In addition, it should be possible to learn more about the plasticity of enzyme active sites, modes of interaction of small molecules with proteins, the influence of crystal contacts on structure, and even the accuracy and precision of protein structure determination.

For these reasons, we have embarked on a project sponsored by the National Institutes of Health to assemble all the existing structures of HIV-1, HIV-2, and SIV proteases into a single collection. With the completion of the design stage of HIV-1 protease-inhibiting drugs, some of this information might soon be lost. We are convinced that, with several drugs on the market, the need for confidentiality of these structures is gone. Furthermore, it is unlikely that many of the structures will be added to the Protein Data Bank, because their quality will not be sufficiently high to pass the standards expected for fully refined structures. For this project, however, the availability of such partially refined structures, which were used in guiding the drug design effort, would be crucial.

To be successful, the project will need full support from all parties that have participated in such efforts. These data would be available to the community without restrictions and could be accessible through the Internet. As a minimum, each structure would be available as crystallographic coordinates and transformed into a frame of reference common to the whole collection. Because the process of data accumulation and processing is in the early stages, we are requesting comments and suggestions about how to present data in the most useful way. We also urge all holders of such data to submit them for inclusion in the database.

Jiri Vondrasek
Alexander Wlodawer
Macromolecular Structure Laboratory,
National Cancer Institute–FCRDC,
ABL–Basic Research Program,
Frederick, MD 21702, USA
E-mail: wlodawer@ncifcrf.gov

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Affirmative Action

An article by Marcia Barinaga about affirmative action at the University of California (UC) (News, 9 Feb., p. 752) implies that the UC faculty are strongly opposed to the Regents' recent actions dismantling race and gender preferences in hiring, contracts, and admissions. In fact, as a recent random Roper poll of 1000 faculty indicated (*1*), there is little faculty consensus on these policies. This poll revealed that many individuals in favor of affirmative action regard it as a policy promoting only *equal opportunities* for all groups, not *preferences*, as such policies are often interpreted in practice. All nine representative campus assemblies have called upon the Regents to rescind their actions, but these votes may have been as much about objections to the Regents intrusions into governance of the university as about the policies themselves. Moreover, those who attend and vote at these "representative" bodies include a disproportionate number of vocal spokesmen for politically activist ideological positions. As the poll indicated, there are significant differences among the disciplines. In the arts and humanities, the poll revealed 66% favored using race and sex as admissions criteria, while only 38%, for instance, of the computer science and engineering faculty agreed with this view (*1*).

E. B. Hook
School of Public Health,
University of California,

Berkeley, CA 94720–7360, USA
E-mail: ebhook@garnet.berkeley.edu

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1. Academic Senate, University of California, *Notice* **20** (no. 4), 1 (February 1996).

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DOE Privatization

Dan W. Reicher of the Department of Energy (DOE) (Letters, 19 Jan., p. 279) writes that DOE "is considering privatizing NIPER (the National Institute for Petroleum and Energy Research)." He does not mention that DOE has already privatized NIPER once. The IIT Research Institute (IITRI), of which I became senior vice president in 1988, won a competition in 1983 for a cooperative agreement with DOE. Under this agreement, the NIPER staff became employees of IITRI, and IITRI was responsible for running the lab and obtaining funding from private or governmental sources like IITRI's other contract research and development units. The line-item budget from DOE went to zero over 5 years, and the privatization should have been considered a success. However, DOE was unhappy with the loss of "their" facility, and in 1994, NIPER reverted to being a traditional government-owned, contractor-operated facility like the other DOE labs.

So much for progress at DOE!

Richard I. Mateles
Candida Corporation, Suite A-1706,
175 West Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago, IL 60604, USA

Corrections and Clarifications

The Research News article "Tilting against a major theory of movement control" by E. Pennisi (5 Apr., p. 32) should have mentioned that Hiroaki Gomi is now based at NTT Basic Research Labs in Atsugi, Japan.

In the Research News article "Manic-depression findings spark polarized debate" by Virginia Morell (5 Apr., p. 31), the description of the study led by Douglas H. R. Blackwood at Edinburgh University should have noted that the findings of a locus associated with bipolar disorder 1 on chromosome 4 were supported by a similar association in 2 of 11 Scottish families vulnerable to the disease.

In line 25 of the technical comment "Faunal evidence and Sterkfontein Member 2 foot bones of early hominid" by Jeffrey K. McKee (1 Mar., p. 1301), "*Chasmaphorthetes silberbegi*" was spelled incorrectly.

The TBS documentary mentioned in "Journal of plague years" (Random Samples, 23 Feb., p. 1063) is based on Laurie Garrett's book *The Coming Plague* (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1994).

The mean time of treatment and follow-up in the Beta Carotene and Retinol Efficacy Trial (CARET) sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) was 4 years, not 8 years, as might be concluded from the News & Comment article "'Natural' cancer prevention trial halted" by Kim Peterson (26 Jan., p. 441). In the same article, the Physician's Health Study was described as NCI "contract research," when, in fact, it was funded by an investigator-initiated grant.

In the letter of 19 January (p. 275) from Sheldon F. Gottlieb and Sidney Fox, the antepenultimate sentence should have read, "Their actions concerning the insert are not representative of the people of Alabama."

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-289-7562), or regular mail (*Science*, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.