scientists and artists share common goals. To facilitate this bond, I helped found a group of artists called the NEA Army. We have applied for this year's entire $98-million NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) budget to purchase a B-2 bomber. Unfortunately, B-2 bombers cost 20 times that amount, so we can only purchase a small fraction. Our project, entitled "Priorities," is aimed at focusing attention on what Americans consider to be their federal budgetary priorities and casting this debate in an artistic (rather than a political) mold. We believe that the NEA as well as the Pentagon budgets should be constantly scrutinized by the public because taxpayers are the ones footing the bill. The same should hold true for the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health budgets.

Jason Hodin
Department of Zoology,
University of Washington,
Seattle, WA 98102, USA
E-mail: hodin@u.washington.edu

■

Hopping Away?

I hope someone has taken into consideration that deformed frogs, missing limbs or eyes, might not be able to get away from "amphibian counters" (J. Kaiser, News & Comment, 19 Dec., p. 2051). Their able-bodied brothers and sisters must have *some* advantages in swimming or hopping way. Sorry, scientists, I just couldn't resist.

L. Tarrant
4 Patrick Street,
Carteret, NJ 07008, USA

■

Early Education of the Deaf

As deaf and hard-of-hearing research scientists, we were pleased to read about the quickening pace of genetic research into causes of deafness in Elizabeth Pennisi's article "The architecture of hearing" (Research News, 14 Nov., p. 1223). We would not agree, however, that the value of early diagnosis based on genetic screening lies in allowing affected infants to be "taught sign language from a very early age."

Sign language may be widely identified with deafness in the public mind, but learning sign language at an early age does not guarantee that deaf children will develop strong communication skills in English. Early intervention offers other effective educational options to develop oral communication skills during the well-documented critical period for language acquisition that accompanies infancy and early childhood. These options include assistive listening devices such as hearing aids and cochlear implants; training in speech production and lipreading; and early education in small mainstreamed classes or oral schools, or both, for the deaf. Many deaf and children who are hard of hearing who are educated in such programs are able to use these skills to pursue productive and satisfying careers.

Henry J. Adler
Kresge Hearing Research Institute,
University of Michigan,
1150 West Medical Center Drive,
Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA
Jeffrey Liebman
Summit, NJ 07901, USA
Robert M. Raphael
J. Tilak Ratnanather
Department of Biomedical Engineering, and
Center for Hearing Sciences,
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine,
Baltimore, MD 21205, USA
Peter S. Steyger
Department of Otolaryngology,
Oregon University Health Services,
Portland, OR 97201, USA

Corrections and Clarifications

■ In the second paragraph of the commentary "That flashing sound" by Harold Metcalf (*Science*'s Compass, 27 Feb., p. 1322), three Greek μ's were changed to Roman m's during page layout. Measurements should have read, "~5 μm," "~40 μm," and "~0.8 μm," respectively.

■ The bibliographic information that accompanied the book review by Laurence Trussell (20 Feb., p. 1155) was incorrect. The correct information is as follows. **Excitatory Amino Acids and Synaptic Transmission.** HOWARD WHEAL and ALEX THOMSON, Eds. 2nd ed. Academic Press, San Diego, 1995. xvi, 388 pp., illus., + plates. $126 or £75. ISBN 0-12-746031-4. Supplementary volume: **Excitatory Amino Acids. Clinical Results with Antagonists**. PAUL HERRLING, Ed. Academic Press, San Diego, 1996. xiv, 156 pp., illus. $90 or £70. ISBN 0-12-546820-2.

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.