

mistakable in proton-antiproton collisions.

In short, I agree with Cherfas that physicists of Fermilab know where to look for the top quark—in proton-antiproton collisions at the Tevatron!

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### RU 486 Development

I read with great interest the series of articles related to the "contragestive pill" RU 486 (News & Comment, 22 Sept., p. 1319). It is not my intention to minimize the leading role of Etienne-Emile Baulieu in the clinical development and promotion in the media of this compound, as RU 486 would probably never have reached its present status without the stern determination of the INSERM biologist. However, I feel it my duty, on the grounds of simple scientific ethics, to add the following comments to the report by Jeremy Cherfas (p. 1323).

1) I was not the "chief chemist at Rousssel"—this would be unfair to my colleagues; nor was I the chief of chemists, being in charge of only a small group of co-workers.

2) RU 486 was synthesized in April

1980, so it could not have been tested in 1978.

3) The story of "how" RU 486 was designed does not fit the facts as I recall them as a member of the Roussel research team, which was fully responsible for this discovery.

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I congratulate Jeremy Cherfas on his excellent article about the important work of Emile-Etienne Baulieu, who has been duly recognized for his efforts by being awarded the Lasker Prize for 1989. Baulieu points out appropriately the importance of the discovery of monohydroxytamoxifen's high binding affinity for the estrogen receptor in his own work. However, in the article that discovery is attributed to Robert Sutherland, who was a postdoctoral student in Baulieu's laboratory.

It should be noted out that the relevant papers from Baulieu's lab (1) both refer to earlier studies done by V. Craig Jordan (2).

This in no way detracts from Baulieu's efforts in capitalizing on this fact to develop RU 486 and from appropriate recognition of his accomplishment.

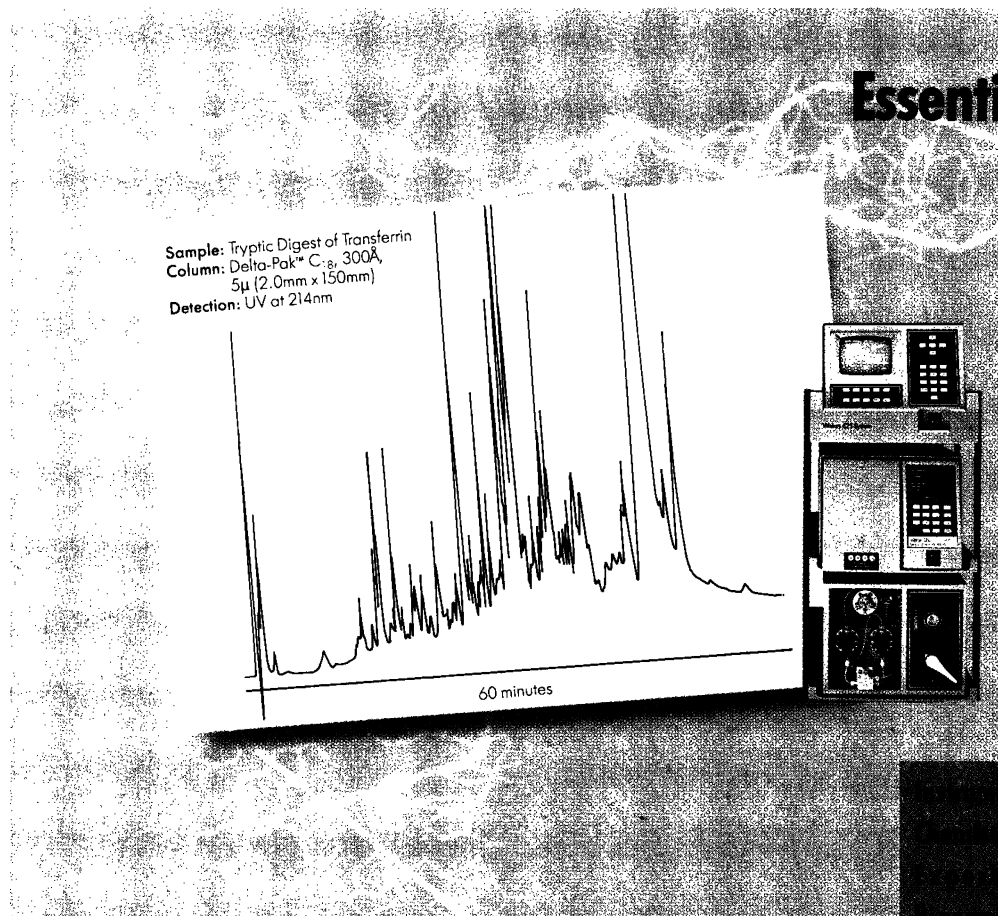
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### REFERENCES

1. M. Binart *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **91**, 812 (1979); J. Mester *et al.*, *J. Steroid Biochem.* **11**, 307 (1979).
2. V. C. Jordan *et al.*, *J. Toxicol. Environ. Health*, **4** 363 (1978); V. C. Jordan *et al.*, *J. Endocrinol.* **78**, 71 (1978).

### UCLA and Precollege Science

Bassam Shakashiri, head of the National Science Foundation's education program, appears to be saying (News & Comment, 20 Oct., p. 317) that the faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) are not concerned with improving precollege science. He is misinformed; the UCLA faculty have been involved with this endeavor for almost a decade. For example, Doing Chemistry (1), a multiyear project funded by the NSF Education Directorate, began at



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