Can science fill the religion void?

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strates the dominance of science in our society. Scientists are also brought in to argue questions like the morality of abortion. We ask our scientists to determine when life begins in the fetus without realizing this question is also beyond the range of scientific inquiry. I have never received a good answer to the question, "What is the difference between a live and a dead self?" All the chemicals are still there, but something is missing. What is it?" Scientists can investigate and manipulate living organisms, but cannot distill life itself. This is not a criticism of scientists; it is a criticism of those who want science to do things beyond its capabilities.

Science and its children technology seem to be entering their heyday. Many hope high-tech industries will be the foundation of the future American economy. People prophesy computers will soon be as necessary as telephones in the home. Genetic engineering is producing results on Wall Street and in the laboratory and promises to transform medicine and agriculture, if not our entire society. President Ronald W. Reagan cuts the budget everywhere but proposes aid for mathematics and science education, because technology is our edge in both the military race against the Russians and the economic race against our allies.

Yet many people remain deeply ignorant of science and engineering. Scientists seem like magicians, discovering amazing new properties of the universe and creating phenomenal new devices which change and improve our lives. Education for those people is important, but as scientific professionals, we have a responsibility to keep our own work in perspective. We need to remember the limitations of science ourselves and refuse to let science be forced beyond its capabilities.

We face the danger of unconsciously letting science fill the void left by older religions struggling to keep contemporary in a changing world, instead of investigating what they have to say to our age. We can make science our religion if we want, but if we do, we should be fully aware of what we are doing; science is a great tool, but I think it is a losely religious.

Cites Ristad's inaccuracies

To the Editor:

In his column in the April 22 issue of The Tech, Eric Sven Ris-tad attacks Jeane Kirkpatrick and the government she represents for failure to support democracy and free speech in other countries. Ristad cites many "facts" and figures in support of his arguments, yet he apparently does not realize that the right to free speech involves commitment to truth and accuracy.

His statements regarding the actions of Israel are untrue and unsubstantiated. His figures on the number of civilian casualties in the war in Lebanon and the number of Israeli soldiers that have refused to serve there are orders of magnitude too large. His claim that the prisoners held in southern Lebanon are tortured is a malicious lie. The prisoners are treated in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and have been visited regularly by International Red Cross officials. He so totally misrepresents the conditions of the war in Lebanon that its purpose and its consistency with American interests are completely obscured. Need it be repeated that Israel's goal is to drive out and keep out the PLO, which used its installations in Lebanon to murder and terrorize thousands of civilians in Israel and in Lebanon. It is only now, that the PLO has been uprooted and dispersed, that the possibility is created for security in northern Israel and a reconstruction of Lebanon. It is clearly in the American interest to have peace and security in Israel and Lebanon; it is in the American interest to support actions which help bring this about.

Naomi Silman G