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## **Birthday Bloopers**

To the Editors:

Although amusing, Howard Topoff's "A Charles Darwin (187<sup>th</sup>) Birthday Quiz (*Macroscope*, March-April) contained an embarrassing error in the title. February 12, 1997 was Charles Darwin's 188th birthday. Darwin was born on the same day, in the same year, as Abraham Lincoln: 1809. My own biology students (particularly the "pre-meds") would demand extra credit for pointing this out. Furthermore, they would feel unjustly tormented for being subjected to questions about the Catholic church (#4) and Erasmus Darwin's occupation (#9). Heck, this was supposed to be a quiz that tested our evolutionary savvy and not about religion and history. (By the way, I am not complaining just because I got these questions wrong. Harumph!). All kidding aside, I applaud the spirit of celebration in which Professor Topoff gave us the quiz.

Michael P. Russell  
Villanova University  
Villanova, PA

The Editors reply:

In a perfect world, we would merely congratulate Dr. Russell for being our only-so far-reader to correctly locate and answer the final element of the "Birthday Quiz." Unfortunately, neither the world nor our editing is perfect, and we can say only that we made a mistake – one that cannot be blamed on Howard Topoff, the author of the quiz, because we wrote the title. Still, we commend Dr. Russell for careful reading, and as the winner of the unquiz he will receive a copy of *Exploring Evolutionary Biology: Readings from American Scientist*. Upon receiving this prize, we encourage Dr. Russell to turn to page 187, where he can read about "The structure of natural selection."