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Letters

The chocoholic connoisseur

The only chocolate worthy of a true chocoholic's passion ("Sure, I can stop at one Milk Dud. . . really," SN: 9/7/85, p. 152) is the bitter or semisweet. No wimpy Milk Dud will pacify our cravings. No candy coating, creamy center nor (God forbid) caramel fill to interfere with a mouthful of smooth wonderful pure melting chocolate. Only the bile-tingling bitter dark of Nestlé's chips, a Hershey's Special or a Cadbury Energy Bar taken in half-pound allocations is good enough. Don't be fooled by imitation chocoholics.

Merry Eve Makela
Friendswood, Tex.

A widely believed myth is that chocolate causes acne. Could it be the other way around? The report on chocoholics seems to indicate that when they are under stress, they eat more sweets. I recall that previous reports have linked hormonal changes associated with

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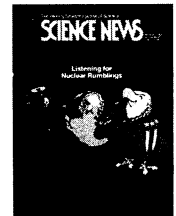
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Verifying a Comprehensive Test Ban

Cover: Can an agreement prohibiting all testing of nuclear weapons on the planet be adequately verified? Recent advances in seismology are encouraging, but in the United States the debate over the verifiability, and desirability, of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty rages on. (Illustration: Robert Bourdeaux)



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Takin to task

I challenge the statement in "Observations on a Legend: Takin in the Wild" (SN: 9/7/85, p. 148) that George B. Schaller of the New York Zoological Society and his Chinese colleagues now present their findings "along with the first photographs of takins to be published in the *Western world*" in the September-October 1985 ANIMAL KINGDOM. The takin is described and photographed on p. 2353, Vol. II, of the *International Wildlife Encyclopedia*, published by Marshall Cavendish Corp./New York (1970 B.P.C. Publishing Limited, printed in Great Britain).

I had the privilege of seeing several takins on an expedition to Bhutan in March 1984.

Augusta T. Rockefeller
Salem, Ore.

Correction: "The Earth's Magnetic Hiccup" (SN: 10/5/85, p. 218) implied that India is in the Southern Hemisphere. With its southern tip at a latitude of about 8°N, India is, in fact, a Northern Hemisphere country.

Donald G. Bruns
Hawthorne, Calif.

Mouthful of mercury

If the high level of various air pollutants found indoors is newsworthy ("Is air pollution worse indoors than out?" SN: 9/28/85, p. 198), then perhaps it's also worth noting that for many people, the highest exposure to mercury vapor may occur in their mouths. The levels of mercury vapor emitted by "silver" dental fillings can be measured with the same instrument that OSHA uses to evaluate mercury spills in the workplace.

Aryt Alasti
Cambridge, Mass.

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