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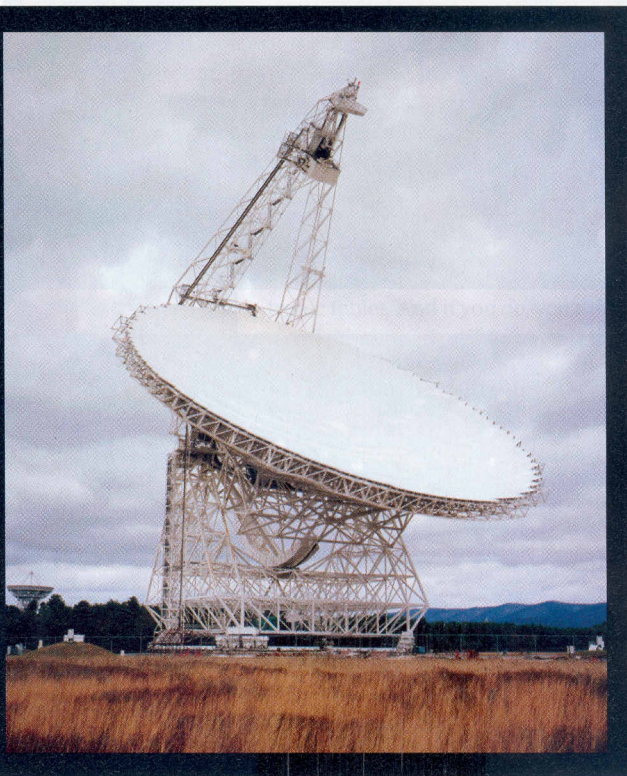
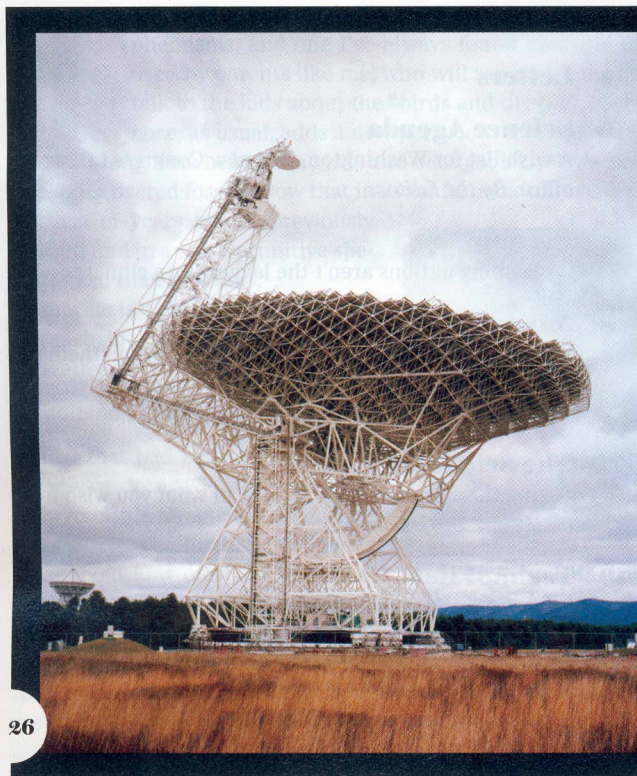
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Fish fossils indicate that copulation in backboned animals originated more than 25 million years earlier than previously thought and hint that it was a driving force in our evolution, helping to establish the anatomical foundation for legs, reproductive organs and perhaps even jaws in the lineage of creatures that ultimately led to humans. Illustration by Owen Gildersleeve.

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