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## Loco Cow Logo

The News & Comment article "Mad cow disease: Scant data cause widespread concern" by Claire O'Brien (29 Mar., p. 1798) was illustrated with a color picture resembling abstract art, but carrying the caption "**Mad cow brain**. Brain tissue from cow with BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] shows fibrils and spongy lesions." To my neuropathologist's eye, this seemed strange, indeed.

After a journey through the literature, I came to appreciate that this illustration is the apparent endproduct of a 7-year metamorphosis that includes cropping, coloring, turning, flipping, and re-captioning a figure within a paper by James Hope *et al.* in 1988 (*1*). The caption of the original black and white image read, "Electron micrograph of negatively-stained fibrils from the spinal cord (C1/C2 segments) of a BSE-affected cow." This makes sense; no "spongy lesions" here. An intermediate version of the illustration can be found in a News & Comment article "Mad cow disease: Uncertainty rules," by Jeremy Cherfas (28 Sept. 1990, p. 1493).

It would appear that this illustration has obtained "logo" status for BSE.

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### References

1. J. Hope *et al.*, *Nature* **336**, 390 (1988).

## Corrections and Clarifications

In the Research News article "Mammal diversity takes a 20-million-year leap backwards" by Kim Peterson (24 May, p. 1102), the legend for the accompanying map contained two errors. The colors indicating "zhelestids" and ungulates were reversed, and the South American fossils, which are solely ungulates, were incorrectly represented as "zhelestids" and ungulates.

In the report "Lead and helium isotope evidence from oceanic basalts for a common deep source of mantle plumes" by B. B. Hanan and D. W. Graham (17 May, p. 991), on pages 993 (middle column, last paragraph) and 994 (middle column, third line), the word "carbon" appeared instead of the symbol "C," which stands for "common component." *Science* regrets the error, which occurred during proofreading.

### Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.