



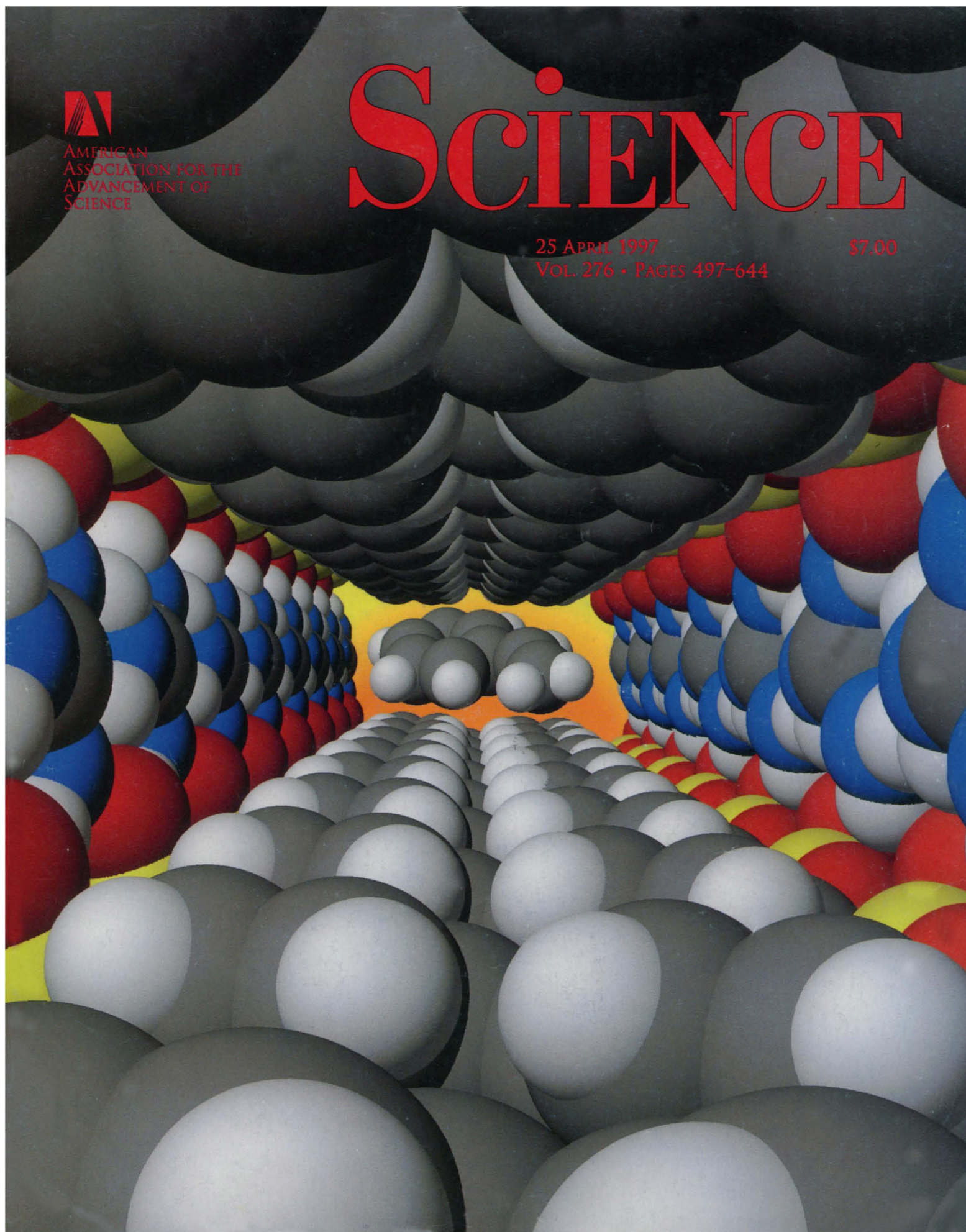
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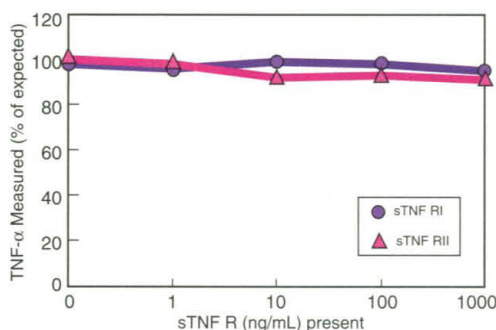
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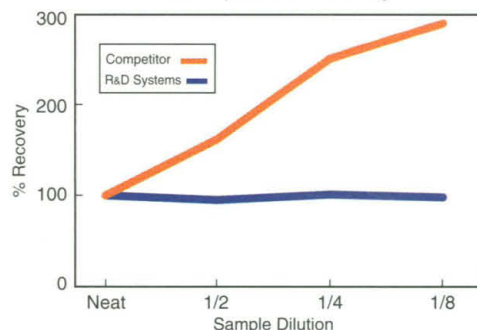
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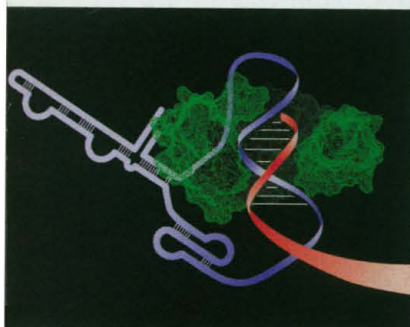
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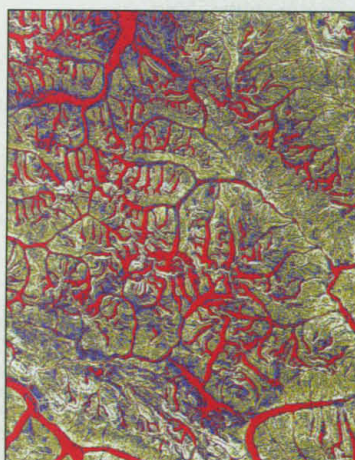
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528 & 561

Telomerase catalytic
subunit in hand



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Glacial tops to
topography

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COVER

The synthesis of organic materials with tailored properties requires designs that allow predictable modification of the structure. Host lattices, synthesized from two-dimensional hydrogen-bonded networks (red, white, and blue) linked by molecular pillars (gray and white), trap

guest molecules (center) in continuous nanometer-scale channels. The size and chemical nature of the channels can be adjusted systematically by changing the structure of the pillars. See page 575 and the related Perspective on page 543. [Image: J. Sedgewick]



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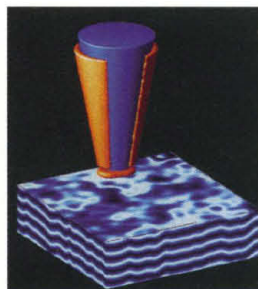
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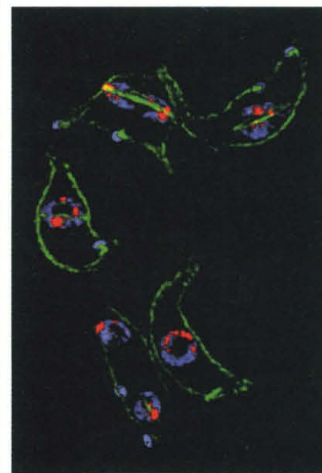


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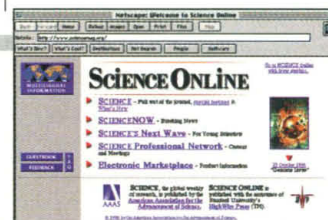


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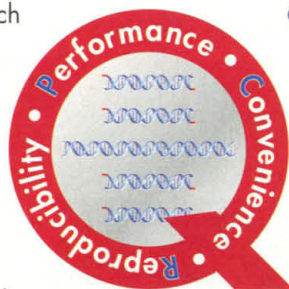
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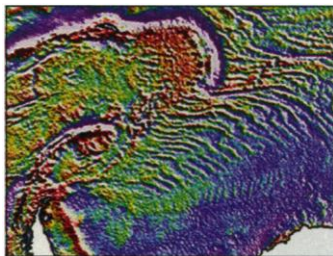
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Landscapes under ice

The relative effects of tectonism and erosion on producing or limiting high elevation and relief have been uncertain. As one test of the importance of these processes, Brozović *et al.* (p. 571) examined the distribution of elevations and hillside slopes in the Himalayas. Hillside slopes reach a minimum near where glaciation has occurred, and elevations evidently do not correlate in detail with tectonic denudation rates. These and other observations suggest that glaciation limits elevation there.

Tectonics under ice

The sea floor around Antarctica is key for reconstructing past plate motions because it connects the Pacific and Atlantic plates, but critical regions of the sea floor are covered with ice. McAdoo and Laxon (p. 556)



obtained detailed satellite gravity data of the ice-covered regions; the data reveal lineations and spreading patterns that describe past plate motions. The data imply that Antarctica comprised two separate plates before about 61 million years ago.

Autoantigen identified

Primary Sjögren's syndrome is a disease in which the immune system attacks and destroys moisture-producing glands, such as tear and salivary glands. The

Telomerase goes retro

Telomerase is a ribonucleoprotein enzyme that replicates the ends of eukaryotic chromosomes or telomeres. Although the RNA components and several telomerase-associated proteins have been isolated, the catalytic protein subunit has remained elusive. Lingner *et al.* (p. 561; see the news story by Barinaga, p. 528) have characterized a 123-kilodalton telomerase protein from the ciliated protozoan *Euplotes* and shown that it contains signature motifs of reverse transcriptases (RTs), enzymes that replicate retroviral genomes and transposable DNA elements through an RNA intermediate. The yeast homolog of p123 was identified as Est2p, a protein known to be required for telomere maintenance. Mutagenesis of the RT motifs in Est2p led to telomere shortening and senescence in yeast, implying that these motifs are critical to telomere elongation and likely constitute the enzyme active site.

precise target of the attack has not been identified. Now, using a mouse model of Sjögren's syndrome, Haneji *et al.* (p. 604) have come up with a candidate: α -fodrin, a component of the cytoskeleton. They describe T cell and antibody responses to α -fodrin and show that intravenous injection of a recombinant form of the protein protects against development of the disease in mice. Also, patients with primary Sjögren's syndrome show antibody and T cell responses to α -fodrin, while patients with other autoimmune diseases do not.

Connecting sight and sound

Sensory processing is generally thought of as a one-way pathway in which incoming signals travel to higher processing and integration centers of the brain. It has been suggested that imagining a visual scene causes top-down activation of the primary visual cortex. The primary visual cortex has also been thought to be active during reading of Braille. Calvert *et al.* (p. 593) found that the primary auditory cortex is active not

only when listening to speech, as expected, but also when lip-reading silent speech, which suggests that the communication between different modalities can occur quite early in sensory processing and perception.

Sucking up

The early evolution of plants is thought to have had a marked effect on Earth's atmosphere, notably by decreasing atmospheric CO₂ levels. Retallack (p. 583; see Perspective by Berner, p. 544) describes evidence from a fossil soil in Antarctica that well-drained forests had developed by the Middle Devonian, about 380 million years ago. This evolution coincides with predictions and other measurements of a dramatic drop in CO₂ levels.

Stopping cystitis

There is a high incidence of cystitis resulting from *Escherichia coli* infection in women 18 to 40 years old (resulting in millions of hospital visits per year). Langermann *et al.* (p. 607; see the news story by Service,

p. 533) found that an adhesin (FimH) at the end of a structure called a pilus on *E. coli* can be used to immunize mice and prevent bacterial colonization of the bladder in an animal model of the infection.

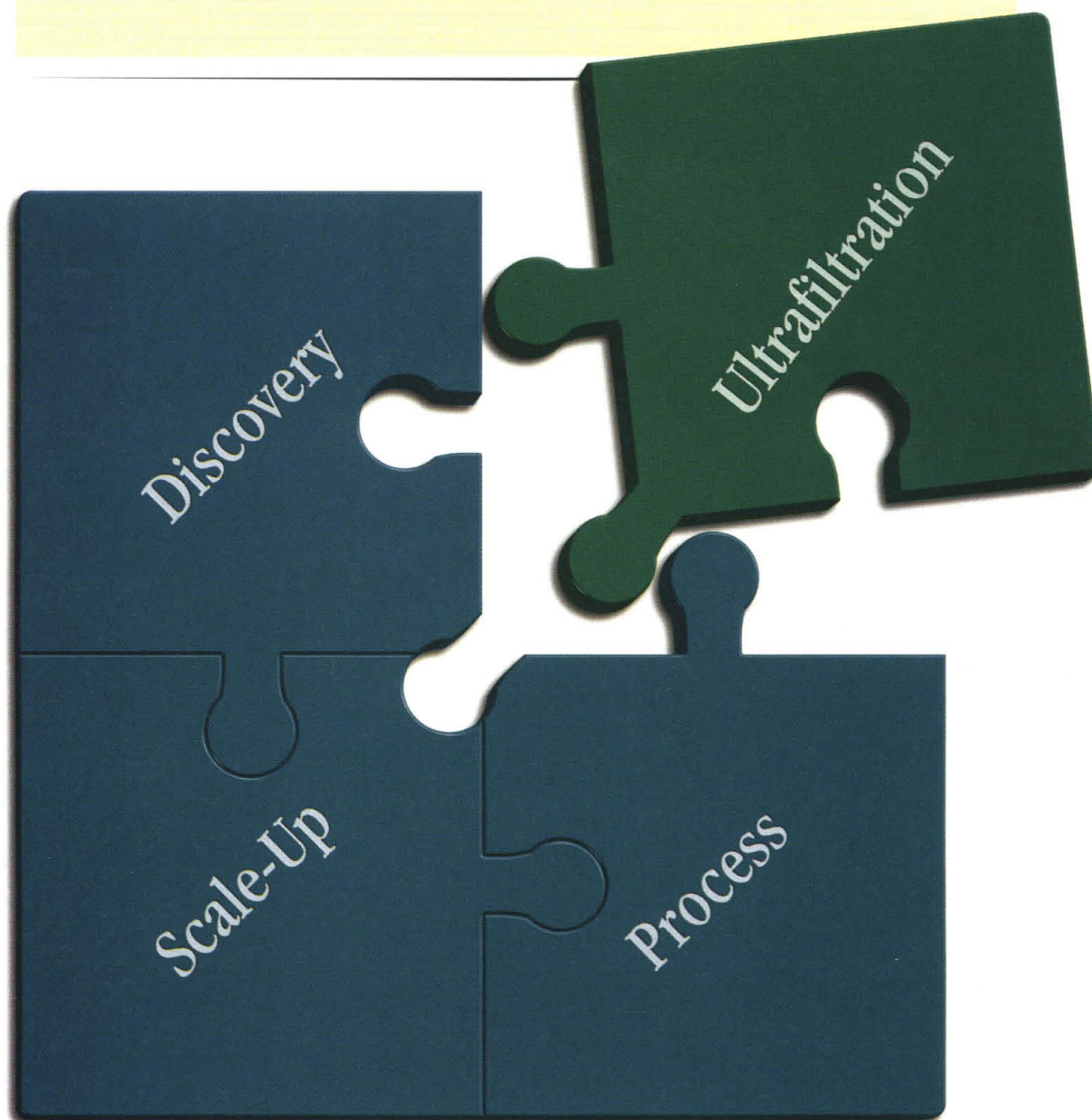
Imaging fractions of a charge

Incorporation of a single electron transistor into a sharp glass scanning probe tip has allowed the detection of extremely small changes in electrical potential. Yoo *et al.* (p. 579) measured the current that tunnels through a small metal island (100 nanometers across); the external field induces oscillations in this current, and by monitoring the periodicity they can detect just 1 percent of an electron charge. They used this device to map electric fields at the surface of a silicon-doped GaAs/Al_xGa_{1-x}As heterostructure.

Reliable transmissions

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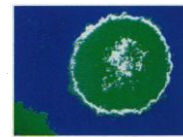
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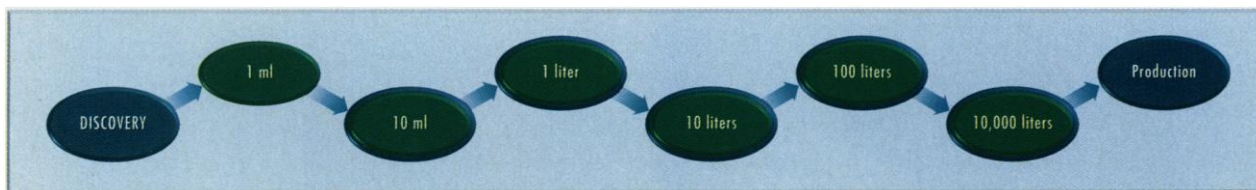
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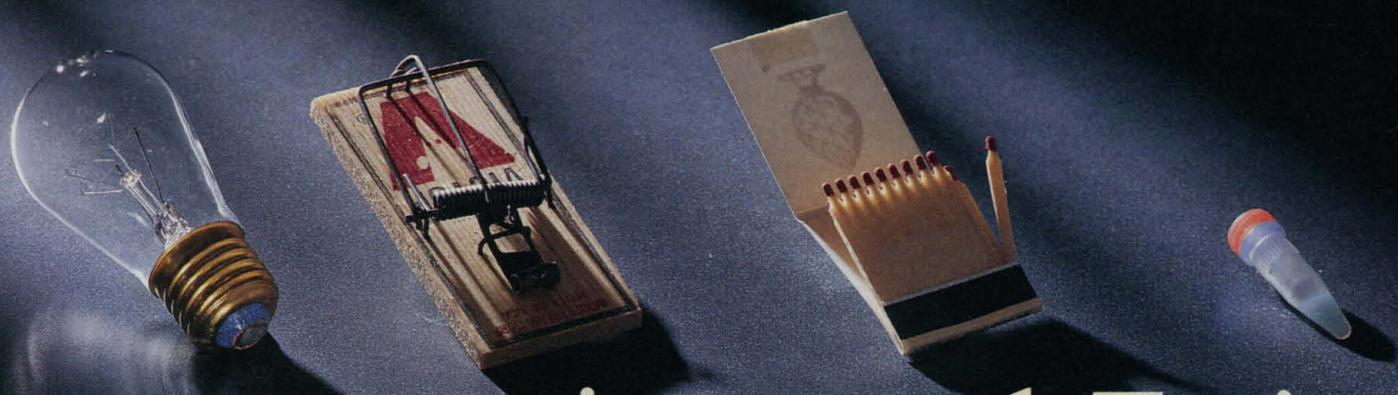
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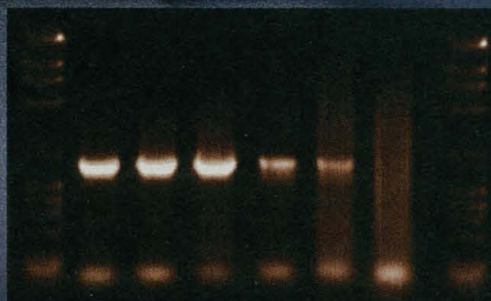
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icies for conservation and environmental protection, the distribution of endangered species is only one element among many that should be considered. Others include the distribution of endangered habitat types, the need for accessible natural areas and wilderness in all parts of the country, and the ecological services provided by natural habitats. Also, in recent years there has been a major shift in environmental thinking to include ecosystem-based information as a critical element in strategic planning. Although this concept is not yet fully codified into law, there is general recognition that endangered species occur in a much larger ecological context than their county-level distributions would indicate. The analysis of Dobson *et al.* does not take these factors into account.

The analysis by Dobson *et al.* underscores the plight of certain parts of the country that have an especially high number of species at risk; the results say little about the conservation status and needs of the rest of the country. Nor do the results inform us about the pressing need for proactive conservation policies to help keep new "hot spots" from developing and to preserve and enhance the wilderness and important natural and seminatural areas that remain elsewhere in the United

States. Wood turtles in the northeast, granite outcrop wildflowers in Arkansas, grizzly bears and wolves in the Rocky Mountains, and Michigan peat bogs would be further endangered were conservation laws to be based on a simplistic reading of this report.

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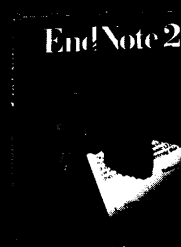
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Response: We did not argue in our report that analyses of "hot spots" on a national scale should be the only criteria in determining conservation priorities. Nevertheless, identifying national "hot spots" and protecting them strikes us as an essential step, which does not preclude state, county, and community initiatives, nor those undertaken by private individuals and organizations. Dunn *et al.* regret the loss of biodiversity on private lands, as do we.

Recent studies indicate that over half of the species on the federal endangered species list have more than 80% of their habitat on nonfederal land (1). Modifying the ESA to reward private landowners whose land harbors such species (for example, with tax incentives, including estate tax breaks) would promote good stewardship and thus advance the recovery of imperiled species. Most of the endangered species that inhabit federal lands in the wilder regions of the West require protection through careful habitat management that is less exploitative than that currently practiced. In many cases, such protection could become self-financing if the present subsidies for extractive industries and recreational activities were replaced by realistic pricing mechanisms that acknowledged both the value of the resources extracted and the species placed in jeopardy through these activities (2).

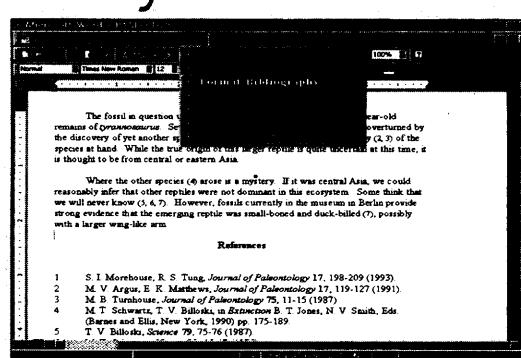
We agree with Ehrenfeld *et al.* that the protection of natural communities and locally uncommon (but nationally unendangered) species should be a crucial component of the nation's biodiversity policy. But that was not the point of our report, which was to gain a better understanding of the distribution of nationally endangered species in the hope that this might



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Fig. 2. Repeated PCR of the ApoE gene using *MasterAmp* PCR PreMix K (lane K, Fig. 1) and *AmpliTherm* DNA Polymerase.

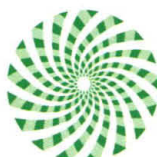


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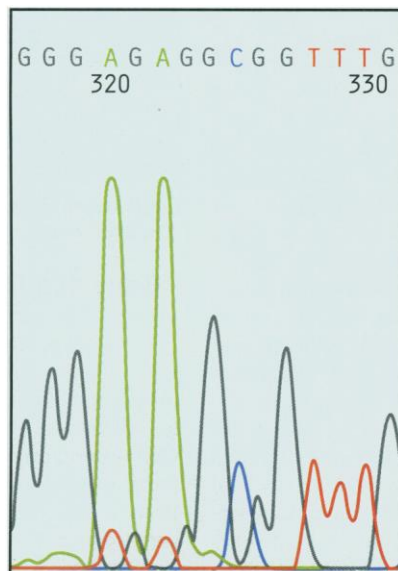
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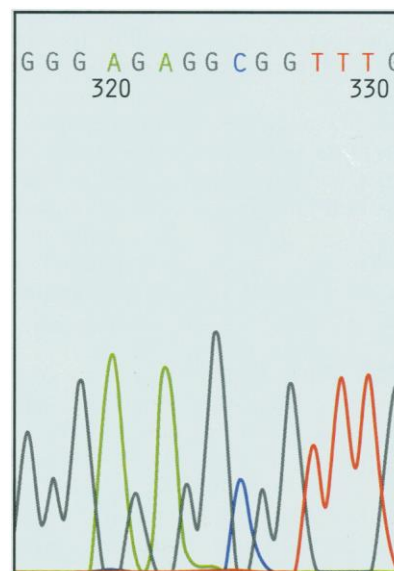
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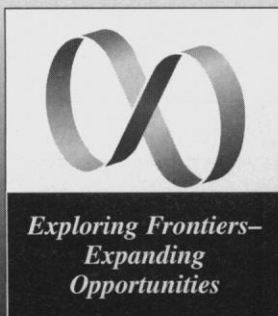
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