reported to the Centers for Disease Control is *not* several per year; such deaths occur infrequently. Also, it is not correct that pigs from southeastern farms have a high incidence of trichinosis. Except for occasional cases of swine and human trichinosis in Louisiana, the south as a whole appears to have one of the lowest incidence rates for trichinosis of any region of the United States.

Finally, it should be noted that Ruitenberg and Van Knapen and their associates in the Netherlands first published the basic ELISA method for swine trichinosis and provided a scheme for its application for large-scale testing (*6*).

K. DARWIN MURRELL
Helminthic Diseases Laboratory, Animal Parasitology Institute, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Institute, Beltsville Agriculture Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland 20705

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On Objectivity

The mind tends to categorize things as "good" or "bad" and then to become relatively impervious to information that runs counter to these initial impressions. For example, disarmament proposals are "good." Some of them would weaken us to the point that war would become more likely, but anyone saying so is called a "hawk," at the very least. Automotive pollution-control devices are "good." Cars equipped with three-way catalysts emit from 20 to 150 times more sulfuric acid than older cars, but to discover this one must read an obscure Environmental Protection Agency paper. Acid rain is "bad," but it is caused by industrial pollution, so one need not worry about cars. Removing lead from gasoline is "good." Older cars need a small amount of lead to lubricate their exhaust valves and prevent worsening of both performance and emissions, but one learns this from car magazines, not scientific journals. Moreover, the composition of unleaded gasoline must be altered to restore antiknock properties. What long-term health effects this alteration causes are unknown, but to my knowledge the question has not been raised.

It is as though doing something "good" absolves one from the responsibility of knowing about, much less preventing, any foreseeable bad results of such action. This mode of thinking is all too human, but it should be guarded against by scientists and particularly by editorial boards.

DAVID C. STOLINSKY
University of Southern California, School of Medicine, Los Angeles 90033

Solitary Grazers

Roger Lewin's recent article on increased foraging efficiency in gregarious grazers (Research News, 3 May, p. 567) indicates it is "theoretically" possible for a solitary grazer to maintain a grazing lawn on its own and therefore reap the benefits of enhanced food quality. However, Lewin suggests that predation would select against such solitary grazing patterns. In fact, there are solitary vertebrate grazers that increase feeding efficiency by maintaining "grazing plots." Bjorndal (*1*) found that the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* maintained grazing plots of young leaves of the abundant turtle grass *Thalassia testudinum* by consistent recropping. The result was consumption of significantly more digestible forage (11 percent higher in protein and 100 percent lower in lignin) than ungrazed older leaves. Therefore, enhanced nutrition through maintenance of a grazing lawn is not only selected for in some cases of gregarious grazing vertebrates, but also in some solitary grazers. In contrast to gregarious grazers, solitary grazers can avoid concomitant costs associated with increased resource competition while still enjoying enhanced foraging efficiency.

JAMES B. MCCLINTOCK
Center for Marine Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz 95064

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Erratum: In the article, "Generics, Roche joust for Valium market" (News and Comment, 26 Apr., p. 472), a word was inadvertently omitted from a quote by Wallace Mendelson, a researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health. The quote should have read that there is "no established way to predict from Valium's effects on a normal person's EEG's, its ability to relieve anxiety, relax muscles, or treat convulsions."

Erratum: The authors of the Research Article "Chromatin structure and de novo methylation of sperm DNA: Implications for activation of the paternal genome" (31 May, p. 1061) were Mark Groudine and Kathleen F. Conklin. Conklin's name was misspelled in the Table of Contents and in the by-line.