

SCIENCE

Published by the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**, *Science* serves its readers as a forum for the presentation and discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science, including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view, rather than by publishing only material on which a consensus has been reached. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

Membership/Circulation

Director: Michael Spinella

Fulfillment: Marlene Zendell, *Manager*; Gwen Huddle, *Assistant Manager*; Mary Curry, *Member Service Supervisor*; Pat Butler, Helen Williams, Laurie Baker, *Member Service Representatives*

Promotions: Dee Valencia, *Manager*; Hilary Baar, Angela Mumeka, *Coordinators*

Research: Kathleen Markey, *Manager*; Robert Smariga, *Assistant*

Financial Analyst: Jacquelyn Roberts

Administrative Assistant: Nina Araujo de Kobes
Science Member Services

Marion, Ohio: 800-347-6969;

Washington, DC: 202-326-6417

Advertising and Finance

Associate Publisher: Beth Rosner

Advertising Sales Manager: Susan A. Meredith

Recruitment Advertising Manager: Janis Crowley

Advertising Business Manager: Deborah Rivera-Wienhold

Financial Manager: Leslie Gelder

Marketing Manager: Laurie Hollowell

Traffic Manager: Tina Turano

Recruitment: Michele Pearl, *Operations Manager*;

Dan Moran, *Traffic Manager*; Debbie Cummings,

Millie Muñoz-Cumming, Angela Wheeler, *Sales*

Marketing Associate: Allison Pritchard

Reprints Manager: Corrine Harris

Permissions Manager: Arlene Ennis

Sales Associate: Carol Maddox

ADVERTISING SALES: East Coast/E. Canada:

Richard Teeling, 201-904-9774, FAX 201-904-9701 •

Southeast: Mark Anderson, 305-856-8567, FAX 305-

856-1056 • **Midwest:** Donald Holbrook, 708-516-

8882, FAX 708-516-8883 • **West Coast/W. Canada:**

Neil Boylan, 415-673-9265, FAX 415-673-9267 • **UK,**

Scandinavia, France, Italy, Belgium, the Nether-

lands: Andrew Davies, (44) 457-838-519, FAX (44)

457-838-898 • **Germany/Switzerland/Austria:**

Tracey Peers, (44) 270-760-108, FAX (44) 270-759-

597 • **Japan:** Mashy Yoshikawa, (3) 3235-5961, FAX

(3) 3235-5852

Recruitment: 202-326-6555, FAX 202-682-0816

European Recruitment: AnneMarie Vis, (44) 0223-

302067, FAX (44) 0223-302068

Send materials to *Science* Advertising, 1333 H Street,

NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Information for Contributors appears on pages 40-42 of the 1 January 1993 issue. Editorial correspondence, including requests for permission to reprint and reprint orders, should be sent to 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. **Science Telephone:** 202-326-6500, TDD 202-408-7770. **Other AAAS Programs:** 202-326-6400.

LETTERS

"MegaYAC" Library

In Christopher Anderson's article "Genome shortcut leads to problems" (News & Comment, 19 Mar., p. 1684), I am quoted several times as being critical of the Centre d'Étude du Polymorphisme Humain (CEPH)/Généthon yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) library and its contributions to the genome effort. This is not the case, and I am a great admirer of its contributions. The CEPH/Généthon group, and Daniel Cohen in particular, have made great contributions to the international genome effort and have fostered a spirit of sincere international cooperation by distributing their reagents freely to the scientific community.

Clearly the "megaYAC" library produced by CEPH/Généthon is not the end of the project to create a human genome map. Like all reagents and materials used in the laboratory, it has some advantages and some disadvantages when compared with other methods. The megaYAC library contains some cloning artifacts that are well known to everyone in the field. Nevertheless, it is still of great use for furthering the genome effort and particularly for linking sequence tagged sites (STSs) into an STS content map, where the issue of chimerism is irrelevant. The CEPH/Généthon chromosome 21 map that was produced with the use of this YAC library represents a major scientific achievement and, as with all such information, will be refined, with minor errors corrected, as the project proceeds.

One of our major problems as scientists is the lack of understanding of our work by the general public, whose tax dollars and charitable contributions support our research. It is critical that the unselfish effort of the many scientists involved in the genome effort be presented to the public in a realistic way so that the value for human society of knowing and understanding our own DNA sequence can be fully appreciated. We are done a disservice when relatively minor technical issues are made the focus of public attention, as in this case.

Glen A. Evans

Director,

Human Genome Center,

Salk Institute,

Post Office Box 85800,

San Diego, CA 92186-5800

Interdisciplinary Symposia

Helping scientists "become better generalists" is considered to be a worthy goal in a News & Comment discussion (26 Feb., p. 1255) of the annual National Academy of Sciences "Frontiers of Science" symposia that are held in Irvine, California. I would like to describe an effective method for achieving this goal that could be used at any college or university.

At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), an interdisciplinary group, the Center for the Study of Evolution and the Origin of Life (CSEOL), has been meeting every week during the past dozen academic years. We discuss a wide variety of topics that are related to the concept of evolution in its broadest sense. The format is highly interactive give and take, so that speakers may need up to 30 minutes to show just their first few viewpoints. Participants in CSEOL include faculty, post docs, and graduate students, primarily in the sciences, with a healthy smattering of writers, nonacademic researchers, high school teachers, and others. CSEOL supports visiting senior fellows, who generally have Ph.D.'s, and junior fellows who are UCLA graduate students. Since 1990, we have sponsored annual symposia, open to all, on topics such as "The Endangered Earth"; "Major Events in the History of Life"; "Origin and Evolution of Humans and Humanness"; "Creative Evolution?"; and, planned for 1995, "Origin and Evolution of the Universe." Typically, books have resulted from these meetings.

Sustaining such a group requires the guiding hand of an energetic, dedicated, talented director—at CSEOL, professor of paleobiology J. William Schopf. Unfortunately, such leaders are few and far between, so that interdisciplinary groups, no matter how desirable, are likely to remain the exception rather than become the rule.

Ben Zuckerman

Department of Astronomy,
University of California,
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Funding for Gene Therapy

Christopher Anderson's article "A speeding ticket for NIH's controversial cancer star" (News & Comment, 5 Mar., p. 1391) reports the recent decision of the Board of