

its current state of knowledge. At the same time, we believe that the scientific community should vigorously pursue the 3Rs of the alternatives approach, namely, reduction, refinement, and replacement, as well as carefully evaluate proposed animal research for consistency with society's increasing ethical concern for animals and science's highest standards.

Regardless of our policy, we object to characterizations of animal activists as anti-science, anti-intellectual, and anti-rational. Demands for animal protection are grounded in well-established, rational, philosophical debate. Scientists themselves have participated in this debate and should realize that differences in moral judgment occur and do not imply that the other side has abandoned rational argument. Nor is it appropriate to state that protestors' rationality is compromised by their emotional investment in the issues.

Holden suggests that a fundamental fear is that critics aim to limit scientific freedom and progress. Yet other attempts to regulate scientists, such as efforts to control research fraud, are not labeled as "anti-science" or "anti-intellectual." Scientists accept some

limits to their freedom, as do all humans, when they recognize the need to weigh freedom of inquiry against other values held by society. Emotions can run high when attempting to balance contrasting values, but neither side gains by hurling invectives.

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*Erratum:* Table 1 of the report "Reversible cleavage and ligation of hepatitis delta virus RNA" by H.-N. Wu and M. M. C. Lai (3 Feb., p. 652) contained an error. The religation percentage when the concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$  in the cleavage reaction was 2.4 mM and the concentration of EDTA was 3.0 mM should have been 10. The correct table is printed below.

EDTA (mM)	Religation (%) when $Mg^{2+}$ in cleavage reaction is		
	7.2 mM	4.8 mM	2.4 mM
0	0	0	0
1.5	0	0	0
3.0	0	0	10
6.0	0	14	10
12.0	13	13	11
24.0	15	15	13
60.0	16	14	16

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