#### SCIENCE'S COMPASS

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### **Facts of Political Life**

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DISCUSSION ABOUT the length of time it took to get the science adviser to the president in place (for example, Breakthrough of the Year, "Bush mystery science theater," 21 Dec., p. 2446). But

how long did it take to get the national security adviser in place? Who was the national security adviser to the candidate? Who was the science adviser to the candidate?

From my experiences as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow, I offer the following observation: The facts of political life are that if you expect to sit around the table after the election victory making decisions and being immediately appointed, you must have been in the trenches during the campaign.

If the scientific community wants to have a presidential adviser and other science positions filled right after the election, they should strive to have advisers in place during the campaign.

#### HOWARD SHAFFER

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#### **CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

**REPORTS:** "Otolith  $\delta^{18}$ O record of mid-Holocene sea surface temperatures in Peru," by C. Fred, T. Andrus, D. E. Crowe, D. H. Sandweiss, E. J. Reitz, C. S. Romanek (22 Feb., p. 1508). All instances of the term " $\delta^{18}O \rightarrow$ " were typographical errors and should not have appeared in the text.

**RANDOM SAMPLES:** "Scared to death by the number four" by D. Malakoff (11 Jan., p. 267). Sociologist David Phillips from the University of California, San Diego, was misidentified as a professor at the University of San Diego.

**EDITORS' CHOICE:** "Neurodegeneration: expanding on a theme" (4 Jan., p. 15). The credit for the accompanying photos was incorrect. J. Robitschek and J. P. Taylor obtained the images.

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "New genome a boost to plant studies" by E. Pennisi (14 Dec., p. 2266). It was erroneously stated that Maynard Olson at the University of Washington and his team were recruited by Eugene Nester, also at that university, to do the sequencing of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* genome. Instead, Olson and his team became involved in the project after sequencing had been initiated by investigators at E. I. duPont de Nemours Company and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. All of these investigators are among the co-authors of the report by D. W. Wood *et al.* in the same issue [*Science* 294, 2317 (2001)].

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