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Letters

Medicine show

"Fight ozone with a breath of Vitamin E?" (SN: 3/31/84, p. 197) will, no doubt, by the time you read this letter, stimulate the development of still another product for the vitamin mountebanks to sell to the naive public.

Can an aerosol form of — you pick the concoction — diet product, now be far behind?

Randall J. Wright, Pharmacist
Seneca, Kan.

More hominids

We wish to respond to several allegations made in your Letters section by Brigitte Senut (SN: 2/25/84, p. 115). Senut claims that the failure of the Coppens students, including herself, to attend the Spring 1983 conference on hominid locomotion was due to lack of funds. In fact, Dr. Coppens and one student of his choice were invited to attend, with all expenses paid by the Institute of Human Origins organizers. Neither attended.

A second claim made by Senut is that a second hominid lineage is represented at Hadar by

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Cover: Some scientists think that every 28 million years, brilliant comets streak through the solar system as a companion star to our sun jars them from their orbits. Sometimes, they say, a comet hits the earth, causing climate changes that lead many life forms to vanish forever.

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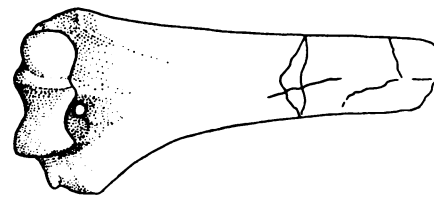
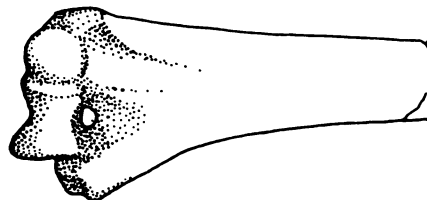


A.L. 33-29, a distal humerus whose features are said to be "sufficiently preserved to allow anatomical study." We refer interested readers to Senut's own published thesis (1981) on this specimen in which she states (p. 79): "Cette pièce est beaucoup trop fragmentaire pour nous permettre de conclure. De plus, il s'agit d'un moulage et les caractères sont donc difficiles à observer." ["This piece is much too fragmentary to permit us to come to a conclusion. In addition, it is a cast and the characteristics are thus difficult to observe."] This is the kind of discrepancy that we were looking forward to discussing in Berkeley last spring.

Finally, Senut asserts that White's statement regarding her publication of inaccurate drawings is "completely unsubstantiated." We will again leave it to the reader to make this judgment about the two drawings from Senut's own thesis, both drawings of the same view of the same fossil (Lucy's distal humerus).

Donald C. Johanson, Director
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