

1980

## Information about Black Holes

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## Teaching a Success Story

James Hungerford, Dept. of Science Education, Marshalltown High School

In a recent article in the *Phi Delta Kappan*, it was suggested that educators may be doing a better job of teaching than ever before. Currently 50 percent of the high school population is being prepared for college, in comparison to 10-20 percent in 1950. Considering that a larger cross section of society is going to college, scores on admissions exams have held up amazingly well and compare favorably with other student populations throughout the world. This is not to say that there is no room for improvement, but it does indicate that a sound education, for a large portion of society, is being achieved.

Quality education is an important goal that a majority of Americans are willing to support. It is a responsibility of professional teacher organizations to publicize education's successes (as well as failures) so that public confidence in education does not decline, as it has with many other professions.

### Reference

Hodgkinson, H. 1979. What's Right with Education. *Phi Delta Kappan* 61(3):159-162.

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### Information About Black Holes

Because of the enormous public interest in black holes, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has recorded a two-minute taped message about these intriguing cosmic objects. Anyone interested in hearing the brief explanation can call the "Astronomy Hot-Line" at (415) 661-0500.

For those wishing more information about the science behind the science fiction, a black holes information packet can be obtained from the Society. The packet contains a non-technical introduction to the various kinds of black holes and a bibliography for further reading. It also includes information on bumper stickers and T-shirts with the slogan "Black Holes Are Out of Sight" which can be ordered through the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. (Proceeds from the sale of these items help support the Society's non-profit educational activities.)

To obtain a black holes packet, send your name and address together with \$1.00 for postage and handling to:

Black Holes  
A.S.P.  
1290 — 24th Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94122