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In the insert "Can Europe survive on chips?" Dickson calls the "mega-project" of Philips and the German companies a "mega-flop" because, soon after it started, "Siemens decided it would be cheaper to buy the chips off the shelf from Japan." The aim of the "mega-project," which began in 1984, was to develop submicron technology. A 4-megabit DRAM (Siemens) and a 1-megabit SRAM (Philips) were used as "vehicles"—the first commercial targets—to be on the market by 1989. It was anticipated that by that time the main competitors would have reached that stage. Philips and Siemens were minor producers of MOS VLSI memories (Philips being an important supplier of bipolar memories), but they both had to take a large leap forward in a comparatively short time.

From a technological standpoint, the "mega-project" is already a success. Of course there is still the problem of building up a strong market position. Siemens, therefore, bought Japanese technology—not chips—in order to produce 1-megabit DRAMS without overloading its own development program. [Philips chose to devel-

op additional products like 64K and 256K SRAMS, as well as a version of the latter using submicron ("mega-project") technology.] As a result, a good quantity of German-made 1-megabit DRAMs are now being sold. These are being followed by 4 megabits made with "mega-project" technology, so Holland will soon be known as a producer of chips 'n cheese as well as of bulbs.

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Early Hominid Mating Systems

In Table 1 of their article "Finite social space, evolutionary pathways, and reconstructing hominid behavior" (17 Feb., p. 901), Robert A. Foley and Phyllis C. Lee incorrectly characterize my model of early hominid social systems both in relation to its "key behavioral features" and to its "social structure," listing the former as "female mate choice and sexual selection" and the latter as "pairbonds (monogamy)." The key mechanism I proposed is what Darwin

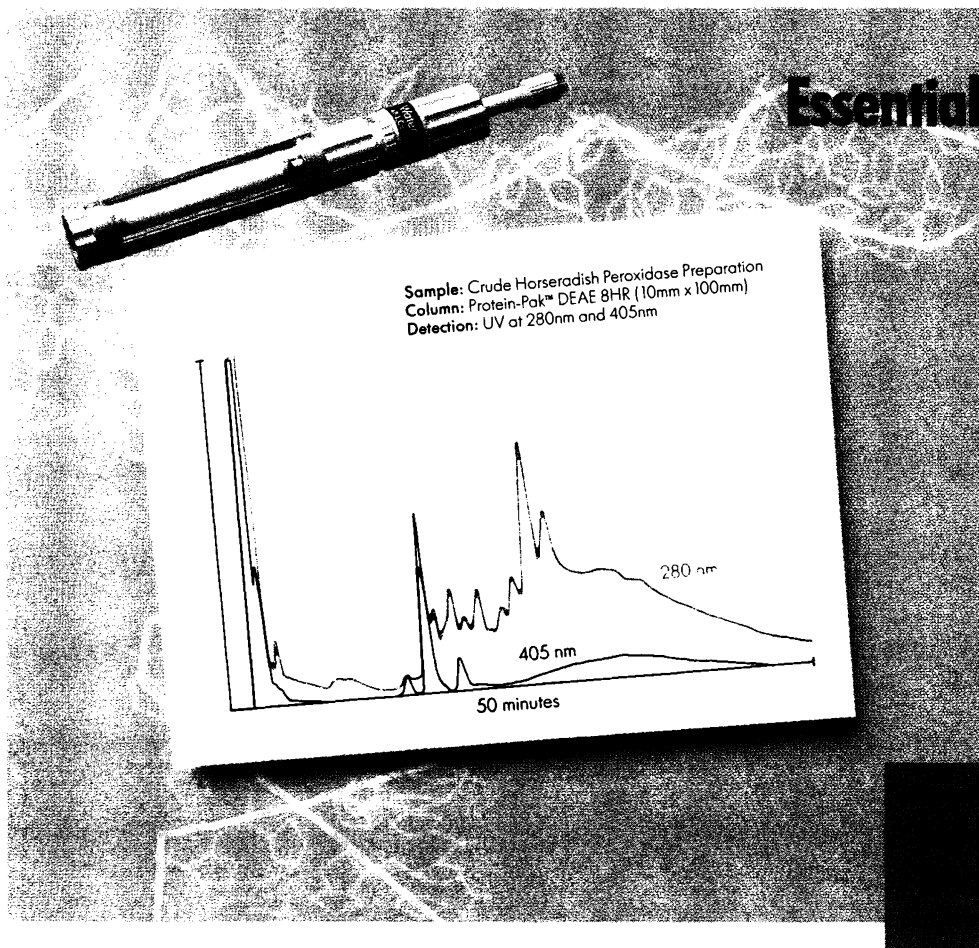
called "double selection," that is, both male competition and female choice *and* female competition and male choice. Likewise although I discussed various hominid mating systems, my key argument was that ape-hominid speciation (and bipedalism) occurred through intense male competition by means of nuptial food gifts to females of scavenged brains and bone marrow. I argued that, while males tried to mate with and control several females (resulting in polygyny), females tried to increase their access to food gifts through multiple matings (resulting in polyandry), and hence that the earliest hominids were to some degree promiscuous.

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Erratum: The Author Index to volume 244 that appeared between pages 1480 and 1481 of the issue of 29 September 1989 covered the months July–September 1989, not "April–June 1989," as printed.

Erratum: The credit line for the photograph of the U.S. Capitol building accompanying Joseph Palca's article "The pill of choice?" (News & Comment, 22 Sept., p. 1319) should have read, "John Ficarra/Newsweek."



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