

to chromosome 7. It added up to a difficult and awkward situation as we could not properly reference a rumor and the other group had not put their findings into print.

At no time, however, including our initial discussion with the editor of *Nature*, have we been less than candid and forthcoming in recognizing the precedence of the Lap-Chee Tsui-Collaborative Research group in localizing the cystic fibrosis gene to chromosome 7 (2). We were indeed relieved when a proper solution was constructed and much appreciated the clarifying *Nature* editorial (3) which accompanied the several manuscripts (4).

The experience stresses the importance of timely publication of scientific findings and highlights the risk taken in delaying publication in order to maintain a competitive advantage.

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1. L.-C. Tsui *et al.*, *Science* **230**, 1054 (1985).
2. R. White, *ibid.* **234**, 1054 (1986).
3. P. Newmark, *Nature* **318**, 309 (1985).
4. R. G. Knowlton *et al.*, *ibid.*, p. 380; R. White *et al.*, *ibid.*, p. 382; B. J. Wainwright *et al.*, *ibid.*, p. 384.

Response: Williamson and I apparently agree on the facts. Readers can judge for themselves whether or not the articles are misleading.

I am puzzled, however, by what Williamson means by the press "personalizing" scientific matters. My article recounts the history of the very important work under way to isolate the cystic fibrosis gene—work that is, after all, done by people.

Nor do I understand why Bentley believes that the families of cystic fibrosis patients will be greatly distressed by the articles. On the contrary, they might be interested in learning how the money they raise for research is spent.—LESLIE ROBERTS

Genesis 1:28

Times have changed, and not for the better. A short 21 years ago Lynn White, Jr., argued in the pages of *Science* (10 Mar. 1967, p. 1203) that the roots of the present ecological crisis could be traced to our unquestioning acceptance of the message in Genesis 1:28. White suggested (p. 1207) that we shelve the Old Testament myth once

and for all and recognize as the "patron saint for ecologists" the nature-loving St. Francis of Assisi. And in 1971 Ian McHarg, an ecologist, called the message of Genesis 1:28 "the best guarantee of [our] extinction" (1). But now we read (22 Apr., p. 375) a letter from Jonathan H. Cilley, Sr., informing us that the "fundament" of biology is to be found not in the biological theory of evolution, which places human beings on a level with other living beings, but in the Old Testament, specifically in Genesis 1:28, where mankind, created separately by divine fiat, is commanded to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue; and rule over every living thing." This, he asserts, constitutes our "cultural mandate." *Quantum mutatus ab illo!*, as Aeneas said when the battered face of Hector returned to him in a dream.

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1. I. McHarg, "Man: Planetary disease" (B. Y. Morrison Memorial Lecture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 1971), pp. 7-8.



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