The current criteria for antisocial personality disorder are problematic and may account for the wide discrepancy in prevalence studies. Of course, science is central to the exploration of our understanding of sexual violence, impulse control, and its treatment. It should be better funded, and more large-scale studies are vital.

Halpern and O'Connell suggest that the position I took with regard to the civil commitment of sex offenders contradicts the position taken by an APA council report pertinent to insanity acquittees who are not felt to be ready for release. In my view, the context is not comparable.

Insanity acquittees, in response to a criminal charge, elect to raise a defense that establishes the predicate for a special civil commitment scheme and hospitalization. The mental disorders generally have to be of a psychotic nature to qualify for the defense. Under typical not-guilty-by-reason-of-insanity commitment statutes, the acquittee is subject to a release process, supervised by a court or administrative board that puts a primary value on community safety. Thus, even if the acquittee's psychotic mental disorder is in remission, he may not be eligible for release if there is a substantial history of noncompliance with the treatment that maintains the remission. And even if the original disorder is treated, there may be co-morbid disorders, like personality disorders, which, if present, may be taken into account in decision-making about release. This is the context of the report referring to personality disorders. It is a very different model from one trying to deal with the release of convicted felons who have completed their sentences but are still considered dangerous.

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Cancer Therapy and Tumor Physiology

In her Research News article "Systems for identifying new drugs are often faulty" (7 Nov., p. 1041), Trisha Gura describes numerous studies with xenograft models used in drug sensitivity screens that have failed to detect active compounds to take into clinical trials. She hypothesizes that by applying our rapidly accumulating knowledge of the molecular pathways involved in cancer susceptibility and resistance to this problem, a new rational approach will lead to more specific and efficacious drugs. We submit that the failure to identify potent anticancer compounds with xenograft testing does not result from the lack of tumor models that are genetically matched at a given susceptibility locus, or the site of tumor implantation; instead, the problem lies in the microphysiology of the tumor. If test compounds are physically or metabolically impeded from being uniformly distributed throughout the tumor because of temporarily closed blood vessels or decreased proliferation of tumor cells in poorly perfused regions, then no compound will ever achieve its in vitro killing potential in vivo. If one uses an agent, namely, ionizing radiation, which gives the same dose to all cancer cells, xenograft response is well predicted by the level of DNA damage to the cells. This response of xenografted tumors to ionizing radiation is often measured by a clonogenic assay method, where tumors treated in vivo are dissociated into a single-cell suspension and plated for their ability to form a multicellular colony from a single cell. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the ability to control tumor growth is tightly linked with its clonogenic efficiency. This holds true for tumors that die by activating their endogenous pathway for apoptotic cell death (*1*). Ratio-

nal drug design that takes into account tumor physiology will truly be the next major frontier in cancer therapy.

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Pyramid Scheme?

Eliot Marshall reports (News & Comment, 7 Nov., p. 1007) that the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is up in arms over the effrontery of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which has proposed that universities submit detailed justification in order to receive reimbursement for constructing new buildings from the "indirect cost" component of research grants. AAMC president Jordan Cohen says that OMB is seeking to solve "a nonexistent problem."

In fact, since the 1980s many large research universities have used "indirect cost" payments to leverage the construction of new "overhead," in anticipation of new grants to charge the overhead against. The funds are pledged toward the repayment of bonds floated to build new facilities, which provide the university with the opportunity to acquire more grants and thus receive more "indirect cost" revenue. The scheme, has been an open secret in academia for years, and would do credit to the celebrated financier Charles Ponzi. Pyramid operations of this kind work only as long as the revenue stream keeps expanding.

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NASA's SkyView

Contrary to comments in "The dial-up sky" by Ann Finkbeiner (Research News, 7 Nov, p. 1010) that the goal of a digital multi-wavelength survey is a few years off, such a capability already exists (and has for several years) at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) SkyView site, skyview.gsfc.nasa.gov. Users can get images derived from surveys ranging from 33-megahertz radio data through gigavolt gamma rays—a substantially wider range than is discussed in the article. We hope to provide SkyView access to new surveys as they are made available to the public, and access to some FIRST radio-survey data are already available.

We look forward to the new datasets coming online. Resolution and sensitivity are dramatically increased from those in existing surveys, and we anticipate that new techniques will be needed to help users effectively sift these large data volumes. However, SkyView's implementation of a digital, multi-wavelength database of surveys is already well proven, as tens of thousands of requests by researchers every month—and a capsule review by *Science* itself (Webwatch, 1 Aug., p. 649) — show.

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