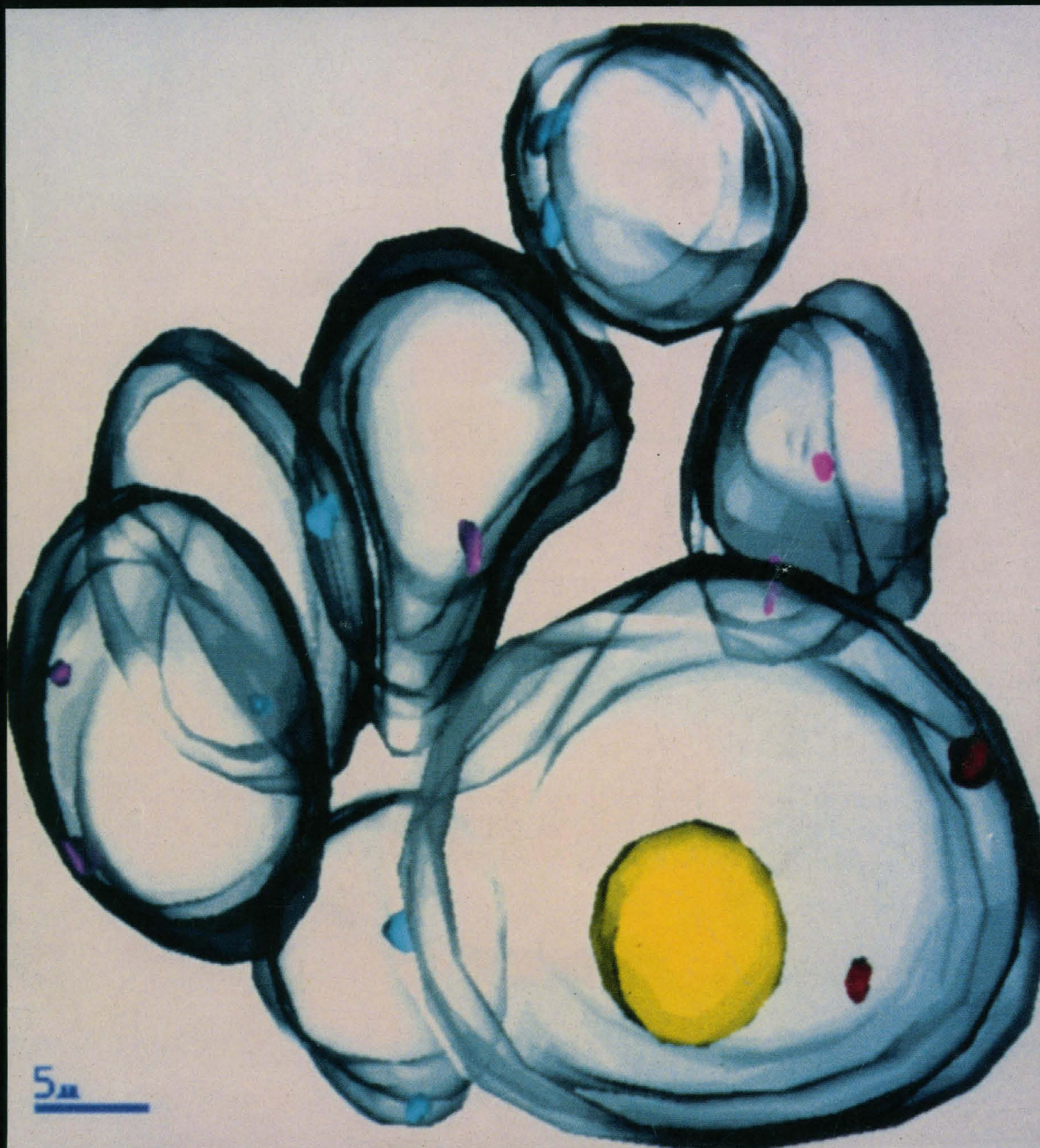


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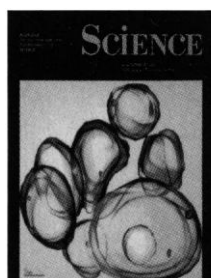
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**COVER** Three-dimensional reconstruction of human epileptic cortex showing a large neuronal nucleus with a large nucleolus (yellow) and surrounded by multiple smaller astrocytic nuclei. The neuron shows an interior and abnormal position of one of the two chromosome 9 centromere signals (red). Astrocytic in situ hybridization signals are depicted either in magenta (pink) or cyan (turquoise) for each cell. See page 1687.

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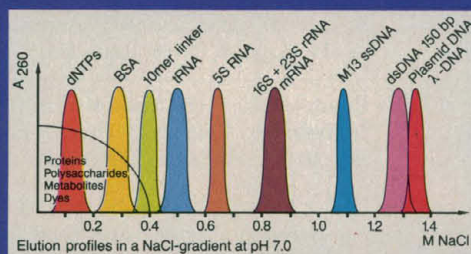
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## This Week in SCIENCE

### The 1988 drought

**L**AST summer, by mid-July, 43% of the continental United States was experiencing severe or extreme droughts; the magnitudes of the droughts were comparable to those of the devastating dust bowl droughts of the 1930s (page 1640). Two regional droughts had begun at different times, had been caused by different factors, but together were parching the nation. Trenberth *et al.* trace the roots of the 1988 West Coast drought back to the El Niño event of 1987 in the Pacific Ocean and show how subsequent oceanic events initiated the North American summer drought. They illustrate, with models, how changes in the jet stream that were responsible for setting up conditions favorable for the drought were associated with precipitation anomalies in the tropical Pacific and how these anomalies were, in turn, associated with temperature changes in the sea. Although many questions were raised during the drought as to the part played by greenhouse gases, the greenhouse effect did not cause the 1988 drought. The greenhouse effect has, however, been building and may slowly shift the balance toward more droughts and more heat waves in the years to come.

### Superconductor's superstructure

**I**MAGES of bismuth-oxygen planes at the surface of cleaved crystals of the cuprate high-temperature superconductor  $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+\delta}$  show that every ninth or tenth row of bismuth atoms is missing; this irregularity can account for the incommensurate periodicity of bulk crystals that has previously been noted (page 1673). The high-resolution images were obtained with a scanning tunneling microscope operating under ultrahigh vacuum conditions and able to highlight single atoms in the plane. The bismuth-oxygen planes are buckled as are the copper-oxygen planes with which they share oxygen atoms. This buckling perturbs the electronic state of the copper-oxy-

gen plane and, along with other features of the superstructure, may contribute to the superconducting properties of the crystal. Kirk *et al.* note that, despite the missing rows of bismuth, the crystal is slightly bismuth-rich; bismuth atoms may replace some strontium and calcium atoms in the crystal.

### Mouse models and human diseases

**S**EVERAL new animal model systems have become available for studying human cells and human diseases. Immune-deficient mice that had received grafts of human lymphoid cells have now been infected with the AIDS virus HIV-1. The viruses replicated within the engrafted human cells. While normal mice do not support HIV-1 infections, the chimeras, described by Namikawa *et al.*, provide a system in which interactions of HIV-1 with human cells can be closely evaluated (page 1684). A very different system for studying the in vitro actions of the AIDS virus has been designed by Leonard *et al.* (page 1665). Transgenic mice, whose parents were a normal mouse and a transgenic mouse carrying the HIV-1 proviral genes in the germline, produced infectious viruses, developed some clinical symptoms that resemble those associated with AIDS, and died from AIDS-like disease within the first month of life. Such mice will be use for studying how HIV-1 exerts its pathogenic effects and for assessing the efficacy of drugs and other therapies in retarding or preventing the development of disease. Kamel-Reid and Dick report on chimeric mice that have been developed for use in studies of the human hematopoietic system (page 1706). Special immune-deficient triply mutant mice were engrafted with human bone marrow cells (a population that contains myeloid stem cells). With these mice, the normal developmental stages of human hematopoietic cells can be studied as well as the malignancies and infections of such cells. Further discussion of these models and of the misfortune that befell the transgenic mice is found on page 1638.


### Split-brain monkeys

**S**TUDIES of rhesus monkeys whose brain hemispheres had been separated surgically indicate that the left hemisphere is better than the right at discriminating differences in the orientations of straight lines, that the two hemispheres process information about geometric patterns equally well, and that the right hemisphere is better at discerning facial features, distinguishing (in photographs) two monkeys with the same expression or different expressions made by one monkey (page 1691). The pattern of hemispheric dominance versus hemispheric equivalence for specific tasks is like the pattern in the human brain (although the right not the left hemisphere of the human brain discriminates among tilted lines). Hamilton and Vermeire point out that hemispheric specializations thus predate rather than stem from language development. Hemispheric specialization may either be independent of language development or handedness, or it may be a precursor of one or both of them.

### Repaired gene defect

**S**OME cases of hereditary emphysema are associated with the production of mutant  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin molecules that are encoded by Z alleles. The mutant molecules differ from normal molecules at amino acid position 342, where the standard amino acid glutamic acid is replaced by lysine. Brantly *et al.* propose that this change disrupts a salt bridge that normally forms between the glutamic acid at position 342 and the lysine at position 290; proper folding and further processing and secretion of the protein then are interrupted (page 1700). To reestablish the salt bridge, compensatory mutations were introduced, changing residue 290 from lysine to glutamic acid, thereby restoring the proper charge relationship. The salt bridge was apparently restored, and the molecules were secreted. The molecular repairs that have been made in vitro are a first step toward designing strategies for repairing defects in Z alleles in vivo.





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## Federal Policies in Transition

During the past several months hundreds of groups have developed recommendations to present to President-elect George Bush and his transition team. Obviously some of the plans will receive more earnest attention than others. This is particularly true of two reports, one containing substantial contributions by collaborating authors Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, and a second sponsored by a distinguished Council on Competitiveness that includes leaders of industry, labor, and academia. The reports are mutually supportive in many ways, including a statement of the need for this country to improve its competitiveness. They note that the United States is not faring well in the global economy. For example, 15 years ago U.S. companies made 95% of telephones and 80% of television sets for U.S. homes. Today U.S. companies make 25% of telephones and 10% of television sets sold here. The U.S. share of world steel production in 1960 was 26%; now it is 11%.

The reports point to a relative paucity of U.S. investments directed at improving productivity. In turn, this lack is related to a poor national savings rate of 2% of gross national product (GNP). The average national savings rates of other industrial countries is about 10% of GNP. For Japan it is about 16%. The net national savings rate is defined as the sum of individual and corporate savings plus government surpluses or deficits. During the 1980s individuals have decreased their savings, and in 1987 U.S. consumers owed 85% of their year's after-tax income. The federal deficit also increased greatly.

There were few specific ideas about how to induce individuals to save more. (With plastic money so freely available, a downward trend in savings will probably continue.) Instead, the need to reduce the federal deficit was emphasized. A combination of budget cutting and increased taxes was recommended. The nondefense discretionary part of the budget is already so small that cuts must be found elsewhere, notably in the entitlements programs, which constitute 46% of the budget.

On the revenue side both reports cited cigarettes, alcohol, and gasoline as attractive targets for increases. In 1951 the excise tax represented 42% of the price of cigarettes; currently it amounts to only 15%. Similar remarks apply to beer, wine, and distilled spirits. The gasoline tax in some other countries amounts to \$1 a gallon or more. Here, the federal tax is 9.1 cents per gallon. For every cent added, \$1 billion of revenue would be obtained. The Council on Competitiveness, which made the most extensive studies of the deficit, also recommended consideration of moderate increases in the personal income tax, including a 33% rate on large incomes and a 5% surtax for all payers.

The reports recommended that more funds be made available to increase U.S. competence in science and technology. It was pointed out that although funds for federal R&D increased 100% during the past 7 years, 90% of this increase has been defense-related. In constant dollars civilian R&D is 14% below the 1980 level. In real terms National Science Foundation funds have been virtually unchanged for the past 20 years. During the past 20 years federal funding for university plants and facilities has declined 95% in real terms.

The Council on Competitiveness suggests that once the process of credible deficit reduction is under way, the following steps should be taken: strengthen the federal role in science and technology by doubling the NSF budget over 5 years, increase NSF funding for programs to encourage the development of science and engineering faculty, and provide additional federal resources to modernize university research facilities. The council would also make additional funding available for human resource development with emphasis on programs to serve the economically disadvantaged, to strengthen math and science education, and to provide training and employment services to dislocated workers.

The Council on Competitiveness says that the success of any deficit reduction effort will rest on the meshing of three basic principles. First, all sectors should contribute to the deficit-reduction initiative. Second, changes should be fair; they should not undermine the nation's historic commitment to equity. Third, attempts should be made to ensure that changes in either budget or tax policy increase economic efficiency and minimize any adverse impact on levels of private savings and investment.—PHILIP H. ABELSON



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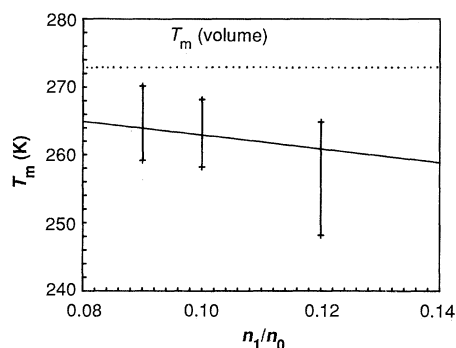
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**Fig. 3.** Melting temperature versus molar ratio for water held between dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl choline bilayers (6, 7); the vertical bars indicate quasicontinuous melting over a wide  $T_m$  range; (—) Raoult ( $T_m = 273.15$  K, see dotted line,  $L = 6019$  J/mol).

agreement is accidental remains to be seen; we hope that our results will encourage future tests. Certainly, our use of Raoult's law for surface effects is not universally valid. Second-order phase transitions shift their critical temperatures by an amount propor-

tional to  $r^{-1/\nu}$  with a correlation length exponent  $\nu$  that is different from unity. And for small liquid droplets in equilibrium with their vapor, Kelvin's law gives an increase of vapor pressure (proportional to the surface tension), whereas Raoult's law would predict a decrease of vapor pressure (proportional to the vapor pressure).

Our results suggest that certain mesoscopic systems represent binary solutions rather than a single-component material. The two components consist of atoms or molecules placed at the surface and those in the volume, respectively, and they have different physical characteristics. Raoult's law of dilute solutions can be used to describe the observed melting point depression in mesoscopic systems of gold or indium particles and of water held between lipid bilayers. This finding reveals the rivalry between surface and volume with decreasing size of the particles. We regard our observation as a suggestion for further checks in this direction.

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fied by their ability to create mutations within the *lac* and *gal* operons of *Escherichia coli*, are known to be components of several transposable elements responsible for the dissemination of antibiotic resistance throughout the Enterobacteriaceae and their conjugal partners and to play a role in the organization of the R factors, which often contain nested sets of transposable elements. Transposable elements in yeast and higher eukaryotes are now important both as genetic tools and as clues to genome organization.

The present volume brings together current work on prokaryotic and eukaryotic transposable elements, and rapid publication has resulted in a book whose content is still timely. In it subjects not usually covered in current reviews figure prominently. It reports important data shortly in advance of journal publication (Clewett *et al.* on Tn916, a conjugative transposon in *Streptococcus*) or data from specialized systems (Chater *et al.* on the role of mobile antibiotic resistance determinants in genome flux in *Streptomyces*, Pays on DNA recombination and transposition in trypanosomes). There are general reviews on transposable elements in *Staphylococcus* (Murphy), the P elements in *Drosophila* (Rio), the yeast retrotransposons such as Ty (Kingsman *et al.*), and I-factors in *Drosophila* (Finnegan). Representative of the elegant in vitro analysis of transposition and resolution are papers on Mu transposition (Craigie *et al.*) and gamma-delta resolvase (Hatfull *et al.*). Phase and antigenic variation as a result of DNA rearrangements and the importance of such variation in the pathogenic properties of certain bacteria are reviewed by Meyer and Haas. The uses and properties of plant transposable elements are briefly treated by Schell (transfer of T-DNA from *Agrobacterium* into plants) and Schwarz-Sommer and Saedler. This important subject should have been covered in greater detail. Chapters with broader perspectives include those by Berg *et al.* on the mechanism and regulation of transposition and by Kuff and Leuders on the structure and evolution of retroviruses with homology to the transposable A-particle elements of mice.

The papers have numerous illustrations and references. For the reader who wants an introduction to the field, Shapiro's *Mobile Genetic Elements* is certainly more suitable (although an update of it is needed). But university and departmental libraries will want to have this current volume available for their faculty and graduate students.

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## Lightning

**The Lightning Discharge.** MARTIN A. UMAN. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1987. xii, 377 pp., illus. \$49. International Geophysics Series, vol. 39.

Our technologically based society is rapidly becoming more susceptible to the effects of lightning. In his preface to *The Lightning Discharge* Uman states that his goal is to provide a self-contained reference source on the subject. He has achieved this objective; the book also contains hundreds of references to the scientific research on lightning up to 1986, including an alphabetical list of books containing information on lightning that reveals the void this book fills.

This book represents a major departure from Uman's 1969 book *Lightning* in its organizational structure. This time he presents topics by physical process, not by diagnostic technique. There is not much detail on instrumentation, and experimental techniques are only summarized briefly in an appendix. I find the new organization more helpful. The book should be a useful reference for any comprehensive course on atmo-

spheric electricity, and readers can easily glean from it general information about lightning. Each chapter has its own list of references, including some not cited in the text.

Topics covered by Uman include the components that make up a cloud-to-ground lightning flash, mostly related to the more common flash that lowers negative charge to the ground. In addition there is a chapter describing "positive lightning," that is, ground strikes that lower positive charge to ground, which are intriguing in their basic physics and have possible links with various weather phenomena, including severe storms and winter storms. In contrast to ground flashes, to which several chapters are devoted, cloud discharges are the focus of a single chapter, which adequately summarizes the historical data on the subject. Uman includes two chapters that cover relatively new areas of research, lightning on other planets and artificially initiated lightning. The latter phenomenon has recently become widely recognized as an operational problem for launch of all space vehicles and return to Earth of manned ones and is important in aviation because of the advent

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