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## Letters

### Division with a difference

I suppose only mathematicians are fussy about such things, but in the nice article on factoring the 95-digit number ("Major-league factoring on a low budget," SN: 11/12/88, p.319), the word "remainder" is used instead of the correct word "quotient." There really is a difference.

Spencer P. Hurd  
Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science  
The Citadel  
Charleston, S.C.

### For want of parentheses . . .

In "In the Shadows of Chaos" (SN: 12/3/88, p.360) an example is given of a "straightforward calculator experiment" to illustrate the chaotic process. The equation as given,  $4x - x^2$ , will not give the sequence of numbers as listed. The correct equation is  $4(x - x^2)$ .

G. Alfred Teasley  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Cover: Black bears harbor chemical secrets that protect their organs and skeletons during the winter sedentary season. Using bears such as this one with an identifying ear tag, scientists hope to share some of these secrets with humans suffering from various diseases, including osteoporosis. (Photo: Dave Garshelis)



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### Kawasaki look-alikes

"Interleukin-2 fingers Kawasaki's syndrome" (SN: 11/19/88, p.324) was very informative. However, I take issue with the statement that the disease is often mistaken for measles. The presentation of high fever, red mucous membranes and lymph node enlargement puts it in a relatively small group of "muco-cutaneous-lymph node" syndromes. At times, I have considered as an alternative diagnosis arthritis, drug reactions, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and non-specific viral illnesses, but never measles.

David Benaron, M.D.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

lied to be present in the Big Bang after a person who believes in creationism and wants it to be taught in schools, and who therefore presumably cannot believe in the Big Bang or anything else much past 6,000 years ago.

Brian K. Grim  
Lenhartsville, Pa.

### Smoke and sex

The arguments in your report on sympatric speciation ("Familiar fruit flies emerge in new guise," SN: 11/5/88, p.293) led me to the following extrapolation.

Given that our social lives are being divided into "smoking" and "nonsmoking" sections, could this lead to two subspecies of humans, *Homo sapiens smokus* and *Homo sapiens nonsmokus*? I could throw in such hackneyed mores as "Lips that touch tobacco will never touch mine" or "the cigarette after" to illustrate that smoking is particularly pertinent to choice of sexual partners.

Robert McDaniel  
Las Cruces, N.M.

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