

sis added). The cumulative evidence of recycling (unacceptable economy of materials), the plethora of phantom localities, the absence of appropriate stratigraphy at so many specified localities, and the assertion of incredible associations of fossils never found associated elsewhere in the world, implying age-differences of 15 to 30 million years between faunal elements having high age resolution, must surely rank as something more compelling than "seems to be rather convincing." Especially so when considered in conjunction with the clear evidence from registers at a security checkpoint that there is no record of Gupta's visiting some of the localities in question. [In fairness, it should be pointed out that some of this evidence and especially the last item (4, 5) would not have been available to Erben at the time he wrote his apology.]

We did, incidentally, provide Gupta with a loophole—"laboratory misfortune: mislabelling, accidental contamination, or peripatetic locality labels" (1, p. 20). To date he has declined to accept this as a way out (6).

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Early Man Site Visits

Tom D. Dillehay (Letters, 29 Sept., p. 1436), in responding to Roger Lewin, points out that neither I nor anyone else has approached him about having a team of concerned scientists visit the Monte Verde archeological site in Chile to assess it and to offer outside opinions. I have not done so because such an effort would require a considerable expenditure of funds as well as time, and preliminary inquiries indicate that funding agencies would not be inclined to financially support such efforts. However, I have long believed that controversial yet critically important sites for understanding the peopling of the New World, such as Monte Verde, need independent verification.

Archeology, being an inexact science, needs on-site second opinions and has had a tradition of having them. The acceptance of the original Folsom discovery was the result

of verification by a team of concerned archeologists, a paleontologist, and a geologist. Subsequently other interdisciplinary teams have visited such sites as Santa Rosa Island and Calico Hills in California and Tule Springs, Nevada. The latter was thoroughly reinvestigated in the field and in the laboratory over a 4-month period funded largely by private sources plus some NSF support, which included an NSF-sponsored team that made monthly visits to evaluate the procedures and to observe the findings.

There are now four or five sites in South America that suggest a pre-Clovis entry of early man into the New World. These need independent verification before the textbooks are rewritten. Dillehay is to be commended for his willingness to have this done. Alan Bryan has also expressed similar thoughts regarding the Taima Taima site in Venezuela. If grant-giving organizations would support such an effort, New World archeology could move on to greater understanding.

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Erratum: The caption for figure 1 (p. 1497) of the report "Transformation by *v-sis* occurs by an internal autoactivation mechanism" by B. E. Bejcek *et al.* (29 Sept., p. 1496) was inadvertently not printed. The caption should have read, "Fig. 1. (A) Plasmid pSEB3. (B) Mutations used."

NOTICE

Ballots for the 1989 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) election of officers were mailed to all AAAS members on 18 August 1989. The contractor, who managed AAAS elections for the past 2 years, has informed AAAS that due to an error by them, members with institutional addresses may have received ballots in envelopes for which one line in the address, typically the departmental affiliation, was missing. This error could result in delays in members' receipt of ballots or, in some cases, nonreceipt. Thus, the AAAS Board of Directors has extended the deadline for receipt of completed ballots to 8 December. In addition, the Board has arranged for a replacement ballot to be issued to any member who claims nonreceipt by calling the contractor toll free at 1-800-247-4322. All candidates in the general election have been contacted and have registered their approval of this notification.



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