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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,"

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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)

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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
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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.

