ethnographic fieldwork, done in her youth. It is inevitably an occasion for public excitement because, through the inspiring role she played, Margaret Mead had become a national institution by the end of her career. But there is no need, therefore, for scientists to conclude that there is a crisis in anthropology. The crisis is in the public's view of a public idol.

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Deep-Sea Drilling

In Richard A. Kerr's Briefing of 15 April (News and Comment, p. 287) and Colin Norman's article "Accelerating research at Texas A & M" (22 Apr., p. 392), the proposed role of Texas A & M as science operator of the future Advanced Ocean Drilling Program (AODP) is noted. Although the interested community is working hard to make AODP a reality, we must emphasize that the final decision on the program rests with the NSF and Congress. Only after a formal proposal has passed peer review and been approved by the National Science Board, and only if fiscal year 1984 funds are appropriated by Congress, will Texas A & M actually be able to move ahead with the scientific program.

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Endosymbiosis and Autogeny

Roger Lewin's article (Research News, 4 Feb., p. 478) about gene transfer between the genomes of organelles and the nucleus is introduced in the framework of the endosymbiotic hypothesis for the origin of eukaryotic cells. The possibility that such transfers occur is probably good news for partisans of that hypothesis but is not a compelling argument for or against it. It is more logical to see in those transfers evidence for a similarity between the three genomes, similarity stressed by the possession of split genes, which is much more in line with the alternative autogenous hypothesis (*1*).

Furthermore, the cited work of Farrelly and Butow (*2*) demonstrating incorporation in a yeast nuclear chromosome of what is probably a "petite" mitochondrial genome emphasizes the plasmid character of mitochondrial DNA central to several autogenous models (*3*).

It seems that endosymbiosis is so unquestioned that the alternative autogenous theories are being mentioned less and less often. This would be acceptable if new evidence were leading us to disregard the autogenous theories. Nothing of the sort has yet happened, however, and those who specialize in this particular phylogenetic problem are still divided (*4*). As Dixon (*5*) recently wrote: "scientists themselves, whatever their attachment to stern objectivity, are swayed on occasion by fashions triggered by forces quite separate from normal scientific intercourse and its internal logic."

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Texas Telescope

I appreciate the spirit of Colin Norman's friendly comments (News and Comment, 22 Apr., p. 390) regarding the University of Texas (UT) McDonald Observatory plans to build a 300-inch telescope but would like to clarify some of his points. We are currently seeking (but do not yet have) about $17 million from the private sector in order to build the telescope (not just the primary mirror). We had indeed hoped for (although it now seems jeopardized) a $5-million special kickoff appropriation from the legislature. It would markedly speed up the project, but the project does not depend on this appropriation. We do hope the UT regents may soon approve the use of university construction funds for at least part of the project, but we do not have any formal commitment to that effect.

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