

like to clear up. The wolf is neither vicious nor huggable, dangerous nor lovable. It is merely one more interesting species long persecuted by humans throughout the centuries that requires a place to survive. It is true that a number of "Dr. Noitalls" have chosen the wolf to idolize, but most wolf biologists believe such idolatry is not in the long-term best interests of the species.

Koshland uses Alaska as the hypothetical state into which wolves might be reintroduced. Ironically, Alaska is the only state whose wolves are *not* on the Federal List of Endangered or Threatened Species. No reintroductions of wolves into Alaska are planned or necessary, and the state has even offered to supply wolves for reintroductions elsewhere. A more accurate example would have been Yellowstone National Park, where wolves were exterminated in the late 1920s and where the majority of the U.S. public favors reestablishment.

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Health Care and Life Expectancy

The observations in Daniel E. Koshland Jr.'s editorial concerning hampering basic research (8 Oct., p. 159) apply equally to the creative pharmaceutical industry. President Clinton's supposed reduction of the cost of medical care reduces a negligible part of the cost at the cost of life expectancy the last 50 years has been attributable to new medicines. Basic research in the pharmaceutical industry will be hampered by price reductions. The industry will be forced to reduce basic long-range research and, therefore, better medicines for our grandchildren are unlikely to be discovered.

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Corrections and Clarifications

The four pictures of the moon accompanying the review by Ursula B. Marvin of *To a Rocky Moon: A Geologist's History of Lunar Exploration* by Don E. Wilhelms (9 July, p. 231) should have been in reverse order on the page.

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