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Letters

Prenatal parasite?

A subheading for "Survival of the Fetus" (SN:10/11/86, p.234) implies that a human fetus is a parasite to its mother, although author Joanne Silberner does not state that in the body of the article. Is this appropriate? In my undergraduate studies as a biology major, I was taught that a parasite is an individual of one species that imposes upon a host of *another species*.

Rev. Greg Skala
Sooke, British Columbia

According to the International Dictionary of
Medicine and Biology (Wiley & Sons, 1986), a

This Week

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- 344 The Ozone Hole, Dynamically Speaking

Cover: Some scientists have argued that chemicals are responsible for the ozone hole that forms over the South Pole each Antarctic spring. But others think the answer may be blowing in the wind. This map of Southern Hemisphere ozone taken from satellite data on Oct. 10 shows the ozone hole in gray and purple and ozone highs in yellow and green. (Image: NASA)



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parasite is "an animal, plant or microbe that lives within or on another organism, the host, and depends upon it for energy or sustenance."
— J. Silberner

Cockroach diagnosis

Homer B. Clay's letter about system bugs (Letters, SN: 11/1/86, p.286) was entertaining, especially with its description of a short-circuiting "bug" in the form of a "mighty sick 100,000-ohm cockroach."

Clearly, that cockroach was ohm-sick!

Hal Ronning
Falls Church, Va.

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