First on two legs

For the record, John Gribbin is wrong to suggest that he and Jeremy Cherfas were, in the early 1980s, the first to propose a bipedal ancestry for the chimpanzee (Letters, 26 April p 53).

Palaeoanthropologists and other palaeontologists have discussed the idea for at least 25 years. Bjorn Kurten, for example, argued in his 1972 book Not from the Apes (Victor Gollancz) that the African apes are derived from a Homo-like ancestral form.

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