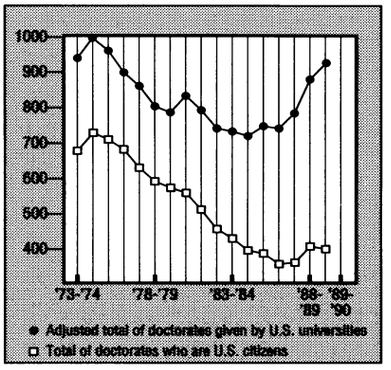
bacteria, and mice. And the third objective will be to develop computerized data bases to store all this information.

The research will be coordinated and funded through a new organization called GIP (Groupement d'intérêt public). The GIP president, its board of directors, and scientific advisers may be selected by next month, according to observers in Paris.

Domestic math Ph.D.'s hit all-time low. *United States citizens received only 43% of the math doctorates awarded by U.S. institutions this year—the lowest percentage ever reported, according to the American Mathematical Society. The total number of doctorates rose to 933 after a decade-long dip. But only 401 went to Americans, and, said AMS officials, "The increases in awards to women and blacks reported last year were not sustained." Eighty-nine doctorates went to American women, and only four—compared with nine last year—to blacks. Median starting salaries were slightly higher for women: $32,500 compared with $32,000 for men.*

American Mathematical Society-Mathematical Association of America Survey



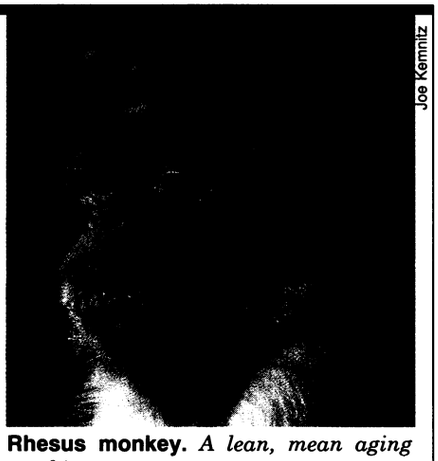
Darwin Back on the Books

As goes Texas, so goes the nation—at least when it comes to coverage of evolution in high school biology textbooks. As the nation's single biggest buyer with 9% of the market, Texas is in a position to dictate what a large portion of the nation's teenagers get in biology class. So it was good news for science education when the Texas State Board of Education voted last month to approve a new generation of eight major biology texts. The books give extensive coverage to evolution and none to creationism. "Evolution is back in biology books in an unabashed and uncompromising way," trumpeted People for the American Way, a group that has been battling creationism in the schools.

The Texas textbook battle has been raging since 1974, when the state restricted coverage of evolution in science texts. In 1984, the old school board was deposed as a result of a school reform movement led by Dallas billionaire H. Ross Perot. Last year, the board voted to require for the first time that all texts—which are issued in 6-year cycles—teach evolution. Despite a "massive" last-ditch lobbying effort by creationists, according to a spokesman for the People group, the board voted 11-14 on 10 November to approve the new texts for use in Texas schools next fall.

Primate Secret to Longevity

The fountain of youth may be as simple as cutting calories—at least in monkeys. A study of 30 middle-aged rhesus monkeys shows that those who ate 30% less monkey feed appeared to be healthier in several measurable ways than brethren who gorged themselves.


Joe Kemnitz

Rhesus monkey. *A lean, mean aging machine.*

According to preliminary data from an ongoing, 5-year study at the University of Wisconsin, the monkeys who ate less had less fat and insulin in their blood. They also used less oxygen, which leads primatologist Joseph Kemnitz to point out that, "If you slow down the metabolic rate, you reduce wear and tear on the system." And that means "the process of aging may be slowed."

The results are consistent with studies of rodents whose lives also were prolonged when they ate less. These data are more interesting because, says Kemnitz, "Rhesus monkeys are very much like humans." Both species are highly social omnivores who tend to put on weight with age and to be vulnerable to similar diseases of aging. In fact, says psychologist Donald Ingram of the National Institute on Aging, which has launched its own monkey diet study: "They develop little paunches."

TV Attachment Inherited?

Research in behavioral genetics has uncovered strong genetic influences for traits ranging from extraversion to abstract thinking ability. But TV-watching? Researchers in the Colorado Adoption Project, a long-running study of adopted children and their families, say yes, your genes may affect how much you like to watch TV.

The analysis, by Robert Plomin of Pennsylvania State University and colleagues at the University of Colorado's Institute for Behavioral Genetics, reports data from 459 families, half with adopted children. The children averaged 15 hours a week in front of the tube, with individual viewing times ranging from 5 to 25 hours.

The investigators compared viewing habits between pairs of adopted (genetically unrelated) siblings, between pairs of biological siblings, and between children and parents—including biological parents of adoptees. The result? Among children aged 3 to 5, the researchers assert that TV time is "significantly affected by genetic factors" as well as by the family environment.

In their paper, published in the November *Psychological Science*, the researchers profess surprise that even among these very young children, where family environment would be expected to be the major determinant, only 20% of the variation in TV viewing was ascribable to family influence. They call the strength of the genetic influence "remarkable." Indeed, comparisons between siblings suggested that as much as 45% of the overall variation in viewing habits is due to genetic factors. Comparisons between parents and offspring yielded much lower heritability estimates—partly because of factors related to the age gap. Nonetheless, the authors say the "most impressive genetic evidence" is "the significant resemblance between television viewing of biological parents and their adopted-away children," which showed that genes were just as influential as the family environment for young adoptees. Since TV-watching genes don't exist, researchers say the findings may tap an underlying trait such as passivity.

Plomin says the study is noteworthy because it adds TV-viewing to the list of influences that are commonly viewed by psychologists as environmental, but which in fact are also partly genetic.