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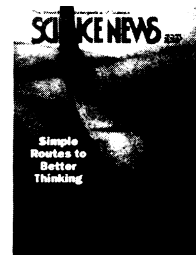
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Letters

Problems with peanut oil?

"Family allergies? Keep nuts away from baby" (SN: 5/4/96, p. 279) neglected to mention peanut oil. I assume it falls into the same category as nuts themselves. Yes?

Kim Boriskin
Bellingham, Mass.

There is some controversy over the risks associated with peanut oil. Ewan noted that "one study of only 10 adults allergic to peanuts failed to show any reactivity to peanut oils, but there are case reports suggesting infants were allergic to infant formula that contained peanut oil."

— J. Raloff

How much vitamin E is enough?

"Vitamin E slows artery 'aging'" (SN: 5/4/96, p. 287) indicates that 100 milligrams of vitamin E supplies 10 times the recommended dai-

ly allowance, implying that the RDA is 10 mg. I just bought a bottle of 200-mg vitamin E tablets. The label indicated that one tablet supplies 666 percent of the RDA, implying that the RDA is 30 mg.

Which is correct?

Eldon Eller
Margaret Eller
San Marcos, Calif.

The most recent recommended daily allowances, issued by the National Research Council in 1989, recommend "an arbitrary but practical allowance for male adults of 10 mg of alpha-tocopherol (vitamin E) equivalents per day. Because women are generally smaller, their allowance is 8 mg/day."

Alpha-tocopherol equivalents are specified because, of the four related tocopherols that exhibit vitamin E activity in the body, the alpha form is the most active and the most widely distributed in nature. — J. Raloff

Revolutionary findings

I was amused to see in your article "Adults score low in science literacy" (SN: 6/8/96, p. 367) that "fewer than half know that Earth rotates around the sun once a year." The Earth *rotates* on its axis; it *revolves* around the sun.

Eugene E. Jarva
Huntington Station, N.Y.

Indeed it does! By the way, you may be equally amused to know that the source of our error was the National Science Foundation report cited in the article.

—The Editors

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