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Moore takes us inside laboratories and hospitals as they try to cope with their own mistakes. Chronicling the use of procedures such as angioplasty and bypass surgery, he demonstrates the ways that so-called medical miracles can be risky — or fatal.

*Heart Failure* also explains why the dangers of high cholesterol have been exaggerated and the benefits of medical treatment oversold. Moore's evidence has triggered a national debate about whether we went overboard on cholesterol, a debate that no one can afford to ignore.

— from the publisher

Simon & Schuster, 1989, 5½" x 8½", 308 pages, paperback, \$9.95

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HeartFail

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"Heart Failure outrages and shocks the reader with its solid facts, clear writing and effective analysis. It is must reading for anyone who has ever worried about a heart attack."  
— Jon Van, *Chicago Tribune*

*Letters continued from p.99*

between two points is much less important when the information travels at the speed of light.

Ground-based travel is more complex. Reducing the overall network length reduces construction costs, but the increases in traffic can slow the system down. The latter is, admittedly, also a consideration in communications systems.

Gary Martin Cohen  
Highland Park, N.J.

As a regular hypothetical flier on your hypothetical Agony Airlines, I was encouraged to hear that their new routing — which can cut the total length of their routes — has increased the distance I must fly from Phoenix to Los Angeles, has put in a midway stopover, and thus has increased the overall time I must spend to make the trip. Good thinking! I'm sure this strategy will win Agony a plethora of new passengers!

Hypothetical progress will never end — particularly when buttressed by a "practical" mathematical proof.

John A. Short  
Gibsonia, Pa.

**Fond memories?**

In "College classes spur lifelong math memory" (SN: 12/15/90, p.375) you report that people who took college math courses showed greater recall of high school math in later years, in comparison with people who took no college math. It is curious to draw the conclusion that learning is better when it occurs in

sessions spaced out over several years. Isn't it more likely that the people who took college math were simply the ones with greater aptitude for — and greater interest in — math?

Michael I. Sobel  
Professor of Physics  
Brooklyn College  
City University of New York  
New York, N.Y.

*Aptitude apparently played no role in the results, since students with the same high school math grades showed great differences in 50-year math memory depending on whether or not they took college math. Although math interest undoubtedly influences students who take college math, a variety of majors require calculus courses.*

— B. Bower

**Hustlers: Getting it straight**

Your article describing my work ("Glimpses of AIDS and male prostitution," SN: 12/15/90, p.380) was misleading in a few respects. The statement that "hustlers maintain a strictly homosexual orientation" implies that they are exclusively homosexual in preference. In fact, roughly half express sexual preference for men, while the remainder express preference for women or no preference (10 percent), although their clients are exclusively men.

Hustlers' seropositivity rates are actually only about the same as those of the gay community in general. I did not say that "almost all the hustlers I've talked to are dependent on intravenous drugs and shoot up frequently." I did say that most hustlers are drug dependent and that over half of my informants in 1989-90 had been involved in

intravenous drug use, and three of them shot up frequently.

Finally, regarding your description of hustlers' clients as "family men": Though many of these clients are family men, the majority are not.

D. Scott Wilson  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, N.M.

**Spiritual violation**

I liked Richard Monastersky's "Fingerprints in the Sand" (SN: 12/22&29/90, p.392), describing the use of scientific forensics in investigations of archaeological thievery. However, his explanation of why the looting of ancient sites is a serious problem left out a fundamental argument.

Poachers who rip up burial sites are desecrating the graves of this land's original people. The Indian peoples whose ancestors' remains lie in these graves tell us that their forebears' spirits cannot rest when their burial places are violated. Whether or not this has scientific basis, decent people's spirits should be pained by the thieves' abuse of the beliefs of the indigenous peoples in whose land we are guests.

Shelley Sandow  
Forest Park, Ill.

**CORRECTION**

The name of the UCLA cardiologist cited in "The Safer Sex?" (SN: 1/19/91, p.40) was misspelled in several places. The correct spelling is Steven S. Khan.

