

Whether Wolf has the answer or not, it is exciting to see that someone is working on a physical mechanism that might explain our observations.

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(on sabbatical)

IQ: Don't bet on it

With regard to Ceci and Liker's research on expert handicappers ("Bad day at the races for IQ," SN: 9/27/86, p. 200), I cannot imagine why anyone would *only* predict that experts' performance would be related to IQ. Certainly, this research shows that IQ is not a very good predictor of performance by experts at real-world tasks. But that is not surprising. IQ tests were not and are not designed for such uses. What I would predict is that a person's IQ would say something about the ease with which they acquire their expertise. Research that follows in Ceci and Liker's footsteps should examine such more informative hypotheses.

Robert R. Hoffman
Associate Professor of
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Adelphi University
Garden City, N. Y.

Soy source

I have a bone to pick with "Reasons for boning up on manganese (SN: 9/27/86, p. 199). The impression we are left with is that dairy products are the only good source of calcium since they contain not merely calcium but also the manganese necessary for the absorption of it. But the same could be said of soy products, and what's more, they contain no cholestrol.

John Shannon
Racine, Wis.

Dairy products were compared with the calcium supplements because the University of Nebraska studies by Constance Kies yielded comparable data for both, including their effects on manganese bioavailability. Because such data do not exist for soy, Kies says, there's no way of knowing how any calcium in soy might affect manganese uptake. However, she notes, the high fiber and phytic acid content of many soy products suggests they may in fact inhibit manganese uptake. Moreover, research by nutritionists with the Agriculture Department has shown that fiber can also adversely affect the body's uptake of calcium. — J. Raloff

Dinosaur defamation

"These aren't the stereotypic dinosaurs portrayed in the movies as always killing each other," according to a noted paleontologist quoted in "Brushing Up On Dinosaurs" (SN: 10/4/86, p. 216). "There were a lot of tender and gentle moments."

In view of this new, less prejudiced view of our extinct reptile brothers and sisters, I suggest a major revision in nomenclature. Let's replace the negative term "dinosaur" (terrible lizard) with "empathosaur" (feeling lizard). Rather than *Tyrannosaurus rex*, we should call that noble and misunderstood creature *Assertosaurus*.

Despite the unavoidable cost of reprinting a lot of textbooks, a reform of terminology will achieve long-overdue justice for animals that are no longer around to defend themselves against defamation.

Mike Markowitz
Mission Viejo, Calif.

While looking at Ron Séguin and Dale Russell's interpretation of a hypothetical "dinosauroid" evolved from a *Stenonychosaurus*, I was surprised to see that it had what appears to be a navel. Weren't all dinosaurs (lizards) egg-laying creatures?

Carl Panek
Lakewood, Ohio

Most if not all dinosaurs are indeed believed to have laid eggs — but who knows what might have hatched if dinosaurs had been given another 60 million years to evolve? — S. Weisburd

A better way?

In describing the DEEPS telescope ("Staring at the Poles of the Sky," SN: 10/11/86, p. 236), you state, "The whole arrangement would rotate around its axis as indicated by the arrow behind the camera." It seems to me it would not be necessary to rotate the telescope, only the camera.

T.R. Specht
Sharon, Pa.

If only the camera rotated, light from a given object would come through different parts of the optics at different times. That would complicate the data analysis. — D.E. Thomsen

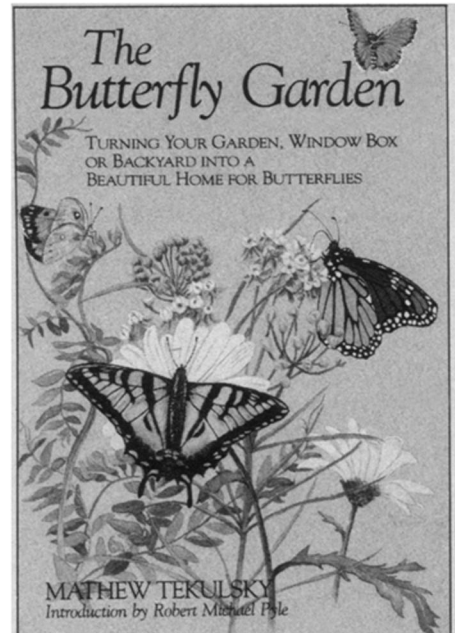
Suicide: Setting the record straight

"Age, Depression, Drugs Linked to Suicide" (SN: 10/11/86, p. 228) contains a number of factual errors. First, in England and Wales, people over 45 are *more* likely to commit suicide than people under 45. Your article suggests the opposite. In the United States about 1965, the suicide rates in teens began to increase rapidly until they now are three times as high as they were. No such tripling has occurred in England and Wales. Teenage rates in England and Wales are about one-half to one-fourth of those in the United States.

Second, I am quoted as saying the rates of suicide in teenagers have declined since 1977. I probably did say that, but did it carelessly. The fact is they haven't changed a lot. The suicide rates of others in the less-than-30 group have changed a lot, which is the basis for my predictions that teenage suicide rates will decline.

I really liked the article in general, especially since it is the only report that dealt with the substance of what I said.

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