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**Editorial and Business Offices:**  
1719 N St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-785-2255; [scinews@scisvc.org](mailto:scinews@scisvc.org)

**Advertising Representative:**  
Lewis Edge & Associates, Inc.  
366 Wall St., Princeton, N.J. 08540  
609-683-7900

**Subscription Department:**  
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## Letters

### Overlooking vegetable proteins

If there is an "error of omission," it lies more in Al Fried's letter (SN: 3/30/96, p. 195) than in the SCIENCE NEWS report on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new dietary guidelines. The USDA fully endorses the healthfulness of a vegetarian diet at the same time that it recommends two to three servings a day of high-protein foods.

There is no discrepancy here. Fried fails to recognize that proteins are present in vegetable foods, particularly legumes and grains, as well as flesh and dairy products.

By eliminating cholesterol and animal fat, a vegetarian diet is far more likely to promote health than to "jeopardize" it.

Bina Robinson  
Swain, N.Y.

### Desperate measures

We are deeply concerned after reading your article on releasing lethal rabbit viruses in Australia ("Hippity Hop Goes the Virus,"

## This Week

- 388 Radar Catches a Tornado in the Act
- 388 Reproductive equality: A male Pill?
- 389 Observatory spies some familiar compounds
- 389 How temperature, plant defenses alter bugs
- 390 Multiple doors for HIV to enter cells
- 390 Dioxins: New attempts to smoke them out
- 391 HIV accelerates in 'closeted' homosexuals
- 391 Test-tube stickers for DNA-based computers

## Research Notes

- 395 Animal Science
- 395 Astronomy
- 399 Biology
- 399 Paleontology

## Articles

- 392 Neural Code Breakers
- 396 The Human Numbers Crunch

Cover: This floating market in Bangkok illustrates a low-energy alternative to the West's supermarkets and shopping malls. How many people Earth can sustain will depend on the near-term choices we make about lifestyle, patterns of consumption, and economics, as well as measures to foster local ingenuity. (Photo: ENVISION © J.B. Marshall)

## Departments

- 386 Books
- 387 Letters

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SN: 3/30/96, p. 206). This virus will not only affect Australia, but it will affect the world. Being rabbit breeders, we see this action as an alarming threat. If the virus gets loose in the United States, it will destroy thousands of top-quality show rabbits and will cost breeders millions of dollars.

Just because Australia has a problem it created for itself does not mean it should endanger the world's rabbit population.

Nyki Perry  
Elizabeth Smith  
Karen Emmons  
Carolyn Cross  
Debbie Honeycutt  
Allison Johnson  
Deborah Cross  
Deltona, Fla.

Send communications to:  
Editor, SCIENCE NEWS  
1719 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
or: [scinews@scisvc.org](mailto:scinews@scisvc.org)  
All letters subject to editing.

I'll move over there and take care of the problem for free. Just pay my way. Bullets are cheap. I'm a good shot. Give me a call.

Josh Foster  
Deland, Fla.

It seems like sterilizing the rabbits would be a much better and safer action to take than using a virus.

Theresa J. Cross  
Deltona, Fla.

Australians do shoot rabbits, and they are studying sterilization as a means of control.

—T. Adler

### All that glistens...

Michael Dunn is incorrect in saying that gold coins cannot be counterfeited (Letters, SN: 4/13/96, p. 227). Looks like he's never heard of alloys. The average consumer does not have the means to test whether a coin is an alloy or pure gold.

Aditya Mishra  
Sunrise, Fla.

