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to human cultural roles, as opposed to physiological sex, and Pearson asserts that to confuse the two is to “perpetuate the myth that biology is destiny.” According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, however, “gender” originated as a philological term designating nouns that are masculine, feminine, or neutral. While social scientists are free to appropriate the word to draw a useful distinction within their field, it is not incumbent on the rest of us to do so. Pearson’s claim is akin to arguing that, because the word “queen” is a term in social insect biology, the Queen of England no longer qualifies for her title because she does not have an enormous abdomen or spend her days laying eggs.

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Universities Defending Themselves in Japan

The accurate report on “Science in Japan” (4 Oct., p. 43) lacked local color. The practice in Japan of employing one’s own graduate students is a defense against Tokyo, Kyoto, Waseda, and other big universities entirely populating the faculty at all Japanese universities, a fate just as unattractive as the present one. And rather than all things “flowing” to the University of Tokyo (D. Normile, 4 Oct., p. 44), it seems to me that Tokyo, Kyoto, and the other powerful central universities exercise financial, political, and academic influence to co-opt promising local research. The flip side of this is that in a field such as environmental science, a great deal of really meaningful research gets done at the local, so-called *ekiben daigaku* by researchers with much less to lose. *Ekiben daigaku*, or “train-station box-lunch university,” is a lovingly denigrating term for those universities appearing at every train stop; whether delicious or not, the hungry must eat them.

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Ethics of AIDS Study

It was reported by Jon Cohen (Research News, 27 Sept., p. 1797) that, according to some members of the involved studies, Stephen O’Brien did not contact them before initiating the analysis for the manuscript

“Genetic restriction of HIV-1 infection and progression to AIDS by a deletion allele of the *CKR5* structural gene” (M. Dean *et al.*, Reports, 27 Sept., p. 1856). Investigators from some of the studies are reported to have been in the process of forming collaborations with others to engage in the analysis completed by O’Brien’s group.

For the past 8 years, O’Brien has been a member of the Hemophilia Growth and Development Study (HGDS). While his laboratory is the specimen-processing unit and repository for the study, the primary role of his genetics group is one of scientific collaboration, not service laboratory. Samples and clinical data have been provided to O’Brien for the express purpose of conducting investigations such as that of the report in question. O’Brien contacted representatives of the HGDS to notify us that he was proceeding with the analysis well in advance of distributing a first draft of the manuscript. Subsequently, a further two drafts were received for comment, criticism, and approval before submission.

In view of the criticism expressed by those quoted in Cohen’s article, we believe it necessary to state clearly and unequivocally that O’Brien and his group have at all times shown the highest ethical standards and scientific rigor in the conduct of analysis and reporting of this research.

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Thyroid Protection

Michael Balter, in his article “Children become the first victims of fallout” (Special News Report, 19 Apr., p. 357) states that radiation exposure [caused by fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident] “could have been countered by rapid administration of nonradioactive iodine to ‘flush out’ the radioactive isotopes from binding sites in the thyroid.”

In fact, radioactive isotopes, once bound in the thyroid, cannot be flushed out by subsequent administration of nonradioactive iodine. To be effective in preventing the uptake and binding of radioactive isotopes, stable iodine must be administered before exposure. A daily 130-milligram dose of stable potassium iodine, starting 30 minutes to 1 day before the arrival of fallout or other material contaminated with radioac-

tive iodine, will effectively saturate the thyroid, giving 99%-effective protection.

Cresson H. Kearny
Jane M. Orient

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Corrections and Clarifications

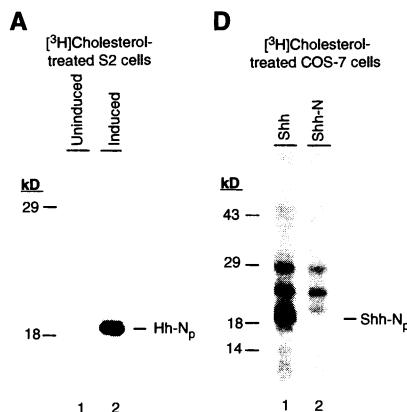
In the article "An internet review: The compleat neuroscientist scours the World Wide Web" by Floyd E. Bloom (15 Nov., p. 1104), three of the URL addresses were incorrect. The correct addresses can be found at <http://www.sciencemag.org/science/scripts/display/full/274/5290/1104.html>.

In the ScienceScope item "NIH's harvest of special projects" (11 Oct., p. 167), Anita Greene, spokesperson for the National Institute's Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM), should have been quoted as saying that funding for an OAM chiropractic center and for a national center for pain research has yet to be worked out with Congress. Greene's comments did not relate to OAM's overall budget, for which Congress has appropriated \$12 million.

In the Table of Contents for the issue of 6 September, under the heading "Technical Comments" (p. 1311), under the title "Evo-

lution of insect resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis*-transformed plants," the name of A. R. Ives should have appeared first, followed by a semicolon. Anthony R. Ives wrote the comment; D. N. Alstad and D. A. Andow wrote the response.

Panels A and D of figure 4 (p. 257) in the report "Cholesterol modification of hedgehog signaling proteins in animal development" by J. A. Porter *et al.* (11 Oct., p. 255) were incorrectly printed. The correct figures appear below.



Credit for the image of a brown dwarf and a star accompanying the item in This Week In Science "Not quite a star" (28 June, p. 1849)

should have been given to Michael Lloyd-Hart, Stewart Observatory, University of Arizona.

In the caption of figure 1 (p. 1495) of the report "A subfamily of P-type ATPases with aminophospholipid transporting activity" by X. Tang *et al.* (7 June, p. 1495), the GenBank accession number should have read, "U51100," not "U5110."

In note 25 (p. 1173) of the report "Regulation of T cell receptor signaling by tyrosine phosphatase SYP association with CTLA-4" by L. E. M. Marengère *et al.* (24 May, p. 1170), thanks should have been given to T. Pawson for contributing key reagents, developed in his laboratory, to the study.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (Science, 1200 New York Avenue, 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.

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