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6. As with all HIV vaccine programs under consideration, the potential mitigating impact of prolonged infection as well as enhanced risk-taking behaviors in vaccine-treated, at-risk populations must be seriously investigated and weighed.

■

Cosmic Age

In his Perspective "Cosmic age controversy is overstated" (16 May, p. 1089), Eric J. Chaisson eloquently presents the recent trend estimating the age of the universe to be about 12 billion years. He also indicates that this age is consistent with an open universe.

Using the average value of the Hubble constant measured by Allan Sandage *et al.* (*1*), $H_0 = 57 \pm 4$ kilometers per second per megaparsec, the age, $t = H_0^{-1}$, is 17 billion years for an open universe, and $t = 2/3\ H_0^{-1}$ is 11.5 billion years for an universe having a critical density. Therefore, the encouraging recent developments firming up the age of the universe to be about 12 billion years are in fact more consistent with the favorite inflationary model of the cosmologists.

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Response: It is generally believed that a universe having a critical density is still "open." Such a universe, indeed favored by cosmic inflation, recedes forevermore—mathematically reaching infinity with a zero velocity. That Bhaumik prefers an age for such a critical-density universe of 11.5 billion years, in contrast to my suggested 12 billion years, is no cause for alarm. In cosmology, 11.5 equals 12.

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ETS1-DNA Binding and Intercalation: Correction

In the article "Intercalation, DNA kinking, and the control of transcription (9 Feb. 1996, p. 778), we reviewed the hypothesis that minor groove intercalation and DNA kinking represented an important mechanism for the control of transcription (*1*). This hypothesis was based on a number of examples of protein-DNA complexes available at the time where this mode of interaction was seen to occur: these comprised complexes of the TATA binding protein (*2*), the HMG-1/2 box proteins SRY (*3*) and LEF (*4*), the PurR repressor (*5*), and ETS1 (*6*). Subsequently, we discovered (*7*) that the original structure of the ETS1-DNA complex (*6*) was in error and that binding of ETS1 to DNA is similar to that of the related transcription factor Pu.1 (*8*) and does not involve intercalation (*7*). Thus, discussions pertaining to the ETS1-DNA complex in our article (*1*) are in error. The other aspects of the article (*1*) are correct, and the conclusions of the article remain unchanged.

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Corrections and Clarifications

In the article "New clues to asthma therapies" by Gretchen Vogel (Research News, 13 June, p. 1643), Stephen Holgate's first name was misspelled (p. 1644).

The credit for the photograph at the top of page 1637 in the article "When a habitat is not a home" (News & Comment, 13 June, p. 1636) should have read, "Sandy Desimone/National Audubon Society."

In the News & Comment article "Hughes network expands by a big leap" by Eliot Marshall (23 May p. 1189), it is stated incorrectly that Simon John is the youngest Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

In the report "Large molecular third-order optical nonlinearities in polarized carotenoids" by S. R. Marder *et al.* (23 May, p. 1233), the first names of several co-authors were incorrect. They should have read, Mireille Blanchard-Desce, Sandra Gilmour, Gerold U. Bublitz, and Steven G. Boxer.

In the Table of Contents for the issue of 9 May (p. 914), the name of the author of the Perspective "Are we seeing global warming?" (p. 914), K. Hasselmann, was misspelled.

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.