

Issue 54

## Current Electricity and the Telephone

In July 1986 a disc jockey in a lighthearted mood announced that the next afternoon the telephone company was preparing to blow the dust out of the telephone lines. He recommended that his listeners put plastic bags over their telephones to protect themselves against the dust. There was a "run" on plastic bags in the local markets as many people hurried to comply.

What does this incident say about people's schooling? Their gullibility? Could this have happened to listeners who had studied current electricity in a physics course? Could it happen in your community?

***Think about this . . .*** It is said that by the next century it may be too late to save the environment. In the meantime, what are your priorities for action (**a**) in the world, (**b**) in the U.S., and (**c**) in your community? Are your proposals politically practical?

*Every day there are 235,000 more people in the world than there were the day before. In what ways is this affecting you personally?*