

I began my Editorial by quoting Pope John Paul II. He stated "As hunger is the most serious danger to peace, food must be placed after human rights to a free life and security of the person". I continued that no human being, past, present or future, of whatever religion or race, can disagree with this statement. Neither could I write these lines, nor you read them, if we were hungry. I hoped that single cell proteins might produce an end to hunger, until the population expansion finally came to a sustainable level.

The most unusual interdisciplinary contribution of all I ever edited came from Professor Heinz Maier-Leibnitz: *Chairman and Cook—Twice as Spicy*. A distinguished physicist, he had been the President of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and was a member of the Royal Swedish, the Austrian, the Finnish, French and Leopoldina Academies of Science. He invented an ingenious technique to accelerate and shorten his innumerable committee chairmanships, simultaneously pleasing the committee.

He wrote: "To ensure the appropriate decisions from a Committee, a novel but somewhat risky manoeuvre is recommended: The Chairman should be at the same time the Cook, preparing and serving a superb meal to bring the meeting to a speedy and successful conclusion. Theoretical considerations are followed in this article by a detailed description of a meeting-eating." I had on more than one occasion been invited by Maier-Leibnitz to a splendid lunch cooked by himself—an honour considered in Germany only slightly below the election to the Order Pour le Mérite, of which he was then the Chancellor.

Equally unusual was another article in the Special Issue published in January 1980 devoted to 'Biotechnology and Nutrition', by L. Narodny *Smell: A Challenge to Interdisciplinary Science*. He wrote that smell remains an intractable scientific problem, without its primary odours, or any periodic table of scents, and there are no satisfactory methods of measurements. Existing theories were reviewed, and perfumes of great value to commerce described. Human pheromones may exist and reveal an unsuspected communication system, and a millennium of research in molecular biology is wide open.

Other contributions were devoted to *Aquaculture, a critical assessment of its Future*; *The Biotechnology of Algaculture*; and *Enology: Science and Technology improve an ancient Art* by Professor A.D. Webb, the Head of the Department of Viticulture of the University of California at Davis: "Since the pioneering days of Louis Pasteur" he wrote "science had made wines cheaper, better and more plentiful, but future research will improve them still further as production of wines spreads even more in Europe and in other countries on other Continents".