'm not saying a horse can't talk. I just get wildly curious when I hear about either one.

Herbert Reimann  
Sandston, Va.

### Psychiatric drug implants

Musing on the great variety of people who may benefit from controlled-release drug implants ("Planting the Seeds for Better Drug Delivery," SN:7/19/86,p.44) brings to mind one particular group: the noncompliant chronic psychiatric patient.

If the long-term administration of psychiatric drugs can be developed, then the tremendous human suffering and societal cost of repeated hospitalizations can be reduced. The maintenance of therapeutic drug effects is critical in the success of the necessarily long

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