boleth" (*4*). Thus "bat" would have been pronounced "bot" by Neandertals, who failed the test (and failed to live).

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References and Notes

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2. D. C. Gadjusek, *Trans. R. Soc. Trop. Med. Hyg.* **57**, 151 (1963). See reviews in J. D. Matthews, R. Glasse, S. Lindenbaum, *Lancet* **1968-II**, 444 (1968); *Am. J. Pathol.* **68**, 626 (1972).
3. D. Regan, personal communication.
4. Judges 12:6.
5. I thank Susan C. Smith and B. Anderson, Jr., for their assistance.

Delaney Clause for Birth Defects

The letters from Bowne (18 Oct. 1974, p. 195), a chemist, and Barus, an engineer, which in essence support a Delaney clause for birth defects, miss the point of the Teratology Society resolution (Letters, 6 Sept. 1974, p. 813) cautioning against attempts to implement such a regulation.

Substances such as sugar, salt, and vitamin D have all been shown to be teratogenic in some species in some doses (*1*), and there is suggestive evidence that vitamin D in very large doses is teratogenic in humans. Indeed it appears one may postulate as a general principle that for any agent x, one can find a species y and a dosage z, such that at dose z or greater, x is teratogenic in y. Thus any regulation for birth defects which ignores dosage or species considerations, as a Delaney regulation does, is likely to have consequences quite unexpected by those familiar with the pertinent literature. For example, a Delaney regulation for birth defects would probably lead to a ban on a supplement of vitamin D in *any* dose in milk. It is a moot question whether this or any other consequences of such a regulation would diminish the incidence of human birth defects, and the net effect on public health might well be negative.

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