

from Eisenstein's efforts, and we expect him to continue to play an important role following his assignment at CERN.

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Being Human

ANN GIBBONS' ARTICLE "HUMANS' HEAD start: new views of brain evolution" (News Focus, 3 May, p. 835) reports on an interesting communication from the 71st annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Karl Zilles and colleagues used functional magnetic resonance imaging to compare the right and left sides of human brains and the right and left sides of chimpanzee brains. Dean Falk, representing Zilles and colleagues, demonstrated that, compared with chimpanzees, humans seem more "right-minded"; i.e., they found bulges in the right side of human brains that were not seen in chimpanzee brains. This finding was received with surprise: As the left hemisphere is known to be the language-bearing side of the brain, it was reportedly expected that

the left brain would become larger in the evolution from chimpanzees to men.

Although the big question of what makes us human belongs more to philosophy than biology (1), there are sound pieces of evidence obtained in scientific studies supporting a most peculiar role of the right brain in human life: It is where emotions are better recognized and control of subtle emotional expression and emotionally communicative gestures is located (2); it is assigned appraisal and evaluation activities (3); it dominates the language-dependent half of the cerebrum for social-emotional affairs and is responsible for insight and intuition, leaps of imagination, and daydreams (4); it makes inferences about mood, attitude, and intention (5); it is involved in the infant's tie to the mother and in the later attachment of one adult to another (6); and it is particularly relevant for feelings of attachment and compassion (7). Being human is much more than speaking languages.

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Mother Knows Best

IN THEIR REMARKABLE BREVIA, "SONS reduced maternal longevity in preindustrial humans," S. Helle et al. (10 May, p. 1085) document that among preindustrial Sami women in Finland, mothers who gave birth to sons had reduced longevity compared with mothers who gave birth to daughters. We report that our Jewish mothers routinely told us, with an accent we cannot reproduce here, that "you are going to be the death of me yet; why can't you be more like your sister?" We now know that our mothers were correct and have gained even greater respect for their wisdom and insight.

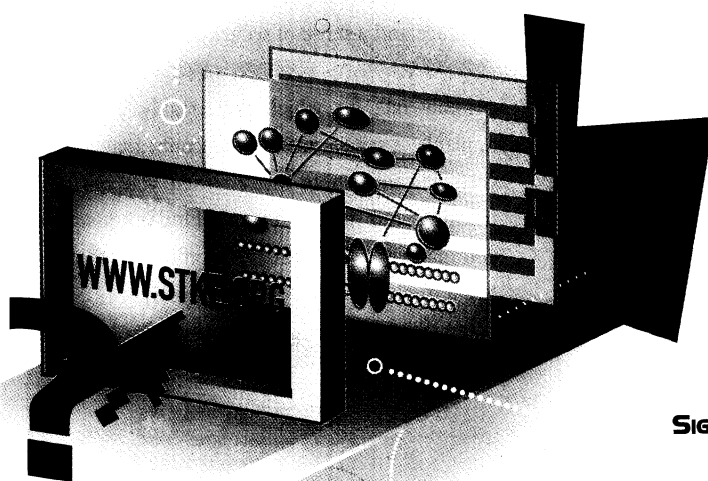
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