



Sykes and Evernden, *Scientific American*, 1982, vol 247, p 29).

The last sentence on p 41 should read: "... at high frequencies, the dampening effect of a 'bighole' explosion is much lower. Whereas at normal frequencies P-wave magnitudes may be dampened by up to a factor of 100 if a test is carried out in the right kind of chamber, at high enough frequencies this factor may be as little as five ...".

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## UFO fraud

I am cynically amused by Ian Ridpath's reply (Letters, 7 November, p 70) to Peter Warrington's challenge (Letters, 24 October, p 60) to substantiate remarks such as "highly suspect" and "fraudulent" regarding Warrington's book *Science and*

*The UFOs* (Review 5 September, p 58).

Ridpath substantiates nothing even though he claims to do so with pleasure. This evasiveness of attacking a book without making good by presenting evidence, that is, citing materials without explaining or analysing their content, hardly qualifies as proof of anything.

To this non-believer in UFOs Ridpath's review itself qualifies as "highly suspect" if not "fraudulent." His response to Warrington's challenge is pure *non sequitur*.

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## Survey erosion

It is ironic that, in your issue of 14 November, you include a box item on soil erosion in an article on the plight of the Soil Survey of England and Wales by Mike Hodgson and Dick Thomson (p 44).

Soon the survey's competence to carry out further research on erosion will be diminished. One of the posts declared redundant by the Soil Survey and Agricultural and Food Research Council, in response to the Ministry of Agriculture's cuts in their funding, is occupied by the person who instigated much of the work on soil erosion in Britain, and who carried out most of the survey's work on erosion. Indeed, at some