

LETTERS

three-quarters of the [4% annual] rise [in breast cancer incidence] in the 1980s was due to the expanding use of mammography machines." The issue has, however, been studied directly, and the data tell a different story.

The acceleration in the rate of increase of breast cancer incidence evident in the 1980s was analyzed in two studies (1, 2), in which the medical records or tumor registry abstracts of population samples were reviewed. Liff *et al.* (1) found an increase in breast cancer incidence of 29% among whites and 41% among blacks between 1979 and 1986 in their analysis of SEER (surveillance, epidemiology, and end results) data from Atlanta. After reviewing the registry records of 200 patients, Liff *et al.* concluded that "mammographic detection of asymptomatic lesions accounted for only 20-40 percent of rising incidence among whites and only 13-25 percent among blacks."

Glass and Hoover (2), in analyzing the population-based tumor registry of Kaiser Permanente, found that "the overall age-adjusted rate of *invasive* [emphasis added] breast cancer rose 45% . . . in the period between 1960-1964 and 1980-1985" with "the greatest rise . . . in women 60 years of age or older (74%)." After reviewing the medical records of 1745 patients with invasive breast cancer, they concluded that "even under some extreme assumptions, these cases [detected by mammography] could only have accounted for less than one-third of the increase seen from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s."

To my knowledge, there are no data that contradict these findings. The 4% annual rise in the incidence of invasive or symptomatic breast cancer cannot be explained away by the increasing prevalence of screening mammography. The true cause(s) of this rise must be found.

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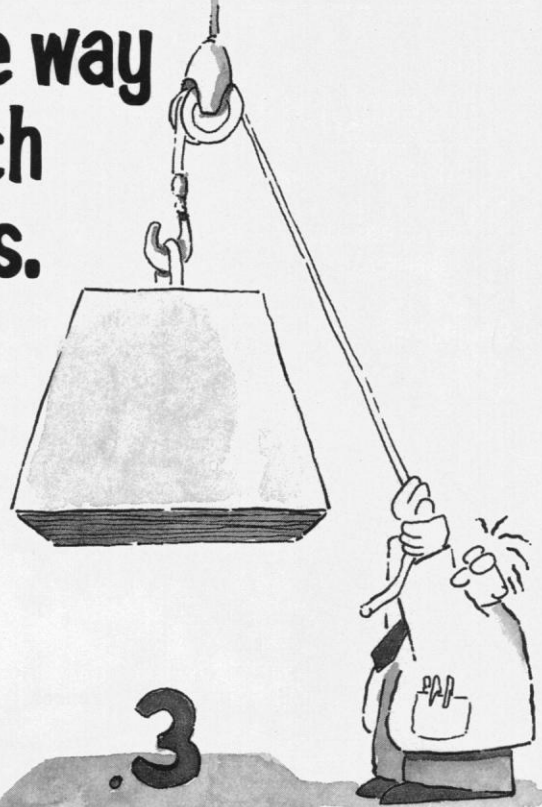
References

1. J. M. Liff, J. F. Sung, W. H. Chow, R. S. Greenberg, W. D. Flanders, *Am. J. Public Health* 81, 462 (1991).
2. A. G. Glass and R. N. Hoover, *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.* 82, 693 (1990).

Cold Fusion Difficulty

Ivan Amato's article (Research News, 14 May, p. 895) about Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons' paper on calorimetric results in cold fusion (1) refers to me as saying that I "found the paper too difficult to assess with

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any confidence." This construction of my remarks is unfortunate because it conveys the unintended impression that I lack confidence in the experimental results of these researchers, whereas I indicated only that the publication is too difficult to understand fully in the time that I had to study it. It is true that this publication will not convince the case-hardened skeptics, but, as I told Amato, high-grade calorimetry is not necessary to evince the reality of anomalous ("excess") power generation during the boil-off period well documented by Fleischmann and Pons. This phenomenon, as well as the various manifestations contrary to classical nuclear physics observed by a considerable number of researchers, deserves continuing study supported by adequate funding despite the difficult-to-reproduce nature of the experiments.

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References

1. M. Fleischmann and S. Pons, *Phys. Lett. A* 176, 2 (1993).

Corrections and Clarifications

In the photos accompanying the Research News article about the 1993 annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists by Elizabeth Culotta ("At each others' throats," 14 May, p. 893), the three hyoid bones were not depicted in identical orientations. The hyoid of a pig, shown at the bottom, should have been rotated so that the arms of the bone point upward in order to match the orientation of the modern human and Neanderthal hyoid bones shown in the upper and middle photos.

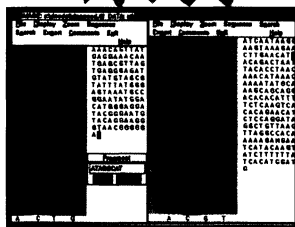
In Traci Watson's article "Task force: Level the playing field" (14 May, p. 888), a table reprinted from a report by the National Institutes of Health contained incorrect figures. The numbers in the column labeled "Difference" should have read from top to bottom as follows: -\$3,945, -\$9,121, +\$10,511, -\$343, -\$3,631, -\$3,249, -\$1,664, -\$5,967, and -\$2,754.

In Elizabeth Culotta's article "Entrepreneurs say: 'It's better to be the boss'" (Special Section, Women in Science '93, 16 Apr., p. 406), Henry Etzkowitz was incorrectly described as a sociologist "at Rutgers University." Dr. Etzkowitz is at the State University of New York at Purchase.

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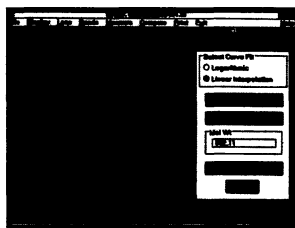
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