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## Letters

### Fat and the fetus

Before I accept that "there is a genetic factor in obesity" ("Obesity: If the genes fit," SN: 1/25/86, p. 56) I would like to see ruled out the possibility that metabolic influences on a fetus do not differ substantially in obese pregnancies.

Hans Havermann  
Weston, Ontario

### Quantum physics: What and why

If there is an equivalent of the Nobel Prize for science writers, Dietrick E. Thomsen has earned it many times over, and most particularly for the quantum-pair of articles on the Bohr-Einstein perspectives of physics (SN: 1/11/86, pp. 26, 28). Thanks to these two articles, this reader—who never went beyond elementary algebra and geometry in school, and never studied physics at all—now believes

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Cover: The discoveries made in scientific laboratories may seem a far cry from a true understanding of the human heart. But Bernardo Nadal-Ginard and his co-workers are unveiling one of the heart's secrets—how a single gene in its muscle cells can produce 10 or more proteins.



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that he understands the what and why of quantum physics.

If I had to give up all my magazine and newspaper subscriptions except one, SCIENCE NEWS would be the one.

Dick Kovar  
Arlington, Va.

"As God's Dice Fall" illustrates the intellectual self-deception that we are all capable of engaging in. The argument that something is made actual by being measured is totally nonsensical. An object that is being measured is simply an object that is being known—albeit imprecisely in the mind of the knower. That objects and events are something that is obvious to the common senses. Only a small mind would argue (as some of the more radical adherents of this view do) that a brick that strikes a man unawares from behind is not a brick until it is known.

Behind the "Is it really real?" argument (convoluted by modern physics) is a hatred of

reality. It is much easier to live in darkness when there isn't really any light. Einstein instinctively understood this; Bohr did not.

Sean J. O'Reilly  
Arlington, Va.

As I understand the results of the experiments of Alain Aspect and his co-workers dealing with John S. Bell's calculations, one need not assume "spooky actions at a distance" if pairs of photons not only have the same spin orientation but also show the same ability to pass through a polarizer having a given angle to the direction of photon spin.

It seems to me that Einstein was right: that quantum mechanics is incomplete. Unfortunately it may never be completed. Probability is inherent, no doubt associated with the properties of empty space itself, its perhaps violently fluctuating small-scale topology and incessant production of virtual particles.

William V. Medlin  
Houston, Texas

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