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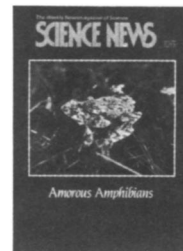
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Cover: As gray tree frogs (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) prepare to mate, they embrace in a clasp called amplexus. But when it comes to agreeing on an appropriate place for actual mating and egg laying, the two sexes just can't seem to get it together. New field research suggests that conflicting environmental criteria may be keeping the frogs apart. (Photo: John E. Fauth/Denison University)



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Letters

Those cryptic canines

The quantity of dog skeletons found near Ashkelon in southern Israel ("Digging into a doggone puzzle," SN: 3/23/91, p.190) is intriguing for students of the Bible. This is precisely the area said to be frequented by Samson.

According to the story in Judges 15, Samson burned the Philistine fields. In order to do this he "went and caught three hundred foxes." (The *shual* is a fox or jackal.) Even for a man of great strength, catching 300 foxes seems hardly possible. But what if there was a kennel of canines nearby?

Rev. Donald Rose
Bryn Athyn, Pa.

I wonder if the dogs unearthed in Israel could have been used for food. Although this may appear distasteful to most Westerners, it is

common practice in many cultures. The lack of bone injuries, such as damaged skulls, could be accounted for by the way the dogs were put away. In some parts of Spain, for instance, small pigs are slaughtered by piercing their hearts with a long stiletto.

Brian Hesse's advice, "combine several cultures and mix thoroughly," just might add up to a recipe for "dog food."

Jorge E. Zegarra
Caracas, Venezuela

A matter of emphasis

Call me a positivistic puritan if you must, but the Steinberg-Dornbusch report on student employment ("Perils of part-time work for teens," SN: 3/30/91, p.205) seems to illustrate an objectionable aspect of much psychological research.

The study established only a correlation between teenage employment and low grades, drug use and delinquency. Yet as described, it

also trumpeted a Perils-of-Burger-King message, while relegating to an oh-by-the-way status the possibility that troubled youths gravitate to the labor market. Besides being unscientific, this kind of presentation seems designed to attract research funding by provoking media sensationalism and public anxiety.

It would be well to recall the example of Dr. Fredric Wertham, the infamous psychiatrist who exploited postwar anxieties about delinquency and youth culture by "proving" that comic books were dangerous.

Ronald P.S. Mahler
St. Paul, Minn.

CORRECTION

Arachidonic acid is a polyunsaturated fatty acid, not a protein as described in "Stopping cancer cells in their tracks" (SN: 6/1/91, p.347).

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