message comes from 18th-century Oxbridge, data on the career histories of all of the 20 men to hold chairs of mathematics or astronomy at Cambridge or Oxford Universities at some time during that century (1). Of these 20, 18 (or 90%) held their chair until death; one (5%) was banished for heresy; and one (5%) actually retired. The retiree was Robert Smith of Cambridge, who retired with dignity at age 71 after holding the Lucasian Chair for 44 years. These 18th-century professors were not fragile specimens: their median age at death was 71, and their median number of years in the chair was 27.5. It is, of course, risky to draw a conclusion from these data, but they suggest that in the years ahead the number of university faculty retiring will be approximately equal to the number banished for heresy.

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References

 N. Guicciardini, The Development of Newtonian Calculus in Britain 1700–1800 (Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, UK, 1989), pp. 150–152; Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, UK).

LETTERS

Corrections and Clarifications

- In Jean Marx's Research News article "Learning how to suppress cancer" (10 Sept., p. 1385), a team led by Stephen Friend at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston was credited with finding that *p*53 is the gene at fault in Li-Fraumeni syndrome. This work was published in *Science* on 30 November 1990 (vol. 250, p. 1233). Similar work was published in *Nature* in the issue of 20/27 December 1990 (vol. 348, p. 747) by the group of Esther H. Chang at the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.
- The photo credit for the cover of the Women in Science 1994 cover (11 Mar., p. 1351) was incorrect. It should have read, "Tom Van Sant/Geosphere Project, Santa Monica, CA/ Photo Researchers."



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