Near Eastern focus on the origins of animal husbandry that is primarily an artifact of the history of archaeological exploration.

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Carbon Sink: A Clue from Biosphere 2?

The possibility of a "vast greenhouse gas sponge," or carbon sink, existing in North America (J. Kaiser, News of the Week, 16 Oct., p. 386) calls to mind the enigma of the progressive decline of oxygen in the atmosphere of Biosphere 2 during the 1991–93 period, when I was the inside physician. The oxygen concentration went from 21% to 14% in approximately 16 months after closure and sealing of the structure, at which time, because of developing hypoxia of the crew, oxygen was pumped in. Carbon dioxide was elevated during most of those 16 months, ranging from about 1200 to 3000 parts per million. Investigation finally revealed that the carbon dioxide was combining with the cement of the structure, carrying oxygen along with it to form calcium carbonate (*1*), hence the fall in oxygen concentration. One notes from Kaiser's article that the alleged carbon sink seems biggest over the eastern seaboard, that is, where there is a high concentration of cities as opposed to forests. I do not suggest that a sink of this magnitude could be explained in this fashion, but thinking wholly in terms of traditional sites of carbon storage on land (forest regrowth, abandoned farmland, soils and wetlands) may not account for the whole story.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Contrary to the Editors' note and the photo caption in the Letters section of 1 January (*Science*'s Compass, p. 33), Cressy, shown in the photo, was indeed a heifer. Her lactation was induced by hormone treatment, not by bearing a calf. The editors apologize to the readers, to the researchers whose work was described, and to Cressy for the mixup.

In the 18 December NetWatch section (p. 2147), the Web address given for *Science*'s Breakthrough of the Year was incorrect. It should have been "www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/282/5397/2156a."

In the Review Article "Magnetoelectronics" by Gary A. Prinz (*Science*'s Compass, 27 Nov., p. 1660), the next-to-last sentence in the first column of page 1662 should have begun, "Spin-polarized tunneling between two ferromagnetic films was first reported in 1975...."