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Letters

On game playing

Your taking note of the non-appearance of the Russians at scientific meetings is well taken (SN: 8/4/84, p. 72), but we felt sociologist Harry Edwards's statement that he'd be reluctant to go to the Games, too, was totally uncalled for. The Russians' decision to boycott the Olympics was a matter strictly of their politics. The security they wanted consisted of a separate compound for their athletes with 24-hour guards, and separate, police-escorted vans to transport their people from place to place. That was all their athletes were going to be allowed to do in "participating" in Los Angeles, and it sounds

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Cover: From the simplest life forms all the way to humans, the basic question of why sex exists is being probed by researchers. (Illustration: Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Centennial gift of Landon T. Clay)



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awfully much like they wanted to transport the Berlin Wall to our town.

Your uncritical repetition of the Russians' complaints about security at the Games is a failure of your editorial responsibility to present *all* the facts. As it turned out, the only problem we had in those two weeks, security-wise, was one nut who wanted to guard a bus of athletes by himself, and he was swiftly recognized and removed from the scene. In a city of 12 million, that's not a bad batting average.

Everyone in the United States is entitled to have an opinion about everything, but *some* opinions should not be promulgated as being authoritative because it undermines every

chance we have of getting the Russians to stop *their* malevolent form of game playing.

Ursula T. Gibson
Tujunga, Calif.

Airing out ambulances

In "When ambulances are a hazard to health" (SN: 7/7/84, p. 8), it was reported that an unhealthy level of carbon monoxide showed up in the patient area of many ambulances during the trip to the hospital. This is especially dangerous because of the fragile health of the passengers. Several suggestions have been made to

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