

primates *per se* as well as those who are using primates as experimental models. The volume is dedicated to the memory of S. C. Makwana who died young and who made some important contributions to primatology.

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NEWS

TODAY'S KIDS ARE FATTER, NOT FITTER

... "Can it be that in the age of health clubs, triathlons and Jane Fonda workout videos, America's teenagers and children are in much worse shape than before? The answer seems to be yes. 'Kids are less fit now than at any other time data has ever been taken,' says Don Haydon [Governor's Comm. on Physical Fitness, Texas]. Study after study has shown that young people's performance levels on various tests of physical endurance have declined over the past decade, so that an average teenager would now be hard-pressed to keep pace with a middle-aged jogger. In addition, as many as one-third of all children over the age of 12 have elevated cholesterol levels. The trend is especially worrisome, experts say, because poor fitness in childhood increases the likelihood of heart attacks and other ailments in adulthood. Warns

Guy Reiff [U. Michigan], 'Cardiovascular disease starts by the first grade'. . . . In the three-year Natl. Children and Youth Fitness Study released [in October 1984], researchers pinched the skin of 8,800 youths and measured the thickness of each fold. Then they compared the results to similar measurements taken during the past two decades. 'In our representative sampling of kids from fifth to twelfth grade, we found that both boys and girls were significantly fatter than those studied in the '60s,' says Lloyd Kolbe [U. Texas]."

[(John Carey & Nadine Joseph in *Newsweek* 1 Apr 85, p. 84-7 [pd 2606j]. Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 26, July 1, 1985 p. 10 (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA).]

IS EVOLUTION STANDING ON CLAY FEET?

... Scientists at the Natl. Aeronautics & Space Admin.'s Ames Research Ctr., Mountainview, Calif., "reported a major discovery that supports the emerging theory that life on earth began in clay rather than [in] the sea. The discovery . . . showed that ordinary clay contains two basic properties essential to life: the capacities to store and transfer energy. With such energy, coming from radioactive decay and other sources, the early clays could have acted as 'chemical factories' for processing inorganic raw materials into the more complex molecules from which the first life arose some four billion years ago. . . . This theory was a major departure from the prevailing 'primordial

soup' hypothesis, which was set forth in the 1930's by A. I. Oparin, a Russian scientist. In this view, vast stores of compounds that contained carbon and hydrogen and some other chemicals accumulated particularly in the earth's early waters. Energy from lightning and solar radiation then caused the compounds to evolve spontaneously into living matter."

[(John Noble Wilford in *New York Times* 3 Apr 85, p. A1, A22 [pd 24971] Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 24, June 17, 1985, p. 12 (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA)]
